TO:       Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Fraud Prevention Booklet

ATTACHMENTS: None

The Department is in the process of developing an informational booklet on activities undertaken by the Department and local districts to prevent fraud in our social services programs. This booklet is part of a continuing effort to provide the public with a better understanding of the programs and services administered by the state and local departments of social services, and will be similar to our earlier publications entitled "Twenty Frequently Asked Questions About New York State's Social Services Program" and "Where Does the Money Go?". Comments we have received from local commissioners and others have indicated these publications have provided factual information which has assisted in dispelling some of the misinformation and misperceptions the public has about the costs and beneficiaries of our programs.

The fraud prevention booklet will include summary descriptions of the many fraud prevention and control activities undertaken by the Department and local districts including the Front End Detection System (FEDS), the Medicaid Utilization Threshold and Recipient Restriction programs, computer data matches for unreported income and assets, the pilot fingerprinting program, and the various activities focused on Medicaid providers. In addition, we would like to include summary descriptions of local initiatives and programs developed to prevent and/or detect fraud. If your district has developed any specific procedures or programs that you believe has been successful in preventing and/or detecting fraud, and would like it included in this booklet, please contact Patricia O'Neill (OCO060) at (518) 474-4152.
Once the booklet has been completed, copies will be distributed to all districts. Should you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Patricia O'Neill at the telephone number listed above.

Karen Schimke  
Executive Deputy Commissioner