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

Transmittal No: 91 LCM-125

Date: July 8, 1991

Division: Administration

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Alcohol/Substance Abuse Training for Family and Children
Services Staff

ATTACHMENTS: None

Drug and alcohol abuse addiction continues to be a critical concern for districts throughout the state. The impact of this abuse places enormous demands on the social service system. The number of substance abuse related neglect and abuse cases has sharply risen; 57% of the children placed in foster care come from alleged substance abusing families. Increasing numbers of women are abusing drugs creating the additional problem of children with health, mental health, or developmental disabilities.

In 1991-92 the Office of Human Resource Development will offer a comprehensive range of alcohol and drug abuse training programs to prepare family and children services staff to confront the challenges presented by substance abusing parents and pregnant women. A description of the available courses follows.

- o Working with Alcohol/Substance Abusing Parents 3 days

This course is recommended as the initial course in the alcohol and substance abuse training series. The training provides basic information on alcohol and substance abuse and the beginning skills necessary for effectively working with families.

Buffalo State College

- o Alcohol and Substance Abuse Training for Child Welfare 2 days

Training on alcohol and its effects on members of the family. The impact of alcohol abuse on adults, fetal and child development, and family dynamics is presented. Effective methods of engaging client cooperation, intervention strategies and treatment options are also explored.

The NYS Division of Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse (DAAA)

- o The Impact of Crack/Cocaine on the Family 1 day

Presents critical information on crack/cocaine and its effects. The biological, psychological, and social aspects of crack dependency are presented as background for in-depth discussion on the implications for child care, child development, and family functioning. An overview of treatment models and relapse prevention is included.

NYS Division of Substance Abuse Services

- o Substance Abuse Training for Family Court Judges and LDSS Attorneys and Commissioners 2 days

Includes content on the recent changes in law, policy and case law affecting substance abuse cases, guidance on removal determinations, reunification issues, the role of the Kinship foster family, and preventive services available. The format will be a combination of lecture and small workshops.

Task Force on Permanency Planning

- o HIV and Substance Abuse Training for Local District Staff 1 day

Focuses on HIV and substance abuse and the implications for the delivery of services to individuals and families with this dual diagnosis.

SUNY Albany

- o NYS Division of Substance Abuse Services (DSAS) Basic and Advanced Training Varied

The DSAS Training Institute provides 43 programs at regional locations statewide. Through an interagency agreement with our Department, openings will be available in these programs for local district staff. Later this summer you will receive a copy of the DSAS training catalog and registration information.

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- o Special Topics in Substance and Alcohol Abuse 1 day

Thirty days of technical assistance and specialized training are available for on-site or regional programs on substance abuse topics of particular need in your district. Contact OHRD to arrange for training presented by one of our contractors or other recognized experts.

Except where noted, contractors will disseminate course announcements for these programs in the usual manner. For more information about the courses described above, please contact Janice Daley at 518-486-6400.

Nelson M. Weinstock
Deputy Commissioner for Administration