

Hospital Critics Win Point

Albany, Oct. 22 (AP) — The State Mental Hygiene Department, reacting to criticism, is taking another look at a proposal to change the operations of citizen watchdog groups assigned to the state's 28 mental health institutions.

The department probably will revise an independent study group's plan for shortening the terms of members of boards of visitors to the hospitals and schools, Dr. Alan D. Miller, the

state's mental hygiene commissioner, said today.

The proposal to reduce the terms of board members from five years to three drew unanimous opposition Thursday from the Association of the Boards of Visitors to the Mental Hygiene Institutions of New York State.

Willowbrook Board Term May Be Cut

ALBANY — Criticism has forced the State Mental Health Department to review its proposal to change operations of citizen-watchdog groups assigned to mental health institutions, including Willowbrook State School.

When the department completes its review, it probably will revise an independent study group's plan for shortening the terms of members of boards of visitors to the hospitals and schools.

At least, that is the current thinking in the department, Dr. Alan D. Miller, the state's mental hygiene commissioner, said Saturday.

The proposal is to reduce the terms of board members from seven years to three.

Rock Says O'Connor Exploits Mentally Ill

Gov. Rockefeller accused his Democratic opponent, Frank O'Connor, yesterday of using the mentally ill and the retarded as "political pawns" in his drive for the governorship.

Rocky had announced Monday that he was abandoning discussion of his eight-year record and going out after O'Connor on a man-to-man basis.

He made his latest charge against the Democrat in a sidewalk interview before addressing a candidates' forum at the New York Board of Rabbis at 10 E. 72d St.

Standing nearby at the time was Rabbi Philip Goldberg, a chaplain at the Willowbrook Hospital for mentally retarded youngsters on Staten Island. The clergyman defended the Governor's record in the field of mental health, declaring that no other administration had done as much for the hospital as Rockefeller's.

Rocky frankly acknowledged

that he was disappointed in his vote-pulling power upstate as reflected in THE NEWS poll. He said many upstaters were apparently going over to the Liberal and Conservative lines.

And in an address at the dedication of the Greater Flatbush-Sheepshead Mental Health Clinic, which is in Sheepshead Bay High School, Brooklyn. Rocky defended his plan for involuntary treatment of drug addicts.

"We have heard (from his opponents) that this law is unfair to the addict—that he ought to have the right to make up his own mind if he wants to be cured, but we know only too well that voluntary submission for treatment hasn't worked."