

Knickerbocker News  
**Cannon head**

## of Willowbrook

A Schenectady resident, Dr. Levester Cannon, has been appointed the new director of the Willowbrook Developmental Center on Staten Island.

Cannon who had been deputy director of the Mid-Hudson region of the state Department of Mental Hygiene (DMH), assumes his new duties today at an annual salary of \$43,834. 7-15-76

### **Dr. Cannon Foresees No Willowbrook Snags**

ALBANY — Dr. Levester Cannon of Schenectady, Willowbrook Developmental Center's new director, said yesterday he foresees no difficulties in correcting problems at the beleaguered Mental Hygiene department facility.

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Dr. Cannon was named to the \$43,834 a year job post yesterday by DMH Commissioner Dr. Lawrence C. Kolb. He succeeds Thomas A. Coughlin III, the department's deputy commissioner for mental retardation.

Coughlin has served as Willowbrook's acting director since March.

Cannon said his "major plan" as director would be to use the April, 1975, Willowbrook Consent Decree judgement to guide the program and treatment at the center.

The court ruling came as the result of a suit brought by parents of Willowbrook patients and directed the state to achieve certain staff-patient ratios, treatment plans and physical and structural modifications at the Staten Island facility.

Cannon said some deficiencies still must be corrected in the internal treatment programs and structural areas but he said they would be corrected soon.

He has lived with his wife and two children at 2444 Brookshire Drive in Niskayuna for 2½ years.

He joined the department in 1968 as coordinator of the youth opportunity program and was promoted to coordinator of manpower resources in 1969.

He became treatment team leader at Oswald D. Heck Developmental Center in 1970 when Dr. Hugh Lafave became director there. He was later named chief of community mental retardation services at Eleanor Roosevelt Developmental Services in 1972.

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In November, 1974, he was appointed chief mental retardation specialist in the mid-Hudson region, a post he held until his promotion to deputy regional director which preceded his new appointment.

Dr. Cannon holds a bachelor of arts degree in education from Harris Teachers College in St. Louis, a master of science degree in education from Southern Illinois University and a doctor of education degree in mental health administration and human systems from the University of Massachusetts.

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