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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |  
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Transmittal No: 92 LCM-67

Date: April 21, 1992

Division: Family & Children  
Services

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Preventive/Foster Care Report

ATTACHMENTS: Families in the Child Welfare System: Foster Care and  
Preventive Services in the Nineties and Executive Summary  
(not available on-line)

I am pleased to send you the enclosed report: Families in the Child Welfare System: Foster Care and Preventive Services in the Nineties. This report documents the findings from a survey of randomly selected foster care and preventive services cases opened in 1990.

The major findings of this study can be summarized in four statements:

Substance abuse is having a major impact on the foster care and preventive services system.

Families in both the foster care and preventive programs are seriously needy, with multiple and severe problems.

Traditional preventive services alone cannot meet the needs of these multi-problem families.

Intervention is coming too late for many families.

These findings reinforce the fact that we must continue to improve the preventive efforts that are currently in place within New York State's child welfare system. Moreover, we must aggressively pursue effective linkages with other service systems to enable the delivery of a comprehensive continuum of supportive care to our most troubled families. It is also the vision of the recommendations contained in this study that the future of New York State families can be improved through the development of institutional supports available to families at all times and not only in times of crises.

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The Executive Summary provides excerpts and highlights from the full report. The complete report contains detailed presentation and analysis of the findings from both the foster care and preventive services samples, and discussion of the policy implications leading to the recommendations contained in this summary. Information concerning the study methodology and trends in foster care and preventive services populations is also presented as important background information.

I hope that this information will be useful in your efforts to serve New York's children and families. We invite your comments and consideration of the report findings and the recommendations arising from our analysis. Please contact the appropriate Regional Office of the Division of Family and Children Services.

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