

PATIENTS' NEEDS

ALBANY (UPI) — State Mental Hygiene Commissioner Alan D. Miller says he will support legislation to make the state responsible for the full

cost of services provided to patients discharged after long stays in mental hospitals and schools.

Miller, testifying yesterday at a public hearing held by the Assembly subcommittee on mental hygiene, said a stronger tie was required between state and local mental hygiene and social service agencies to deal effectively with long term patients' needs when they were discharged from the state institutions.

The commissioner said two task forces are now studying ways to improve community residential and rehabilitation programs for the mentally handicapped.