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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 97 LCM-35

Date: April 30, 1997

Division: Services and
Community
Development

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: "Court Ordered Services: Creating New Partnerships In a
Medicaid Managed Care Era" Teleconference

ATTACHMENTS: None

The purpose of this memorandum is to encourage your attendance at a statewide teleconference entitled "Court Ordered Services: Creating New Partnerships In a Medicaid Managed Care Era" to be held on Thursday, May 22nd. The teleconference will take place at each of the social services district sites, except New York City.

This teleconference is sponsored by the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social Services. The planning for the teleconference has also involved representatives from the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, social services districts, the court system and managed care plans. Its purpose is to highlight the importance of court officials, managed care plans serving medicaid clients, and county agencies working together to ensure that appropriate court ordered services will be delivered. Under New York's Medicaid Managed Care law, managed care plans must provide Medicaid reimbursable services ordered by a "court of competent jurisdiction."

The move to medicaid managed care will be most effective for all if it can be done through the cooperation and planning of the critical players. You can demonstrate your awareness and support of the importance of working through the issues by providing the link among the managed care coordinators and the services staff and the managed care plan representatives.

The teleconference will provide participants with an opportunity to understand the information that is needed by the courts and by the managed care plans in order to ensure that services provided to clients will be timely and appropriate. There will be a discussion of New York's Managed Care program, the kinds of services ordered by courts for children and

adults, and the respective roles for managed care plans and social services districts. Panel participants will discuss services and assessments related to probation, adult protective services, child protective services, including child sexual abuse, mental health services to prevent residential placement, and physical or mental health needs resulting from domestic violence.

I encourage you to invite your services staff to attend and I would appreciate you or your designee being available at 9:00 am to introduce your services staff and your managed care coordinator to representatives from the local courts and managed care plans, and to other local government representatives who have been invited. The target audience, which includes local district services and managed care staff, managed care plan representatives, local government representatives from mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, probation, and court staff, has received the teleconference announcement from DOH. The managed care coordinators have been encouraged by DOH to contact any key players related to court ordered services to be present. DOH has also encouraged the managed care plans to have a representative at each county where they are under contract.

The teleconference is scheduled from 9:00 am to 11:30 am to be followed by a one-hour, on-site discussion. In an April 22nd letter, DOH invited the managed care coordinators to facilitate the discussions. This will provide local participants an opportunity to react to the information presented, begin an analysis of local needs, and initiate discussions about possible follow-up steps. It is important to develop clear procedures and local protocols to ensure information flow that will enable the client and the courts to be served. Within each county, the participants will need to consider strategies to identify whether a person before the court is enrolled in a medicaid managed care plan, and at what point that plan needs to be informed regarding the need for services. The discussions may also include which local courts order services now, who provides assessments, who is included in the managed care plans, and who implements the court orders.

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Office of the Division of Services and Community Development, or Margie Van Meter at the Department of Health at (518) 486-9167.

Brian J. Wing
Acting Commissioner