

Editorials

The state moves very slowly

Two weeks ago, it was announced that the state has given final approval to a new concept in treatment of the retarded — two "halfway houses" which would provide family living on Staten Island for a few of Willowbrook State School's residents and aid the institution in complying with a court order last April to hire more people to care for its charges.

Now it turns out purchase of the homes may be months in the distance, and the coordinator of the program says the state may not provide resident "house parents," a vital part of the idea, and that would mean, with sick leave, days off and vacations, that only one attendant might be staffing the house. This was denied by an official of the Department of Mental Hygiene, who said budget items have been added to provide five house parent jobs.

Treatment of the retarded has left very much to be desired thus far. One might also add that the state's concern for them has been retarded, too.