

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

40 NORTH PEARL STREET, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12243-0001

MARY JO BANE
Commissioner



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LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM

DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 92 LCM-184

Date: December 1, 1992

Division: Services and
Community
Development

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Training in the Care and Needs of Disabled Infants

ATTACHMENTS: None

The purpose of this Local Commissioners Memorandum is to inform you of a training opportunity for selected staff from your district. The Department has awarded a grant to the Pediatric Pulmonary Center to develop a training program in conjunction with the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities at the University of Rochester's Department of Pediatrics. The instruction will focus upon the care and needs of disabled infants with life threatening conditions at risk of medical neglect; in addition, the implications of these conditions on the infants' parents or caregivers will be explored. The Department obtained the grant funds from the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect Disabled Infants Program.

A one-day train-the trainer session will be offered for up to three staff from your district on the subject of medically fragile infants with life threatening conditions at risk of medical neglect. There is no fee for this training session and travel expenses will not be reimbursed. Regional presentations will utilize videotapes, lectures, case examples and a discussion of available services for these infants and their caretakers.

The participants will receive information on available support services within their region. The following four medical conditions will be covered by this training:

- Dependency on medical technology
- Extremely low birth-weight
- HIV positive status
- Newborns with positive drug toxicology

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The content of the training sessions will include medical management, special needs of infants, family/caretakers, applicable laws and available resources. Training sessions are tentatively planned for spring of 1993.

A Regional Office Liaison will work in conjunction with the University of Rochester Medical Center to coordinate this one-day training session in your region. As a first step, we are requesting that staff who work with the target infants (i.e. child protective, preventive, foster home finding, family reunification staff) complete a needs assessment survey which will identify a specific training need in your district. In addition, you will need to identify up to three staff who will be invited to the training offered in your region.

The Regional Office Liaison will be contacting you in the near future to follow-up on this introductory letter, and to help you determine the appropriate person in your district to take the responsibility for assisting with the needs assessment survey and with the staff selection for training. We urge your participation in this training opportunity, and suggest that this training information be shared with Directors of Services and Staff Development Coordinators. If you have any questions regarding the content of this training, please direct them to Ruth Messinger, Project Director at the University of Rochester, telephone # (716) 275-2986. All other questions should be directed to your Regional Office Liaison listed below:

Albany: Andrea Smith (518) 432-2751	89A629
Buffalo: Angela DiBiase (716) 847-3145	AW2300
Metropolitan: Jacqueline Lee (212) 804-1198	OFG020
Rochester: James Schmitt (716) 238-8201	AW2450
Syracuse: Mary Miller (315) 423-1196	AW1830



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