

## Group home to open in New Brighton

A group home in New Brighton, plagued by delays since it was proposed as a facility for former residents of the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, and mentally handicapped persons from the community, will open Monday, it was announced yesterday.

The announcement came during a meeting the Staten Island Regional Retardation and Disabilities Council in Building 1 on the grounds of the developmental center. Sonia Braniff, council chairman, said that the home at 200 Tysen St., which will be run by the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, a private group, will not house a its full quota immediately.

Eight persons, four ex-developmental center residents and four from the community, will eventually live in the 13-room house. While the four former developmental center residents have been chosen, selection of four others has not been completed, Mrs. Braniff explained.

First selected as a group home site in late 1974, the location immediately became the object of vigorous although relatively short-lived, opposition in New

Brighton.

In addition to the opposition, a variety of bungles delayed approval of the Tysen St. site. Various agencies approved the "concept" of the group home, but were not told of the actual site. The agencies had to begin the approval process all over again.

In November 1976, two years after the site was proposed, Tysen St. garnered community board approval.

After that, the home was beset by more delays. After purchasing the house in 1974 for \$64,000, the state decided to sink another \$20,000 in renovations. Two years later, the renovations proved to be inadequate, and another \$50,000 was earmarked for additional renovations.

Mrs. Braniff said yesterday that the home is now ready for occupancy. She said an official opening of the home is planned in the next few months.

The council also discussed a meeting it has planned at Wagner College, Grymes Hill, March 13 at 8 p.m., for parents of mentally handicapped people who live in communities, not in institutions.

After a screening of the film "Persons First," which documents a recent convention for mentally handicapped persons in Seattle, Wash., Joan Hodum, council vice chairman, announced that the council had purchased the film and that it would be available to interested groups.