



An aerial view of Willowbrook Developmental Center shows the spread of the complex and the mammoth size of Building 2, near top in center, which may be demolished by the state.

S.I. Advance Photo by Barry Schwartz

Schneps says that transfers of any kind or moves to other places have been halted by the Review Panel which is developing criteria for transfers of residents.

Because of pressure from the Department of Health about certain deficiencies in the Willowbrook plant, the memo indicates. Piepenbrink told Keill that "this proposal needs to be acted on as soon as possible."

Piepenbrink says he told the Health Department that he expected a decision no later than Sept. 15.

DMH's director of facility planning, George Gray, says the department's Facilities Development Corp. owns the Willowbrook property and the General Services Offices has legal responsibility.

A final decision on the future of Willowbrook, Gray says, contrary to the memorandum, is still years away.

Once the department decides what buildings at Willowbrook it will need, Gray says, DMH will have to canvass other state agencies to determine whether there is any desire on their part to use the abandoned buildings.

Gray said he thought it unlikely that the property or buildings would be sold to private interests after which it would automatically assume R3-2 residential zoning designation.

Members of local mental health and mental retardation agencies have expressed an interest in utilizing some of the existing Willowbrook buildings.

The Staten Island Little League, acting through South Shore Assemblyman Guy V. Molinari, has requested that 10 or 11 acres at Willowbrook be set aside for use as baseball fields. Willowbrook Park, a city-run facility.

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