

Plan to continue effort to move mental patients

The state yesterday unveiled a five-year plan for mental health services that proposes a continuation of current efforts to

move patients out of state institutions into smaller community facilities.

The plan, which covers services provided for the mentally retarded, mentally ill, drug addicts and alcoholics, is to be completed following public hearings and submitted to the state Legislature sometime in 1979. The first public hearing was held yesterday in Manhattan's World Trade Center.

Under the plan, efforts are to continue to reduce Staten Island Developmental Center's current resident population of 2,200 to 250 by 1981 as required by a consent decree approved by a federal court in 1975.

The plan also calls for the state to reduce further the patient population at state psychiatric hospitals, closing several of them in the next five years.

South Beach Psychiatric Center, however, probably will see an increase in population in the next five years, according to Michael Kipp, associate commissioner for mental health, who chaired yesterday's public hearing.

Kipp said there is a good chance that some patients being released from other state psychiatric hospitals will be transferred to the

Ocean Breeze center.

"Certainly as one of the state's newest psychiatric centers, one which the mortgage won't be paid off until the year 2000, there won't be any steps taken to close the facility," Kipp said.

Speakers at yesterday's hearing complained that they had been unable to secure copies of the draft plan and asked for additional hearings before a final version is completed.

Gifts asked for handicapped

The Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, has made a special appeal to Staten Islanders to help make the holidays this year brighter for the center's 1,500 residents by contributing gift wrap, ribbons, holiday decorations, Christmas and Hanukkah cards and small gift items.

Many of the residents do not go home for the holidays, officials at the institution said, and the donations will be used for parties throughout the center for those who are forced to remain.

The gift items should be simple and functional, such as toilet articles, puzzles, balls, mittens, belts, ties, coloring books and crayons.

Especially favored gifts include holiday candy and cookies as special treats at the parties, officials said.

Contributions will be accepted by the volunteer services office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Building 2, Monday through Friday. To arrange for evening or weekend donations call 698-1440.