

It's your opinion

Willowbrook worker is disgusted

I am throughly "fed up." I thought it was about time someone set the records straight about the plight of Grade II at Willowbrook Developmental Center. This is a very touchy subject, but someone has to tell it like it is.

I am a Grade II ward supervisor at Willowbrook, and I have been employed by the institution for four years. I am dismayed at policies as well as procedures at the institution. For example, the team leader, who is a Grade 25, sets the unit policies. It is up to us to carry out their policies. We are the ones who are in direct contact with the ward attendants. We must discipline them, advise them, and hopefully guide them. We must follow our team leader's orders, regardless of whether we agree with them.

Our role has many problems associated with it. Because we are lower level supervisors, we have very little power. This is horrible because at the same time we shoulder responsibilities. We are at the mercy of our supervisors and at the same time, we are hated by our

subordinates. At times we have to take complete charge of our buildings, even though we don't have the grade nor do we receive the pay to compensate for the difficulties that we encounter. We take a lot of abuse and harassment, much of which isn't warranted.

Some of our doctors show a lot of indifference also when we call them. Sometimes they make you wait for hours before coming to see residents. I feel this is most unfortunate. I feel that the health care of residents at Willowbrook is sub-par. Everyone is worried about administrative problems instead of the care of the residents, which should be the primary concern.

Willowbrook also has a problem in timing. There are too many important people who work 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. This includes physical therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, psychologists, mini-team members, teachers, etc. The institution operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is time to put more professional people on duty on the evening shift and on weekends. This can stop people from passing the buck by always blaming the evening shift for each building's problems.

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