

Unit to review Willowbrook plan

By WILLIAM HUUS

The Staten Island Mental Retardation Regional Council, meeting yesterday at Wagner College, agreed to review a detailed proposal involving the placement of Willowbrook State School residents in the Island View Care Center on Targee St., Concord.

Israel Fogel, who has leased the building with hopes of using the 240 beds to serve Willowbrook patients in need of

nursing care, presented the council with a lengthy report outlining the type of care and programs he intends to provide.

Fogel already has reached an agreement with Willowbrook and state Mental Hygiene Department officials on a procedure for accepting Willowbrook residents, but has met with opposition from community residents and members of the Island retardation council.

After questioning Fogel about the proposal yesterday, the

council appointed a committee to study the written report and make a recommendation at the unit's July 2 meeting.

Questioned later, Fogel indicated that the Concord facility, built as a nursing home but never used as such, is fully equipped and ready to be used to serve transferred Willowbrook residents.

The four-story building includes a ground floor that contains administrative service facilities and three floors each divided into two wings with 40

beds. A nursing station would be located in each wing, serving a mix of one, two and four-bed rooms.

A tour of the facility revealed modern equipment, a host of safety innovations and features designed to service handicapped people.

The council, however, has raised questions about the programs and facilities to be made available to the retarded, as well as questions about the negotiations between Fogel and state officials.