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

Transmittal No: 97 LCM-63

Date: December 2, 1997

Division: Commissioner's
Office

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Welfare Reform Academy Teleconferences

ATTACHMENTS: John S. Buckley, Welfare reform Academy, University of
Maryland at College Park letter dated November 21, 1997
(available on-line)

We are pleased to announce that we have arranged to broadcast a series of welfare reform teleconferences sponsored by the Welfare Reform Academy located at the University of Maryland at College Park. These teleconferences will be broadcast on the first Friday afternoon of every month (1:00-4:00 PM) starting in February and ending in June. The Welfare Reform Academy will be announcing specific topic areas in the near future. Your district will be able to receive these important teleconferences since we have arranged to "capture the signal" and rebroadcast it through SUNYSAT.

The Office of Human Resource Development will be in contact with your staff development personnel to ensure that your staff have the opportunity to register for these teleconferences and obtain any handouts and promotional material in a timely manner. We would appreciate your assistance in ensuring that the appropriate downlink rooms are available for these programs.

If you have any questions regarding these programs, please feel free to contact Peter Miraglia (518-474-9645) or Dave McGann in OHRD. You can obtain additional information about the Welfare Reform Academy by visiting its website at www.welfare-reform-academy.org. Our satellite schedule on the agency website www.state.ny.us/dss will also be linked to this site.

These telecasts are being made available statewide through the cooperation of the program originator, in this case the University of Maryland. In the past, we have had similar arrangements with the University of Alabama. That program, on child protective services, was suggested to us by a local district. If you become aware of other satellite broadcasts offered by other organizations, please contact Peter Miraglia. If satellite time is available, we may be able to broadcast the program through SUNYSAT.

Brian J. Wing
Commissioner

November 21, 1997

Dear Mr. Buckley:

Thank you for providing us with the exciting opportunity to participate by satellite in the Welfare Reform Academy.

New York State maintains a network of fixed dishes in each of the 58 county social service offices. These offices receive a regular program of satellite training that we originate from our studios in Albany. Programming for these sites can be found at our web site (www.state.ny.us/dss). The upcoming Welfare Reform programs will complement the extensive programming that we already provide in the area.

Staff in our training office have already reserved the satellite time necessary for our reception and turnaround of the signal so that it can be broadcast throughout our system. I understand that you have already had discussions with Dave McGann, of our training office, regarding these broadcasts and most of the logistics have been arranged. The NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) will advertise the availability of these programs to our local districts and ask that they open their downlink site to staff from outside local agencies. We will also ask them to register their attendance directly with your organization. In order to make this program as useful as possible, we will include hyperlinks from our web site broadcast schedule back to content on your Welfare Reform Academy web site.

We look forward to working with you in this exciting partnership. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact Mr. McGann at 518-474-8629.

Sincerely,

/s/BJW 11/21/97

Brian J. Wing

Mr. John S. Buckley
Welfare Reform Academy
University of Maryland at College Park
Van Munching Hall
College Park, Maryland 20742-1821

cc: Lisa Irving
David Avenius