

# Mental health: Wary Islanders keep eye on pattern of planning

As a time when Staten Island is witnessing a rise in mental health problems, agencies here are being threatened once again with cuts or restrictions in contracted services, and the large state Department of Mental Hygiene has been reorganized to give more effective care.

So, with localities more and more taking charge in psychiatric, retardation and drug and alcohol matters, there's going to have to be some careful planning on which programs are really wanted and which ones get shelved.

In the field of mental retardation, especially, questions are being raised by parent groups who want an equal share of resources — equal, that is, to what is afforded retarded persons in large institutions.

And these parents are waiting to see what the new, court-mandated Staten Island Developmental Services Office will do for them, now that it has a large role in community service planning.

The number of private agencies has increased again this year, with the addition of a Volunteers of America Group home in Mariners Harbor and several more facilities in the works.

And next year, with the state's deinstitutionalization drive continuing, should be no different.

Watching the lurch, newly created state offices dealing with mental health, developmental disabilities, and alcohol and drug abuse as well as the city Department of Mental Health, Retarda-

tion, and Disabilities Council, representing about 30 service-providing groups, and.

¶The Staten Island Mental Health Council, a planning-advisory body concerned with psychiatric care on the Island.

¶The state-run facilities on Staten Island and are:

¶South Beach Psychiatric Center, 777 Seaview Ave., a 230-acre facility serving 209 in-patients and 4,000 out-patients on Staten Island and Brooklyn. The psychiatric center offers everything from family counseling to individual treatment.

¶Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, 2760 Victory Blvd., housing about 1,600 retarded persons on its 382-acre site. It is under a federal-court order to reduce its population to 250 by 1981 and admissions are closed. It does, however, offer respite care to islanders with retarded children.

A new addition this year is the United Cerebral Palsy Association of New York's unit at the Staten Island Developmental Center. UCR, the private voluntary, cares for about 600 persons, mostly, adds beds, living in seven center buildings.

¶The Bureau of Child Guidance, affiliated with the Board of Education, provides mental health diagnosis and referral in the school system. Working with it is the Committee on the Handicapped, a federally mandated group.

¶Goodhue Center of the Children's Aid Society, 304 Prospect Ave., New Brighton. This out-patient clinic serves adolescents and adults in North Richmond.

¶Staten Island Consultation Center of the Jewish Family Service, 3974 Amboy Rd., Great Kills, offers community education, diagnosis and evaluation at an out-patient treatment clinic.

¶North Richmond Community Mental Health Center offers emergency service at St. Vincent's Medical Center, West Brighton, an out-patient clinic at Sea View Hospital and Home, 460 Brielle Ave., Buildings 11 and 12, and an in-patient unit at the Clove Lake Nursing Home, 25 Fanning St., Castleton Corners.

Also, North Richmond offers satellite clinics at 1861 Victory Blvd., Castleton Corners; 220 Richmond Ave., Port Richmond, and 117 Water St., Stapleton.

North Richmond provides mental health care for the northern half of the Island.

¶Richmond Center for Creative Living, with out-patient diagnostic clinic at 2295 Victory Blvd., Meiers Corners, and 4055 Richmond Ave., Eltingville.

¶Staten Island Family Service, 25 Victory Blvd., Tompkinsville, offers out-patient counseling for individuals and families.

¶Staten Island Hospital Psychiatric Out-patient Clinic, based in Staten Island Hospital, Tompkinsville, offers out-patient psychiatric treatment to children and adults.

¶Staten Island Mental Health Society, 657 Castleton Ave., West Brighton. Diagnostic and treatment services for children up to 16 years old, with South Shore clinic at 3974 Amboy Rd., Great Kills, and satellite clinics at 350 Vanderbilt Ave., Clifton, and 229 Richmond Ave., Port Richmond.

center at 777 Seaview Ave., South Beach; a school for special education at 315 Forest Ave., Randall Manor, and a school for children with learning disabilities, 1657 Victory Blvd., Sunnyside; and Staten Island Center for Learning Disabilities, Wagner College, providing comprehensive services for developmentally disabled Island residents of all ages.

¶Staten Island Center for Learning and Learning Disabilities, 4523 Amboy Rd., Oakwood, provides service to children with emotional or physical disabilities.

¶Staten Island Reception Center, an affiliate of the New York Foundling Hospital, a diagnostic emergency and consultation center at 103 Targee St., Stapleton.

According to the city, agencies providing care for the retarded and developmentally disabled are:

¶Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children, based at 1150 Castleton Ave., West Brighton, a day training center with sheltered workshops and other social training.

¶Staten Island Aid Rehabilitation Center, relocated to 215 Bay St., a sheltered workshop for adults in Tompkinsville.

¶Staten Island Blind Society, 352 Nelson Ave., Great Kills, a volunteer group meeting twice a month.

¶Down's Syndrome Foundation, 10 Joline Lane, Tottenville, a school for children with Down's or mongolism, a chromosomal abnormality.

¶Institute for Basic Research, 1050 Forest Hill Rd., Willowbrook, offering some out- and in-patient services.

¶Staten Island Chapter, Muscular Dystrophy Foundation, a referral center at 76 Guyon Ave., Oakwood.

¶United Cerebral Palsy of New York City, which offers a sheltered workshop to adolescents and adults at 296 Richmond Ave., Port Richmond.

¶Volunteers of America group home, Avignon Terrace apartments, Mariners Harbor, which offers residential care for eligible Staten Islanders. It is listed, and has a long waiting list.