

Now that an arrangement has been approved, Schonhorn and the private organization become accountable to the federal court and to a court-appointed review panel that oversees conditions at the troubled institution.

In addition, UCP-run Willowbrook must adhere to strict federal guidelines for facilities housing mentally retarded persons.

Schonhorn, saying he is "looking forward to this opportunity," contended that UCP will be able to serve each resident at a cost of approximately \$30,000 a year, the same amount it currently costs the state. The operation will be paid by Medicaid funds and other governmental grants.

The palsy group anticipates few union-related problems, according to Schonhorn, who added he is hopeful the private and public workers have a common goal: To see the lives of the mentally retarded at Willowbrook improved.

The United Cerebral Palsy Associations' speciality is with physically disabled individuals, and in their treatment

the organization has proved itself a giant. But the group's effectiveness with a predominantly mentally retarded clientele is largely untested.

The palsy group does, however, operate one residence for 50 former Willowbrook people — the Nina Eaton Center housed in Building D of the South Beach Psychiatric Center — which has received positive critiques from mental health experts across the country.

Schonhorn said he hopes to duplicate Nina Eaton's success, using the small center as a model for the optimal care that can be provided for the mentally and physically disadvantaged.

Coughlin, in commenting on the arrangement, said: "We are happy this whole thing has worked out because we didn't want to deprive the people at Wil-

lowbrook of much needed services.

"The only thing we can hope now is that UCP can succeed where we could not."

Felton King, president of Willowbrook's union local, refused to comment on the arrangement, except to say he was "shocked" that the deal had been made so suddenly. He added the workers will pursue their court challenge since "our livelihoods are at stake."

Willowbrook parents active in affairs at the institution unanimously praised the accord, saying they are optimistic conditions at the developmental center, under criticism for more than a decade, will now be improved, along with the chance for a happy life for their children.