

Agency cooperation leads to diploma

Forty-eight residents of Willowbrook Developmental Center will be moving to a special care unit at South Beach Psychiatric Center, thanks to a unique cooperative effort between the Departments of Mental Hygiene, Social Services and the state United Cerebral Palsy.

The announcement of the

resident transfer came yesterday at a graduation ceremony at Willowbrook where 47 former public assistance recipients were graduated from a two-and-one-half week course in preparation for their employment at South Beach.

The 47 graduates, including two Vietnam veterans, will work as attendants at South Beach, aiding the 48 cerebral palsy victim, Willowbrook residents who will, in two weeks, move to South Beach.

Attending yesterday's graduation ceremony were James R. Dumpson, commissioner of the Human Resources Administration; Dr. Robert Reich,

director of psychiatry for the Department of Social Services (DSS); Harold C. Piepenbrink, Willowbrook director; Robert Schonhorn, executive director of the United Cerebral Palsy Associations of the state, and Kenneth Lasnik, local DSS director.

Dr. Robert Reich, DSS director of psychiatry, sees a two-fold result in the program. "It will provide meaningful jobs for the unemployed plus a higher degree of care for the patients," he said. Reich referred to the program as a "positive result of cooperation between community and city and state agencies."

The 48 graduates, previously unemployed, have been trained by the city DSS as direct-care specialists and will be working directly with the cerebral palsied, retarded patients.



Three representatives of the agencies which made the graduation possible, from left, Dr. Robert Reich, director of psychiatry for the Department of Social Services, Harold C. Piepenbrink, Willowbrook director and Robert Schonhorn of the state United Cerebral Palsy unit, talk before the ceremony. S.I. Advance Photo by Robert Parsons