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

Transmittal No: 94 LCM-17

Date: February 22, 1994

Division: Management Support
& Quality Improvement

Office of Employment
Programs

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Jobs FIRST Teleconference

ATTACHMENTS: None

New York's Jobs FIRST initiative represents the key to a major restructuring of the current welfare system to emphasize the values of work and family responsibility. Soon, several districts will be involved in piloting new approaches to delivering services to the public assistance population. These new approaches will help us move from a system that primarily dispenses benefits to one that tries to prevent dependence in the first place. For those that do need cash assistance, our efforts will be geared to helping them achieve self-sufficiency.

In order to succeed in this effort, we will all need to view our jobs differently and think about public assistance in different ways. We have planned a series of teleconferences and other events to reach as many people as possible, to acquaint them with the key elements of Jobs FIRST. The first Satellite Teleconference is scheduled for Thursday, March 31 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM and will feature Commissioner Michael Dowling and Allegany County Commissioner Joan Sinclair. They will discuss the Jobs FIRST program and the vision of welfare reform as well as take questions from participants across the state.

We have arranged satellite downlink sites throughout the state. The program announcement and registration information are being sent to the Staff Development Coordinators. While it will not be possible for all your staff to attend, we encourage you to invite staff from all levels for the actual presentation. We will supply each district with a videotape of the event for use with those who are unable to attend. We will also schedule additional teleconferences throughout the year.

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We look forward to the March 31 program and working with you and your staff to create a shared vision for the welfare system of the future.

If special accommodations are needed by staff to participate at the teleconference, please call Mary Berrings at (518) 474-2971.

Nelson M. Weinstock
Deputy Commissioner
Management Support and
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Jack Ryan
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