

December 26, 1972

The written plan which is governing our efforts is a matter of public record. It was available to the press in the form of two open affidavits (copies are enclosed), dated July 14, 1972 and September 15, 1972, submitted to the Federal Judge who is hearing the case on Willowbrook. The plan, and the steps taken to implement it, have also been publicized in nine news releases (copies enclosed) issued by this department since May 2, 1972.

Willowbrook still falls short of providing all its residents with the kind of care and treatment they need. The problem did not occur overnight; it has long historical and complex social roots. Ongoing efforts to solve the problem were dealt a severe setback by the fiscal crisis of 1971. Your readers need to know these facts. They should never be allowed to forget them. But they also need to know--in the interest of promoting sustained public support of corrective measures--about the efforts of concerned men and women to make Willowbrook and all our other state schools centers of decent care and effective rehabilitation.

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD WOLFE  
Assistant Commissioner  
for Communications

HW/hs  
Encs.

bcc: Dr. Miller  
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Mr. Hayes  
Mr. Hodsdon  
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Mr. Thomas  
Mr. Elisha  
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