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STATE STUDY ASKS 150 LOCAL CENTERS FOR MENTALLY ILL

30 Units for Retarded Also Urged on the Governor in a Massive Report

By JOHN SIBLEY

A master plan for the care of the state's mentally ill and retarded, handed to Governor Rockefeller over the weekend, calls for developing a network of small community centers.

By 1975, according to the plan, there would be 150 mental health centers across the state, each serving a population of about 150,000. Except in New York City, these would be administered by county or regional governing boards.

In addition, 30 community centers for the mentally retarded would be established during the same period at easily accessible points, each serving a population of no more than 750,000.

More than 800 experts and private citizens worked two years in the preparation of the report, a seven-volume work containing 1,615 pages.

Follows Kennedy Report

The vast study was directed by Hyman M. Forestenzer, an assistant commissioner of the Department of Mental Hygiene, who is in charge of mental health resources and policy planning.

The report was made public less than a week after Senator Robert F. Kennedy touched off an uproar by charging that the state was disgracefully neglecting the needs of its mentally retarded children.

The department insisted yesterday, however, that the report had not been timed deliberately to offset the Kennedy charge. A spokesman said the release date had been set long before the Senator issued a strongly phrased description of his findings at two institutions for mentally defective children.

Main Concept Endorsed

The report contained few surprises for mental health authorities, though it listed 83 "major recommendations" in the field of mental health and 191 more in the field of mental retardation.

The underlying concept—caring for the mentally disabled close to their homes rather than in isolated, giant institutions—is endorsed today by virtually all experts. Governor Rockefeller, though he spoke in general terms, announced last January that this policy would be followed in building new mental hospitals.

Mr. Forestenzer noted yesterday that a number of the other major recommendations had been enacted into law by the 1965 Legislature. Among them were these:

• A program under which the

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LATE CITY EDITION

U. S. Weather Bureau Report (Page 69) forecasts:
Rain ending, clearing today; fair tonight. Fair and warm tomorrow.
Temp. (Range): 74-60; yesterday: 65-61;
Temp.-Hum. Index: high 60's; yesterday: 64.