

*S. I. Advance*

## Group to plan united aid for retarded

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A committee to develop comprehensive services for the mentally retarded on Staten Island was formed at a meeting yesterday of the city Community Mental Health Board in Willowbrook State School.

**The committee is the first step of the board's plan to coordinate the efforts of all Island agencies serving the retarded.**

The board hopes to set up a council of retardation agencies, which will lead to a comprehensive mental retardation center.

The center, one of 12 throughout the city, will not be a single physical plant in one location, but a broad range of services in different parts of the Island which will offer related services, according to Stanley Meyers, special assistant in mental retardation.

The Mental Health Board stresses that to accomplish this, it is necessary to involve all existing agencies in planning for the retarded and in exploring their relationships to the centers.

Meyers mentioned diagnostic and clinical resources, day and pre-school care, education, vocational training, recreation and social life, home care, residential facilities and transportation as major areas which will be coordinated.

At yesterday's meeting were a variety of agencies, including Staten Island Family Service, St. Michael's Home, Greenridge, Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children, St. Vincent's Medical Center, the city Social Services Department, the Exceptional Children's Social Club, the Staten Island Mental Health Society and Willowbrook State School.