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GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
DIVISION: Temporary Assistance

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TO: Commissioners; IM Directors**FROM:** Patricia Stevens, Deputy Commissioner, Division of
Temporary Assistance**SUBJECT:** Expansion of Who Can Conduct Drug/Alcohol (D/A) Assessments**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately**CONTACT PERSON:** Regional Representatives: Region I (518) 473-0332;
Region II (518) 474-9344; Region III (518) 474-
9307; Region IV (518) 474-9300; Region V (518) 473-1469;
Region VI (212) 383-1658

This message is to inform districts that the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) has filed an amendment to 14 NYCRR 853.15 that provides for the issuance of a temporary provisional alcohol and substance abuse counselor credential (CASAC). This change is significant since it will expand the pool of individuals available statewide to conduct assessments and may help to alleviate problems some districts found in meeting the assessment mandate.

The amended regulation permits OASAS to issue a credential to professionals who meet certain standards without first having to take the CASAC examination and will provisionally qualify them to conduct the mandated D/A assessments. The provisional alcoholism and substance abuse credential will only be available through June 30, 2000.

To be eligible for a provisional alcoholism and substance abuse counselor credential, an applicant must be currently licensed, certified, or otherwise credentialed, in good standing as one of the following:

- (1) a certified social worker licensed and currently registered by the New York State Education Department;
- (2) a nurse practitioner who is licensed and currently registered as a professional nurse by the New York State Education Department;
- (3) a physician's assistant licensed and currently registered as such by the New York State Education Department and whose practice is in conformity with Section 3701 of the Public Health Law;

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- (4) a registered nurse licensed and currently registered by the New York State Education Department;
- (5) a licensed practical nurse, practicing under the supervision of a registered nurse, and licensed by the New York State Education Department;
- (6) a psychologist licensed and currently registered by the New York State Education Department; or
- (7) a rehabilitation counselor certified by the Commission of Rehabilitation Counselor Certification.

An individual seeking a provisional CASAC credential must also meet specific education, training and work experience defined in Part 853 which sufficiently demonstrates an understanding of safe practice by addressing a body of knowledge, work behavior, and skills related to chemical dependence treatment and/or dependence related problems.

An informational letter containing more information and a copy of Part 853 of Title 14 of NYCRR is being prepared and will be released in the near future.