

+-----+
| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
+-----+

DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 96 LCM-84

Date: September 16, 1996

Division: Services and
Community
Development

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Protective Services for Adults (PSA): Mental Health Related
Initiatives

ATTACHMENTS: None

In response to concerns raised by the Protective Services for Adults (PSA) staff of many social services districts regarding the linkage with the mental health system, the Department is pursuing two related initiatives. Both of these initiatives are intended to improve interagency cooperation between social services districts and mental health providers and to ensure appropriate and consistent service delivery to PSA clients.

The first initiative pertains to the development of an Interagency Agreement with the Offices of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities regarding the sharing of client specific information among social services districts and mental health providers on behalf of PSA clients and persons being referred for PSA. Within the next two weeks a draft copy of the aforementioned agreement will be sent to Directors of Services for review and comment.

The second initiative involves the development of model mental health assessment forms in order to improve the ability of social services districts to determine when it is appropriate to pursue legal interventions or other involuntary services on behalf of mentally impaired PSA clients.

Date September 16, 1996

Trans. No. 96 LCM-84

Page No. 2

As part of this initiative, we will be developing a model screening form to be used by local district PSA staff in determining whether or not to refer a client for a comprehensive mental health assessment. We also will develop a model assessment form which can be used by mental health professionals in determining the cognitive abilities and limitations of PSA clients. To assist us with the implementation of this project, we will be requesting Directors of Services to submit any mental health screening and assessment forms that are being used in their district. In addition, we will be asking Directors and their staff to identify the issues that they believe need to be addressed by the Department to ensure the availability of comprehensive mental health assessments on behalf of PSA clients.

Please share this information with your Directors of Services. If there are any questions about these initiatives, please have your staff contact Gregory Giuliano at (518) 432-2980 or USER I.D. #AV0480.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Rose M. Pandozy
Deputy Commissioner
Services and Community Development