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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 93 LCM-161

Date: November 18, 1993

Division: Services and
Community
Development

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: A Study of Multidisciplinary Approaches to Child Abuse
Investigations in New York State

ATTACHMENTS: None

The Division of Services and Community Development, in conjunction with the Office of Program Evaluations and Quality Measurement, is conducting a study of multidisciplinary approaches to the handling of child abuse cases, particularly sexual abuse, in New York State. The purposes of this study are to identify the level of coordination of current and previous team building efforts and to obtain baseline information on county-specific multidisciplinary programs. The results of the survey will provide the Department with information to be used to target future local team building initiatives as well as assist with a comprehensive law and policy review being conducted by the Children's Justice Task Force.

The design of the study will be two staged. The initial survey, which will be sent to the District Attorney's Office and the Department of Social Services of each county in the state, will ask for information about the handling of child abuse cases in the county. The second survey, which will be sent to professionals representing community mental health, victim advocacy, medical, and law enforcement, will ask for information regarding their involvement with these cases. Both surveys will focus on local efforts to coordinate child sexual abuse cases across disciplines.

The State University of New York at Albany (SUNYA), which is assisting the Department with the study, will be sending the initial survey in late October to each county's Director of Services or Borough Director. SUNYA staff will also be making follow-up contacts to anyone who has not responded within the timeframes specified. Participation from each county is needed so that we can generalize data across the state as well as identify individual county initiatives. If you have any questions about this study, please contact Nancy Baker by phone at 518-473-6445 or by E-mail at AX0830.

Frank Puig
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Services and Community
Development