NEW YORK STATE
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-86

Date: June 12, 1992

Division: Family and Children Services

TO: **Local District Commissioners**

SUBJECT: Child Care: Seamless Funding - Phase I

ATTACHMENTS: Fulfilling the Agenda: Seamless Funding - Phase I (Not available on-line)

The State's budget for the current fiscal year includes a requirement that the Department "submit a plan to allow for a unified child care funding stream with consistent regulations and a uniform local match." The plan must be submitted to the Legislature by December 1, 1992. The Department has been working in conjunction the Seamless Funding Workgroup of the Governor's Permanent Interagency Committee on Early Childhood Services to develop a conceptual model of Seamless Funding for child care subsidy programs. Seamless Funding would accomplish the following:

- allow families to move from one funding stream to another without a disruption in services;
- provide consistent rules, wherever possible, across programs so that social services districts can more easily administer programs; and
- provide consistent reporting requirements regarding content and timeframes in order to enhance State supervision of programs.

The Department has proceeded to identify the specific changes in both federal and State statute and regulation that are necessary to accomplish Seamless Funding. As an interim step, the Department is currently working on a proposal which will accomplish the first and foremost goal of Seamless Funding, allowing families to move from one funding stream to the next without a disruption of services. The proposal also will eliminate some of the inconsistencies that make it difficult, on the county level, to administer these programs.

The document, entitled "Fulfilling the Agenda: Seamless Funding - Phase I" (attached) contains two charts which describe the Department's proposed approaches to accomplish Phase I of Seamless Funding. The first chart, entitled "Seamless Funding", is intended to serve as a discussion document, rather than a final plan. The first column of the chart provides a description of the inconsistencies across the seven child care subsidy funding streams; the second column provides possible approaches to creating Seamless Funding; the third column indicates the feasibility of each approach; and the fourth column describes the statutory and regulatory changes needed to achieve Seamless Funding.

The second chart, entitled "Creating Seamless Funding", provides a brief summary of the numerous statutory and regulatory amendments necessary to achieve Phase I of Seamless Funding, as well as, the current status of the various amendments and a description of the unresolved issues related to Seamless Funding.

Working in conjunction with the Governor's Permanent Interagency Committee on Early Childhood Services, the Department is interested in convening a roundtable discussion on Seamless Funding at the summer conference of New York Public Welfare Association in order to reach consensus on some of the unresolved issues. The roundtable will expand upon the Seamless Funding Workgroup by involving a wider representation of social services districts which, after parents, are the primary beneficiaries of Seamless Funding. Involvement by social services districts is critical to ensuring that the full range of issues and most reasonable solutions have been identified. Social services districts which wish to participate in the roundtable discussions are encouraged to contact Anne Ball of the Bureau of Early Childhood Services.

In addition, the Department is interested in receiving your comments and suggestions on the attached document as the Department works to refine it and to implement strategies to accomplish Seamless Funding. You may direct any specific comments to Anne Ball, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, NYS Department of Social Services, 40 North Pearl Street, Section 11-B, Albany, New York 12243, phone 1-800-342-3715, extension 4-9324 or dial direct (518) 474-9324. Ms. Ball also may be contacted on-line, Userid #AV0610. Social services districts are encouraged to submit comments by Thursday, July 2, 1992.

Joseph Semidei
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Family and
Children Services