

# 3 more group homes for retarded eyed by state

By MARY BETH PFEIFFER

The state plans to open within the next three months three group homes for 30 severely mentally retarded persons — two of them in a New Brighton apartment building and one in a 16-room Victorian mansion in Westerleigh.

The homes will take in, for the most part, former residents of the Willowbrook Developmental Center in the center's court-ordered effort to reduce its population to 250 by 1981 will be sponsored by United Cerebral Palsy Inc. and the Catholic Guardian Society.

The plans were revealed yesterday at the monthly meeting of the Staten Island Regional Retardation and Disabilities Council held at the Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation, Willowbrook.

The Metropolitan Placement Unit, which coordinates placement of Willowbrook residents in the community, has approved the proposal for two group homes in the Castleton Park Houses, 185 St. Mark's Pl., according to Barbara Blum, MPU director. The facilities will

care for 20 severely retarded and multiply-handicapped adults, under the management of United Cerebral Palsy.

However, MPU has yet to approve a Catholic Guardian Society request for a 10-resident home for severely retarded youngsters at 42 Boulevard, Mrs. Blum said.

The Westerleigh site must first be approved by the state Facilities Development Corp., which will evaluate the structure and determine a fair rental price, Mrs. Blum said.

"We're particularly excited that the society wishes to open a group home for

the retarded," she said, adding that the organization, which operates a home for moderately retarded youngsters on Howard Ave., Grymes Hill, has experience in the field.

Target dates for opening all three facilities is "around August or shortly thereafter," Mrs. Blum added.

Mrs. Blum said she anticipates community opposition to the facilities, but hopes community support can be gained through education.

"I have yet to find many neighbor-

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This 16-room house at 42 The Boulevard, Westerleigh, is the proposed site of a group home for Willowbrook Developmental Center residents.

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