

While union balks, UCP cites gains at Willowbrook

By SYDNEY FREEDBERG

Although the union representing state workers is still reeling over it, officials at Willowbrook Developmental Center and United Cerebral Palsy Association say their one-month-old venture into the joint running of an institution has already borne positive results.

For state officials, the takeover of seven center buildings by UCP has afforded a reduction in Willowbrook's size, leaving more time, they say, to concentrate on the development of new

programs for the 1,700 retarded residents still under public care.

In addition, according to Willowbrook administrators, an estimated 300 state employees have been transferred from UCP-run to 24 publicly operated buildings, correcting staffing deficits and resulting in enriched activity plans for those people in need.

And for UCP, the private organization that has been the object of so much union acrimony and public attention, the progress has come in the form of visible improvements for many of the 625 chil-

dren and adolescents it began to treat just one month ago.

But despite the apparent gains on both state and private fronts, the controversy over the Department of Mental Hygiene's arrangement with UCP continues.

Leaders of Willowbrook's union of public workers, the Civil Service Employees Association maintain the fight against private operation of a portion of Willowbrook is "just beginning," although they say the tactics have shifted

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