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# CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDUM

## NO. 6-98

### April 20, 1998

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TO: SHERIFFS, JAIL ADMINISTRATORS, COMMISSIONERS OF CORRECTION

RE: OMH Regional Forensic Unit Catchment Areas for Inpatient Services, Pursuant to Correction Law Section 508

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In order to streamline access to inpatient services for non-sentenced prisoners pursuant to Correction Law, section 508, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) is expanding the catchment areas of two Regional Forensic Units (Northeast Central RFU and Rochester RFU). The expanded catchment areas will now include counties who previously did not have direct access to these services. In the past, in order for "uncatchmented" counties to access inpatient services via Correction Law 508, an RFU designation had to be obtained from OMH's Bureau of Forensic Services before contacting an RFU to coordinate transfer of custody.

Counties will be able to directly contact the respective RFU which has the county in its catchment area (see list of RFU's and the new county catchment areas on reverse side of memorandum).

Counties are reminded that contact with the RFU **must be made prior to the initiation of transport of an inmate in order to confirm:**

1. That the charges against the inmate warrant placement in a RFU as opposed to a local hospital utilizing a criminal justice release option;
2. That an inpatient bed is available;
3. That the appropriate paperwork, including medical clearances if needed, has been and completed; and
4. When the RFU will be ready to receive the inmate.

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT TERENCE McCORMICK AT (518) 474-6539 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.**

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Alan J. Croce  
Chairman/Commissioner