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# CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDUM

## NO. 8-2000

## May 19, 2000

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**TO:** SHERIFFS, JAIL ADMINISTRATORS, COMMISSIONERS OF CORRECTION,  
POLICE CHIEFS

**RE:** Development of Local Mental Health Services or Unified Services  
Plan

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Attached is a copy of an amendment to Mental Hygiene Law section 41.16 which was proposed by the New York State Office of Mental Health and became law effective June 22, 1999. The law (Chapter 99 of the Laws of 1999) requires local governmental units to involve local correctional facilities and other local criminal justice agencies in each county's mental health services planning process.

Specifically, the law requires collaboration in the development of local mental health services or unified services plans which localities must submit to the State Commissioner of Mental Health for approval.

The State Office of Mental Health and the Commission collaborate on several criminal justice initiatives, including the Suicide Prevention/Crisis Services Program.

The Commission of Correction encourages all sheriffs, jail administrators and police chiefs to give input to their county directors of mental health and to become involved in the mental health planning process as it effects your detainees or inmates with serious mental health problems.

For further information, please contact Richard Miraglia, Director, Bureau of Forensic Services, New York State Office of Mental Health at (518) 474-7219 or James Lawrence, Director of Operations, New York State Commission of Correction at (518) 485-2346 with any questions that you may have regarding this statutory change.

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Alan J. Croce, Chairman/Commissioner

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**Alan J. Croce, Chairman/Commissioner**

**Frederick C. Lamy, Commissioner**  
**Daniel B. Reardon, Commissioner**