The purpose of this Information Memorandum is to alert Area Agencies on Aging that due to changes in the Community Mental Health Reinvestment Act funding allocation, local mental health authorities are being required to adjust their 1995-96 Plans. The readjustments are due in the OMH Central Office no later than September 15, 1995.

Area Agencies on Aging are encouraged to remain or become involved in the local planning process through dialogue with local mental health authorities. Issues related to effective mental health service delivery to meet the needs of older mentally impaired have often been raised by Area Agencies. The New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging, in consultation with SOFA, supported a recent research project to determine the scope of the problem. The final report of that research entitled, "Elderly Access to Mental Health Services in New York State" will be transmitted shortly to Area Agencies. Information in the report should be helpful in both sensitizing local mental health officials on the needs of the older mentally impaired and in suggesting responses to alleviate some of the problems.

Attached to this IM are several components on Reinvestment fund planning from guidance issued last month from the State Office of Mental Health. These are excerpts from a 124 page planning document:

1) Commissioner's transmittal and overview statement  
2) A planning and budgeting timetable for 1995.  
3) A schedule of the annualized and phase-in value of estimated reinvestment funds by county
4) Compilation of programs eligible for reinvestment funding

Many Area Agencies are already significantly involved both in overall systems development activities with local mental health officials, as well as in specific discussions around reinvestment funding. You are encouraged to continue and, as appropriate, initiate discussions, to stimulate attention to the needs of the older mentally impaired.