TO:       Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Office of Mental Health's Children and Families Mental Health Service Plan

ATTACHMENTS: Letter dated July 1, 1992 from Gloria Newton-Logsdon (not available on-line)

Within the last several weeks, you should have received a copy of the Office of Mental Health's Children and Families Mental Health Service Plan. This Plan is at the heart of OMH's efforts to identify and address mental health needs of children and youth in New York State. As you know, there is a very substantial overlap between the children who need the services available from the mental health system and those who come to our attention in the child protective and child welfare systems.

The purpose of this LCM is to urge you to review the Mental Health Plan and to participate in the public review meetings which OMH is conducting across the State to promote discussion of the Plan. These hearings will be scheduled after September 1, 1992. As the attached cover letter to the Plan indicates, people interested in participating in the hearings should contact the New York State OMH Regional Office, Children and Youth Specialist. Their names and phone numbers are also included in the attachment.

If you did not receive a copy of the Mental Health Plan for Children and Families, you should also contact the OMH Regional Office.

I believe that review of this Plan and participation in these public discussions will be helpful in ensuring that the mental health system is responsive to the needs of local districts.

Joseph Semidei
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Family and Children Services