

Willowbrook director to be named

By ROBERT MIRALDI

Lawrence C. Kolb, commissioner of the Department of Mental Hygiene, is expected to announce a new director for Willowbrook Developmental Center within the next two weeks.

A spokesman for the new commissioner said yesterday that Kolb has been meeting personally with the three top candidates that have been recommended for the job by the department's search committee.

Kolb is expected to pick a new director, who will succeed acting director James A. Forde, the second week of February, the spokesman said.

Forde, who left his post as the department's Mid-Hudson regional director to take the Willowbrook job until a new director could be found, is expected to stay at the Staten Island institution "for three to four weeks" to aid the new director in the transition.

Forde will then return to his Poughkeepsie, N.Y., office to resume his regional director's chores.

The topic of a director for

Willowbrook will probably be on the agenda today when Kolb meets with three Island legislators, Assemblymen Louis DeSalvio and Guy Molinari and Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly. The meeting will take place in DeSalvio's office.

Mrs. Connelly toured four buildings at Willowbrook Friday night and was not pleased with what she found. She said she expected to press for legislative reform, especially concerning Willowbrook security.

State Sen. John Marchi is expected to meet with Kolb Friday to discuss Willowbrook and the Department of Mental Hygiene.

Friday will also be the day acting director Forde makes public a written report he has received from a management consulting firm that has been studying Willowbrook's support services for the past four months.

The firm, Griffenhagen-Kroeger Inc., has had six staff members at Willowbrook since Nov. 13.

Included in the first of three reports is expected to be an analysis of food service, laundry, transportation, clinical coordination and house-keeping, building maintenance and program analysis.

Forde said yesterday that he has had the report for about a week, but has not had a chance to study it. He said he would make public the firm's findings Friday.

The firm's first report was due Jan. 1, but did not reach Forde's desk until about a week ago.

Griffenhagen-Kroeger has been hired by the Department of Mental Hygiene to analyze the management of the entire department, as well as Willowbrook specifically. The firm's fee is more than \$55,000.

The three men under consideration for the director's job are Theodore F. Childs, a professor at Long Island University; Harold F. Piepembrink, superintendent of a Chicago institution, and David Rosen, an administrator of a Detroit, Mich., mental health facility.

Reportedly, Rosen applied for the Willowbrook job, but is not "enthusiastic" about leaving his present position.

The spokesman for Kolb declined to comment on who has the inside track at this point. "Choosing," he said, "is a difficult job."

Kolb is also looking for a permanent director for the Institute for Basic Research, Willowbrook.