

## RAP Center considered as site

# Board recommends center for handicapped

By DIANE C. LORE

Community Board 2 last night recommended opening a day and evening training center for handicapped adults in the board area.

The board, however, did not vote on a specific site for the center. A Very Special Place, the group sponsoring the proposal, is said to have several sites under consideration, including the former RAP Center on New Dorp Lane, New Dorp.

According to Linda Carelli, chairman of the board's social services committee, the proposal by A Very Special Place calls for serving 80 mentally retarded and physically handicapped adults, with half to come from the South Shore and the remainder to come from the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willobrook.

Thirty clients would be served during the day programs, while 50 would be served during the evenings and weekends.

Services provided during the daytime hours would include occupational and speech therapy, mobility training and living skills. Evening hours and weekends would include arts and crafts sessions and various planned "family activities," where families of the handicapped clients could participate in programs on a membership basis.

The ratio of staff to clients would be approximately 4 to 1. The center would be funded entirely by the state Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Miss Carelli said.

Although no definite site has been selected for the center, the proposal notes the site must be near public transportation and be accessible to wheelchairs.

Miss Carelli, who announced her resignation from the board last night because she is moving to New Jersey, said the board's vote verified the need for such a center for the handicapped on the South Shore.

Board member Michael Primiano, who is also president of the New Dorp Central Civic Association, requested a public hearing on the center.

In a separate action, the board also gave its unanimous approval during its monthly meeting at Sea View Hospital and Home, to a plan by United Cerebral Palsy of New York City to develop a multimillion-dollar complex for the disabled on 99 acres of Sea View Hospital and Home.

The plan by United Cerebral Palsy calls for the first phase of its rehabilitation complex to be completed in 1979. The master plan for the complex calls for the renovation of Sea View Building B to house approximately 100 physically handicapped adults and children now being treated at a UCP program in the South Beach Psychiatric Center.

The Sea View complex will be larger than the Ocean Breeze institution's facilities now in use, and will have the capacity to serve 200.

UCP also plans to construct a year-round camp for the disabled, including cabins, outdoor campsites and nature trails. When eventually completed, the camp will have a lodge, a fieldhouse for recreation activities, and amphitheater and lake.

The complex will be adjacent to the Babe Ruth Little League field at Sea View, and a dozen representatives from the league, who attended the meeting, indicated their support of the plan.

Board members also recommended to deny a zoning change on Hylan Blvd. between Bryant and Bancroft Aves., New Dorp, across from the 122nd Precinct stationhouse.

The property is owned by the Coppotelli family, who are well-known in Island business circles.

According to Jack Deitch, chairman of the board's land use committee, the family has owned the undeveloped property for more than 20 years and is now seeking a zoning change from a residential to a commercial area, hoping to build a shopping plaza on the site.

Board members noted the property was "one of the few green areas" along Hylan Blvd.

Primiano said New Dorp homeowners living near the property were generally opposed to the zoning change. "We don't want any more changes in this residential area," he said.