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Local Commissioners Memorandum

Transmittal:	04-OCFS-LCM-04
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Strategic Planning and Policy Development
Date:	June 29, 2004
Subject:	Referrals of Young Children in Indicated CPS Cases to Early Intervention Services
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Attachments:	See links http://www.einy.org/policy.html http://www.einy.org/directory.html
Attachment Available On – Line:	yes

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Local Commissioners Memorandum (LCM) is to establish standards and procedures for referring a child under the age of three to early intervention services when the child is the subject of an indicated report of child abuse or maltreatment.

II. Background

Recent revisions to the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act require states to establish standards and procedures for referral of young children to early intervention services. Article 25, Title II-A, of the Public Health Law establishes the Early Intervention Program in New York State and makes the New York State Department of Health the lead agency for the program. The Early Intervention Program is a voluntary program that identifies infants and toddlers with disabling conditions; evaluates their needs for a range of early intervention services; and develops individualized family service plans to address such needs. The Early Intervention Program offers a variety of therapeutic support services to eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities, and their families. Each of the 57 counties and New York City offer Early Intervention services.

On December 11, 2003 the Office of Children and Family Services issued 03-OCFS-LCM-25, *Protocol on Children in Foster Care Who Participate in the Early Intervention Program*, which provides additional information about the state's Early Intervention Program, as well as how to access services for foster children. This LCM links readers to <http://www.einy.org/policy.html>, the section of the website for the New York Association of Counties that includes policies for the Early Intervention Program. A directory of the Department of Health's regional office contacts and of county Departments of Health can be found at this link, <http://www.einy.org/directory.html>.

A growing body of evidence suggests that children involved in tumultuous or neglectful family situations may experience developmental delays. The impacts on young children often manifested themselves in later attachment disorders; behavioral problems; and social, emotional, motor and cognitive delays. The Early Intervention Program offers screening and services as necessary and appropriate.

III. Program Implications

Section 424(13) of the Social Services Law requires that each child protective service coordinate, provide, arrange, and monitor rehabilitative services for children and families. Accordingly, local social services districts must inform parents of children under the age of three who are subjects in an indicated report of child abuse or maltreatment of the Early Intervention Program, and refer them to the county's Early Intervention Program. A directory of lead agencies in each county may be found at the website cited above, under "Early Intervention County Connections." Direct contacts with this resource in the county will assist parents in accessing needed services.

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