

It's your opinion

Attendants do have chance to advance

Regarding the article in the Advance entitled "Pact signed to improve care at Willowbrook," it is commendable that an employer takes an interest in its employees and their problems.

However, as a recently retired clerical employee of Staten Island Developmental Center (Willowbrook), I take umbrage with the line "...direct-care workers or attendants, traditionally the

lowest-paid employee." While I sympathize with the type of work attendants have to do and the kind of work day they face, attendants start as Civil Service Grade 7s and thanks to a Career Ladder Program may, if they apply themselves, move up to a Grade 11 in a matter of a few years.

Most clericals start as a Civil Service Grade 3 (typist, clerk) or perhaps a Grade 5 steno with the only possibility of advancement being in taking tests, which if passed could lead to a Grade 7 or a Grade 9 if (and what an if) an opening exists. We have all heard of the proverbial hen's teeth, right?

The clerical staff has repeatedly asked management and the Civil Service Employees Association to try to institute a Career Ladder Program for it too, but unfortunately no progress has been made in that direction.

Incidentally, no one in a non-professional position at Staten Island Developmental Center is overpaid by today's standard of salaries in private industry.

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