

Community board is asked to pick site for handicapped

By DOUGLAS PATRICK

Representatives from Willowbrook Developmental Center last night requested the assistance of Community Board 3 in selecting a community-based support center for former Willowbrook residents and an unspecified number of non-institutional residents within the board's area.

Speaking at a board meeting in Messiah Lutheran Church hall, Annadale, Elin M. Howe, Willowbrook's acting director, said at least 87 former Willowbrook clients will be returned to the board's area and a support center site should be chosen within six months.

"Let us also emphasize that the support center will include handicapped persons who do not presently receive any kind of services," Miss Howe said.

She explained the center will presumably have a physician and nurse on its staff, as well as case workers, counselors and program coordinators.

"Clients will be moving through on a daily basis and there will be no overnight services," she said.

Those former Willowbrook residents will be housed, according to their indi-

vidual circumstances, in nursing homes, group homes and private homes.

Though no specific site has been mentioned, it must have 6,200 square feet of space and adequate transportation services accessible to the area's handicapped.

The Willowbrook spokesman stressed the center will be designed to the particular needs of the community and urged the cooperation and guidance of community residents.

Board chairman Frank Beraud said the board would provide suggestion for finding a site. He also asked Miss Howe to find out the total number of Willowbrook residents that will be returning to the board's area.

The transfer of Willowbrook patients into communities is the result of a court order requiring the center's population to be reduced to 250 persons by 1981. It presently has 1,680 residents.

Another speaker at the board meeting was Aniello Madonna, the Sanitation Department's district supervisor for Community Board 3, who announced the recent implementation of night pickups in

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