

I'm committed to depopulate Willowbrook and move people into the least restrictive environment."

Dr. Cannon said that only "probably half" of the residents now had the programs he would like. These include 600 to 700 in school on the grounds or outside, 500 in workshops there and outside, and 93 in a model demonstration program started after the review panel's recommendation.

#### Daily Living Drills

In the model program in the two-story brick Building 23, residents are being drilled in "activities of daily living"—how to dress themselves and brush their teeth. Toilet training is a procedure of five to 15 steps.

One attendant worked with four young women—the ratio used to be one to nine—moving a ball along a wavy pipe to develop motion capability and also to concentrate attention. A girl stepped over low bars, learning to lift her feet and coordinate large muscles. Another matched colors of disks and bowls, and was rewarded with at least praise, sometimes with candy.

Ninety-three percent of the residents have some kind of program, Dr. Cannon said. But he reported only weak efforts for some groups so far—for instance, 400 blind retardates.

About a third of the residents are children, the youngest now about 7. Willowbrook admissions have been virtually frozen since an initial court order in April 1972.

Building 61 has 131 residents who take part in a workshop set up within the last year for nonacademic programs in line with court requirements. The residents are chosen by vocational rehabilitation counselors after training in recognizing colors, sizes, shapes, textures.

At one session, a woman carefully took metal nuts from a pile. She placed one nut in a circle, drawn on paper. She filled 10 circles—10 nuts, then transferred them to a box. When she had 10 boxes, she emptied the 100 nuts into a bag.

The workshop was carrying out a contract, and the residents were being paid piecework rates to give them at least the state minimum wage, \$2.30 an hour. Another project assembles pens—broken down into an eight-step process.

#### Own Television Set Bought

Building 32 houses the most successful residents. It has single-occupancy and double-occupancy rooms, with beds and armchairs. One young man has a television set of his own, bought with earnings from a Queens workshop to which he travels daily by Willowbrook bus. Proudly, he said that he and his visiting brother had painted the room.

The building has 115 residents, down from 250 a couple of years ago. Seventy-five work in vocational programs outside Willowbrook.

One major staff shortage is in physical and occupational therapy. In Building 15, one leader said every one of 75 women residents needed physical therapy. Four assistant trainees do what they can, following a physician's prescription.

Dr. Cannon said that the staff had stabilized. It used to have a turnover approximating 40 percent a year—110 percent in the direct-care staff in 1968. Now, Dr. Cannon said, young people have been attracted, both to help others and to gain valuable experience.

One element of the court stipulation being developed with help of Bruce J. Ennis, of the New York Civil Liberties Union and Mental Health Law Project calls for a state contract with United Cerebral Palsy of New York. The agency is to take over and administer five Willowbrook buildings for 250 to 300 residents with its special expertise.

Last August, Building 52, a former physician's residence, was turned over to the Association for Children with Retarded Mental Development to operate as a hostel for six residents. On Willowbrook's own grounds, it's a half-way house—like the residences Commissioner Blum must find outside.

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