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.
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.

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