I am pleased to send you the enclosed copy of a document developed by the New York State Department of Social Services entitled New York State Plan for Child Care: Looking Toward the Year 2000. It describes the challenge of providing early childhood services for New York State's families, details the current programs and proposes a vision for the next several years together with long and/or short-term action steps necessary to achieve that vision. Clearly, achieving those goals will be difficult and will depend on the availability of resources.

This Plan incorporates input from our ongoing discussions with those interested in child care: day care providers, parents, community organizations, professional and advocacy groups, governmental agencies and officials at various levels, employers, labor organizations, educators and others.

We welcome your comments and suggestions on the Plan as we work to refine it and as we continue to work with you to carry out strategies and actions described here. Should you have any questions or comments regarding the Plan, please direct them to Jo Ann Friedell, Director, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, NYS Department of Social Services, 40 North Pearl Street, Section 11-B, Albany, New York 12243 (OA User ID 0FE010).

Gregory M. Kaladjian
Acting Commissioner