

Willowbrook head denies retarded are neglected

Dr. Jack Gootzeit, director of the non-profit Institute of Applied Human Dynamics, said yesterday that state institutions such as Willowbrook State School and Letchworth Village neglect seriously retarded children.

Willowbrook's director, Dr. Jack Hammond, disputed the charge, however, and said several programs are geared to the seriously retarded.

He claimed more than half of the state school's 800 severely retarded children are currently in a training program.

Speaking at a news conference in the Manhattan office of Assemblyman Anthony J. Merecorella, D-L-Bronx, Gootzeit, a psychologist, charged that the institutions had an "official policy of neglect."

He said the institutions spent most of their efforts and money

trying to help less seriously handicapped children, resulting in "an unintended policy of euthanasia."

"They say these children can't be helped, but most of them could learn to stand. These institutions have just got to get them up and outside," Gootzeit said.

Gootzeit's Institute of Applied Human Dynamics is a voluntary group which aids retarded children.