

give each resident individualized treatment.

Working with the individual and with the community is the major thrust of CSU. One of the major problems is that there is no existing network of community services on Staten Island or in the rest of the city.

The services needed include more classes for handicapped children, adult education programs for persons over 21 who have lower than 6th grade reading levels, medical, psychiatric and recreation services and vocational training.

There is a problem with public transportation also; it is difficult to use if a person is in a wheel chair. Steps in a school and in welfare offices, also pose problems for the physically handicapped.

"In trying to move people out of institutions, the state hasn't reordered policies with community services to accommodate the changes," Robidoux said. "We don't want to put people in the community and do them a disservice." CSU is in the process of contacting all Staten Island relatives of Willowbrook residents to discuss needs for services. More community input is required, however, to broaden the framework of needs.

Six areas of needs have been tentatively identified in the planning for creation and utilization of community resources.

The first is for group residences. CSU is working with interested in developing group public and private agencies in homes or hostels.

Another is for adult education and recreation. Many former residents express the need for a place to learn to talk to call their own.

A program of remedial work in adult education is lacking on Staten Island, CSU workers claim. Most existing adult

education programs require that the student have at least a 6th grade reading level, and when ex-Willowbrook residents don't, they have no access to the programs.

A CSU team is now working with community groups for a joint program in adult education, but this is still in the planning stage.

Public education is another problem that faces the handicapped. Since the total number of Island handicapped children is not known providing special education for them is difficult. CSU hopes for the creation of a registry of all handicapped children which would be invaluable in negotiating with schools for planning services.

CSU also recognizes the problem of healthcare for the handicapped. Although almost all community residents are covered by Medicaid, Medicare or private insurers, CSU claims that "having coverage and receiving treatment are not synonymous."

Part of the problem is diagnosis, another is treatment. By a program of community outreach, CSU hopes to remedy both.

United Cerebral Palsy mini-teams are beginning to consult with CSU on ways of improving services in foster homes and to handicapped persons in the community.

Two mobile vans will bring teams of professionals to different areas of Staten Island and in some cases diagnosis and treatment will be given immediately. The thrust will be on teaching, however.

Through this, CSU hopes to

spread information and get ideas from larger segments of the population.

Socialization and sex education is another recognized problem, and CSU sees Willowbrook as the "logical" place to begin tackling it. Residents meeting with their peers is a major need "that cannot be overestimated." What is needed are ways to accomplish this through all community placements.

An important aspect of CSU work is follow-up. By helping ex-residents adjust to "life on the outside" and assisting them in all stages of adjustment, CSU is working against the fear that people may not make it on the outside any better than in Willowbrook.

(Third in a series)