## Later he met and addressed .

Which starts Au-

## By WARY ENGELS

It's a far cry from the wards of Willowbrook Developmental Center to the motel-like atmosphere of the new Nina Eaton Treatment Center in Staten Island, but 50 severely multiply disabled people made the trip last week, happily adjusting to the change.

"It was remakrable to see the difference even the first day made," said Robert Schongorn, executive director of the United Cerebral Palsy Association, which runs the new facility. It is located on the ands of the South Beach Psychiatric Center.

Schonhorn explained that the facility was an out-growth of a project UCP of New York State has had under way for more than two years, sending professional teams into Willowbrook to work with aides, at attendants and patients to improve the finitivitions care program.

The transfer of the Willowbrook residents, all reiez tarded victims of cerebral palsy, was part of the Ro continuing programs to reduce the Bize of Willowbrook, eliminate overcrowding and decentralize care. Is

"Now we are becoming one of the first private, non-profit agencies in the country to take a sizeable number of disabled people out of an institution and into an open facility," Schonhorn said. "Here they will be part of the community instead of shut behind walls.

Although there are those who contend that moving residents from one institution to another is not

the answer, Schonhorn disagreed.

"This new facility in Building D, which was given to us by the state Department of Mental Hygiene, is

to us by the state Department of Mental Hygiene, is a self-contained unit that we like to think of as a home," he said. The place has 20 double and ten single rooms on each of its two floors.

Tuture plans call for moving 50 more residents from Willowbrook to the second floor of the second floor of the plans call for moving 50 more residents from Willowbrook to the second floor of the property building, a day say from the bleakness of some of Willowbrook's buildings. H Nothing his institutional looking. The airy rooms, with a view of the greenery surrounding, the building, are done in yellows, greens, reds and blues. yellows, greens, reds and blues.

There is privacy in the residents' own rooms, as well as the opportunity for group activities in the various recreation, training and social activity areas.

Because of shortages of money, "we had to settle for the basics, rather than the frills," a staff member commented. Staffers said they hoped to get colorful shades and possibly a television or two in time.

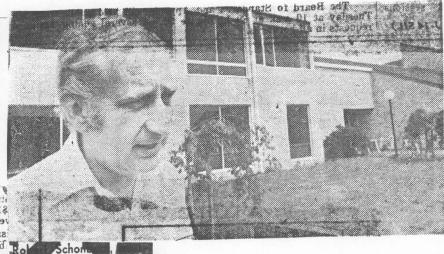
Funding for the program is coming from the Department of Mental Hygiene to the tune of \$750,000 for the first six months.

"After that, we hope to go on medicaid," said Schonhorn.

"The beauty of the center," he said, "is that it has a ratio of one and a half staff to every resident, more than the recent court decree ordering the decentralization of Willowbrook residents requires for a facili-

ty of this kind,

There are 81 staff members. Mar
ands were formerly on welfare Res
trom all the boroughs, range in ag



tion, looks over grounds of Nina Eaton Center

Schonhorn said the first goal of the facility will be to teach the residents "the basics." II W has all has They have been institutionalized from 11 to 33 years and don't even know the fundamentals of eat-

ing, tollet training and the like.
"By working on a nearby one-to-one basis, we will be able to see what each individual's capabilities are and then take steps in rehabilitation programs pro-

grams accordingly.
"It will almost amount to individual instruction what they for individual needs. That's a far cry from what they had before," he said.

"Another sad thing is that many of them have lived for 15 years in isolation and are withdrawn, so our staff will have to work on that as well:" and do so "Our workers have already been informed that this won't be strictly a five day work week type of

(Con ibb. The come in ules, some from 9 from noon to 8 p.m., for example, so that there will always be people and programs ready to serve the residents," he said.

"There will also be an opendoor policy so parents and family can visit at any time, not just on specified days and hours, as

maybe some senior citizens.

dron in and socialize. Communication takes is an important pass of the mooran and mount we try to work out even before going into an area."

Currently United Cerebral Palsy is working with civic groups in the Bronx to develop a similar program at the Bronx Developmental Center.

Although Staten Island's new facility has residents from a with most institutions.

"Wa also here in time to have unit will have about at Willow-members of the community brook residents vio hall from maybe some senior citiens: that borough only