



The state may eventually give up control of the sprawling Willowbrook Developmental Center to non-profit groups, such as United Cerebral Palsy.

S.I. Advance Photo by Frank J. Johns

Willowbrook agreement turns over 5 buildings to Cerebral Palsy group

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contract with other non-profit corporations for delivery of services to the institutionalized population," she said.

Also outlined in the stipulation is a timetable for community placements. Fifty residents per month must be placed in the community from April 1 to Oct. 1; 75 per month from Oct. 1 to April 1, 1978, and 100 per month from April 1, 1978, to April 1, 1979, according to the order.

To facilitate placements on schedule, the order calls for the hiring of additional placement staff during each phase.

Other important points of the plan include:

- ¶ The establishment of an office in each borough that will coordinate services for the retarded and aid in community placement and adjustment. This is to be done by Oct. 1, according to the stipulation.

Originally, the state called for the establishment of two such offices in the city, rather than five.

- ¶ Development of a plan to protect patients in the community from abuse and harassment, no later than April 1.

- ¶ The referral of all acts of discrimi-

nation against community placement of the retarded to the New York State Division of Human Rights or the New York City Commission on Human Rights.

- ¶ The appointment by the governor of an individual to resolve disputes or obstacles impeding implementation of the consent judgment. The request for the position was made originally by Dr. James D. Clements, chairman of the Willowbrook Review Panel.

Clements said the Department of Mental Hygiene did not "respond appropriately" to the panel's recommendations, and a non-department person was needed to expedite implementation of the federal guidelines.

- ¶ The screening of 329 former residents now living in upstate facilities to decide which ones can be placed in the

community. Although the consent decree ordered that benefits of the decree would be extended to all patients living in Willowbrook in October 1972, state officials argued that providing benefits to patients who left the center since then would cost millions of dollars.

According to Jack Bernstein, attorney for the New York State Association for Retarded Children, mental hygiene officials and attorneys for parents of Willowbrook patients and those with interests in the institution will meet Thursday in the Department of Mental Hygiene's Manhattan office to negotiate some additional points of the stipulation.

While declining to elaborate on them, Bernstein said they are of "major importance." They will be presented to Judge Bartels April 1, he said.