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

Transmittal No: 91 LCM-43

Date: March 21, 1991

Division: Commissioner's
Office

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Regional Training Sessions on Veterans' Issues

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment 1: Registration Materials
Attachment 2: Background Information on the Agent Orange
Class Assistance Program
(NOT AVAILABLE ON-LINE)

The Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), as part of a collaborative effort, is sponsoring three one-day regional training sessions on The Agent Orange Program and Sensitivity to Issues Facing Vietnam Veterans and Their Families.

Funding through the Agent Orange Class Assistance Program (AOCAP) is targeted toward services to Vietnam veterans and their families who may have a child with a chronic or developmental disability. The AOCAP is currently in its second year and previous grants to New York State providers have yielded over \$700,000 in new funds to serve families and children. It is notable that during the first year of funding, AOCAP received very few proposals nationwide. During the second year, because of the efforts of OMRDD and the Division of Veterans Affairs, half of the proposals submitted to AOCAP were from New York State.

The Assistance Program does not seek to duplicate or replace existing services provided by federal, state or local governments, but rather to augment those services and to work in partnership with entities dedicated to assisting Vietnam veterans and their families.

The New York State Department of Social Services is working closely with other relevant State agencies to ensure that information on available AOCAP funding is disseminated and to improve local understanding of Vietnam veteran issues and available service delivery systems.

The program for the regional information sessions will include:

- o Discussion on the AOCAP grant requirements, including presentations by current grant recipients;
- o Discussion of future plans and grant proposals;
- o A video from the New York State Temporary Commission on Dioxin;
- o Panel on sensitivity to veterans' issues with a discussion on the impact of the war , men's, women's, and family issues, and appropriate interventions for families;
- o Informal discussion and networking during lunch between families and service providers.

I encourage you to learn more about this Assistance Program and, if possible, to permit local district personnel involved with veterans' issues, income maintenance or services to children with disabilities to attend the regional training sessions. Registration materials are attached for your information. Should you have any questions regarding these materials, please contact Peggy Smith at 1-800-342-3715, extension 3-0577.

Cesar A. Perales
Commissioner