

Marchi sees progress at Willowbrook

Following a visit to the Willowbrook Developmental Center yesterday, State Sen. John J. Marchi said that he was encouraged by the progress that had been made at the facility, but he noted that there was still a long way to go.

Touring the center with Dr. Alan D. Miller, state mental hygiene commissioner, and the newly appointed acting director at Willowbrook, James A. Forde, Marchi was given an in-depth review of present conditions, developments under way and future plans.

Marchi pointed to efforts to reduce the resident population level at the center through a program of transfers called "Project Exodus," under which more than 1,600 residents have been moved to newly opened facilities and homes in other boroughs.

"I am acutely aware that we have a long way to go to bring the institution up to the standards that might be deemed adequate and desirable," Marchi said after the tour.