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

Transmittal No: 91 LCM-197

Date: October 31, 1991

Division: Commissioner's
Office

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health Services

ATTACHMENTS: NYS Office of Mental Health's 1992-1996 Comprehensive
Plan for Mental Health Services (not available on-line)

At the Department/Local District Summit held last spring, local commissioners expressed a great deal of concern over changes in policy and programming taking place in the field of mental health. In response to these concerns, the Department has initiated a dialogue with State OMH officials on issues involving admission criteria for State facilities, Medicaid payments, case management, and the general impact of the reduction of clients served in State institutional settings. It is our hope that these discussions will lead to better joint long range planning for clients in both our service areas.

To keep you informed of the directions being proposed by the Office of Mental Health, attached is a copy of their 1992-1996 Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health Services. This Plan outlines the Office's mission, goals, and major program strategies for the next five years and includes specific information on target populations and plans for each of the State's five mental health regions.

The 1992-1996 Comprehensive Plan will be the subject of five public hearings to be held in November at various locations across the State. The hearings will focus on several areas outlined in the Comprehensive Plan, including existing community support programs and the role of OMH licensed housing.

District staff are urged to review the Plan and to provide comments and recommendations regarding the potential impact on the programs operated and clients served by social service districts. Comments can either be given at the public hearings or submitted in writing to the Office of Mental Health. Should your district submit comments, we would appreciate receiving a copy and ask that you forward them to my attention.

Gregory M. Kaladjian
Executive Deputy Commissioner