

that services have not yet been effectively coordinated for their care.

"It's very easy to say that all you have to do is put people in community residences and programs, when the programs don't exist yet.

"How do you balance the two; because by the same token, we're being clobbered in the other division of mental health, which is releasing people into the community where the resources don't exist.

"We can't take any precipitous action in releasing people from Willowbrook where the community services aren't

there. Believe me, there's nobody more anxious than the department (of Mental Hygiene) to see Willowbrook reduced to manageable proportions so that we can take care of those we have in institutions, as well as those on the outside."

He said the department is currently trying to find family care homes, proprietary homes which require the follow-up of the department, clinic care and activity programs so more institutional residents can be released.

At the height of renewed hearings in Brooklyn Federal Court, in which the state Association for Retarded Children and others are seeking relief for residents of Willowbrook, the former director, Dr. Miodrag Ristich was transferred to the position of clinical research scientist for Basic Research in Mental Retardation.

A new director has not yet been selected. Forde said, however, he would not accept the position if it is offered.

*Page 2 of
2 pages*