



October 1, 2008

The Honorable David A. Paterson
Governor
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Dean Skelos
Senate Majority Leader
909 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Sheldon Silver
Assembly Majority Leader
903 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Paterson, Senator Skelos, and Assemblyman Silver:

Consistent with your charge for more effective and efficient government, we are pleased to submit the The Children's Plan which represents a fundamental reform effort in services for children. The Plan articulates a blueprint to move us from intensive and expensive services for a few, toward early intervention, collaboration with parents, reduced suffering and improved outcomes for many of our most vulnerable children. We are proud of the extraordinary partnerships among state agencies and with stakeholders that have developed as a result of this planning process. We believe these partnerships will stand us in good stead as we shoulder the burden of taking positive action in difficult times.

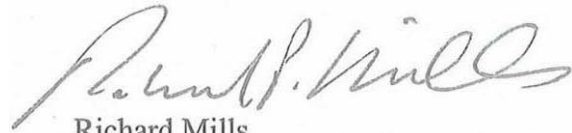
Much has been written and many thousands of hours spent on the Gordian knot of interagency fragmentation. This plan offers us a menu of fundamental and shared reform efforts which can create more rational service delivery, reduce the need for expensive institutional services and improve outcomes for New York State's children and their families.

We are both honored and pleased to submit the The Children's Plan. This Plan has been sent to the Legislature consistent with the Statute of the Children's Mental Health Act of 2006.





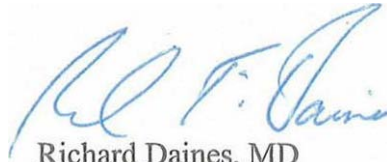
Michael F. Hogan, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Office of Mental Health



Richard Mills
Commissioner
State Education Department



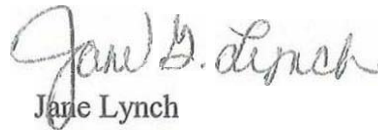
Deborah Benson
Executive Director
Council on Children and Families



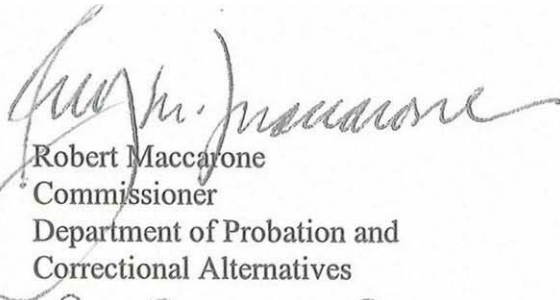
Richard Daines, MD
Commissioner
Department of Health



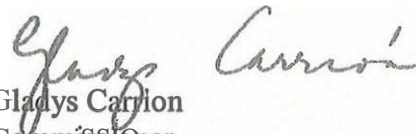
Diana Jones Ritter
Commissioner
Office of Mental Retardation
and Developmental Disabilities



Jane Lynch
Commissioner
Commission on Quality Care
Advocacy for Persons with
Disabilities



Robert Maccarone
Commissioner
Department of Probation and
Correctional Alternatives



Gladys Carrion
Commissioner
Office of Children and Family
Services



Karen Carpenter-Palumbo
Commissioner
Office of Alcoholism and Substance
Abuse Services

Cc: Joseph Baker
Kristin Proud
Michael Seereiter