

New Director at Willowbrook

A new acting director for scandal-ridden Willowbrook, the nation's largest institution for the mentally retarded, was named yesterday by the State Department of Mental Hygiene.

James A. Forde, 47, director of the agency's Mid-Hudson Region administration office in Poughkeepsie, will head a three-month interim management team beginning Monday.

Forde replaced Dr. Miodrag Ristic, 36, who asked to be transferred under considerable pressure from parents' groups and state legislators. Ristic's two-year tenure at the Staten Island institution was marked by allegations of mistreatment of patients.

A state official said that Forde hoped to find a permanent successor for Ristic within three months. —Richard Edmonds