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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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Transmittal No: 93 LCM-7

Date: January 25, 1993

Division: Division of Services
and Community
Development

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Training Video: Crack/Cocaine Crisis: Implications for Child
Welfare

ATTACHMENTS: There are no attachments to this LCM

Under separate cover, you will be receiving a copy of a video entitled Crack/Cocaine Crisis: Implications for Child Welfare, and a Facilitator's Discussion Guide for the video.

Since the arrival of crack/cocaine in the early 80's, there has been an alarming increase in the presence of substance abuse in the families that are served through the child welfare system. In a recent study, the NYS Department of Social Services found that parental substance abuse was present in over half of the families of children who entered foster care and almost half of the families of children who began receiving preventive services in 1990.

The Crack/Cocaine Crisis: Implications for Child Welfare provides basic information on the effects of crack/cocaine use. It presents sensitive explanations and reasons people use crack/cocaine despite the tragic consequences to themselves and their families. It also offers a positive outlook for those who undergo treatment.

This video was developed for the Department under a contract with the Center for Development of Human Services at the State University College at Buffalo and with the efforts of the Narcotics and Drug Research Institute. It is the first of a series of five videos on the topic of substance abuse being produced by the Department for casework, child care and supervisory staff to help improve their ability to provide comprehensive intervention to substance-affected families. When all five videos are completed, they will be available as part of a train-the-trainer program.

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We are distributing the Crack/Cocaine video prior to completion of the entire series as there is a need for child welfare workers to understand the unique nature of crack and its effect on families. We suggest that you designate a staff person with some substance abuse expertise to facilitate discussion of the video using the facilitators guide. We will advise you when the additional videos and training will be available.

If you have any questions, please call Jayne Stillwell, Division of Services and Community Development, at 1-800-342-3715, ext. 6-3448 or (518) 486-3448. If you wish additional copies, please contact Bruce Muller at the Social Services Materials Resource Center at 1-800-342-3715, ext. 4-8550 or (518) 474-8550.

James Purcell
Associate Commissioner
Office of Family & Childrens
Services
Division of Services and
Community Development