

## Suggestion deadline set for Willowbrook Center

Sunday, Aug. 10, will be the last day that recommendations by the public for the Willowbrook Developmental Center consumer advisory panel can be made.

The consumer panel is slated to be an arm of the professional review panel which was mandated by a federal court April 21 to oversee the administration and the eventual phasing out of the controversial home for the retarded.

At a meeting at 1 p.m. in the auditorium of building 3 at Willowbrook, written and oral statements will be accepted by the panel, Murray B. Schneps, the panel's vice chairman, has announced.

The meeting will be the first for the review panel which is composed of seven experts in the field of mental retardation. It is up to the panel to choose the seven members of the consumer panel.

According to the court-sanctioned consent decree which details the changes that must be made at Willowbrook, the consumer panel will evaluate "alleged dehumanizing practices and...violations of individual or legal rights" of Willowbrook residents.

The decree says the panel will participate in the development of Willowbrook's "philosophy, goals and long-range plans." It will advise the

director regularly and submit quarterly reports, it says.

Members of the panel will serve for two years and can include parents or relatives of residents, community leaders and residents or former residents.

Although the panel members will not receive salaries, they will be reimbursed for certain expenses.

A seven-member profession-

al panel to aid the consumer and review panels, made up of "eminent professionals in relevant fields," will be picked at a later date.

Recommendations for the panel can be sent to Schneps at 299 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007.

Those wishing to speak at the Aug. 10 meeting can request time by calling 488-4403.