

## Willowbrook review panel favors UCP

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ALBANY — A court monitor has recommended that the United Cerebral Palsy Association of New York State take full control of three buildings at the Staten Island Developmental Center it now operates jointly with the state.

The Willowbrook Review Panel, a court-appointed monitor of conditions at the center, made the recommendation at the request of UCP officials, who have been fighting a state attempt to take control of the three buildings at the 382-acre institution for the retarded.

The buildings, operated with UCP supervisors and direct-care staff from the state, are among seven buildings turned over to UCP in September 1978. The other four buildings in UCP's Karl Werner Center are staffed entirely by employees from the private agency.

James Clements, chairman of the seven-member panel, said a comparison between state and UCP buildings at the Staten Island Developmental Center indicated the private agency had come closer to meeting the requirements of a 1975 court decree. The decree mandates minimum levels of care for former and current Staten Island Developmental Center residents. The review panel has a court mandate to monitor compliance efforts.

"There was a distinct difference in compliance," said Clements, director of a Georgia center for the retarded, in a letter to Brooklyn Federal Court Judge John R. Bartels.

State Mental Retardation Commissioner Thomas A. Coughlin last October requested Bartels' permission to regain state control of the three buildings, which serve 200 retarded residents. At the time, he said the shared-staff setup was not working because of inadequate supervision by UCP officials and high employee absenteeism.

Bartels, at an October hearing, said he would not act on the state request until receiving the recommendation of the review panel. Bartels has scheduled a hearing on Willowbrook-related issues for Monday, but it is unclear whether the UCP question will be added to the agenda.

Cora Hoffman, a special assistant to Coughlin, said the state still would like to see the buildings returned to state control. But she conceded that the review-panel recommendation hurt state chances.

At stake are 243 jobs at the three buildings now held by state employees. A switch to UCP control could jeopardize Coughlin's pledge not to lay-off any workers as a result of the state's contract with the private agency, state officials concede.

John Jackson, acting second vice president of the Staten Island Developmental Center chapter of the Civil Service Employees Association, said the union had no immediate comment on the review-panel recommendation.