

## City, state clash on mental office boss

City and state representatives clashed yesterday over who should run the proposed Borough Developmental Services Office (BDSO), an office to coordinate all service for the mentally retarded on Staten Island.

At the monthly meeting of the Staten Island Regional Retardation and Disabilities Council, Mary Reichsman of the state Metropolitan Placement Unit told the group the state favors naming the directors of local developmental centers, such as the Willowbrook Developmental Center, as BDSO directors.

Barbara Kaplan of the Department of Mental Health, representing the city, said it is "logistically impossible" for one person to take on both jobs. The city wants the office headed by two co-directors, one from the developmental center and the other a representative of voluntary agencies serving the retarded, she said.

Each borough is mandated to set up a BDSO by Oct. 1, according to the terms of an order signed in federal court in March.

Mrs. Reichsman argued that the state favored state employees heading the BDSO for economic and legal reasons.

"It's a question of money. We don't want to use a big piece of state resources to pay another administrative salary," she said. Additionally, the BDSO director "must have legal standing with federal court and be held accountable as to whether the requirements of the (Willowbrook Consent) decree are being met," she said.

The Willowbrook Consent Decree, signed in 1972, requires the center's population be reduced from 5,000 residents to 250 by 1981 by moving residents to community-based facilities.

Miss Kaplan argued that the BDSO director would take on a "figurehead" role over the office if he is required to retain his post as developmental center head.

Mrs. Reichman said, however, that the BDSO head will not be involved in the "day to day" operation of the

center, leaving that job to a deputy director.

Council members at the meeting, which was held at the Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation in Willowbrook, pointed out that the Willowbrook director slot was "too unstable" a position and that a more permanent BDSO director was needed.

Other bones of contention between city and state ideas for the BDSO include the state's belief that all developmentally disabled members of the community be served by the office.

In a city position paper presented at the meeting, the Department of Mental Health expressed the view that the BDSO "be limited to the specific purpose of planning for the implementation of plans for the resettlement of the Willowbrook class."

Miss Kaplan said that while the concept of a BDSO is to serve all persons in the community, "if it is totally state administered and staffed, it should confine itself to persons on state rolls."

Also brought up at the meeting was the long-delayed Staten Island Community Corp. handicapped bus program. Harold Greene, representing the corporation, said a proposal for bus drivers to be provided through the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, awaits Mayor Beame's signature.

He asked the council to send the mayor a letter urging speed in processing the proposal.