

To improve monitoring of institutions

Program set on care for mentally disabled

Members of boards responsible for monitoring conditions at state institutions, including the South Beach Psychiatric Center and Staten Island Developmental Center, are scheduled to attend training sessions at a Westchester hotel next week.

Clarence J. Sundram, chairman of the Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled, which will conduct the session, said the training program is designed specifically for members of boards of visitors, which are charged with evaluating care to the retarded and psychiatric patients at state institutions.

"The change of the state's mental hygiene system with an increasing emphasis on community care and the growing recognition of the rights of the mentally disabled clients require review of and change in the role of boards of visitors," Sundram said. "The purpose of this training session is to better equip the boards to monitor care and treatment of the mentally disabled and to serve as forceful advocates for quality care."

Among those expected to attend the session, in the Sheraton Plaza Inn of New Rochelle on Sept. 14 and 15, are Sarah Annette Williams, Helen Wolfsohn, Thomas Prisco and Howard Safer from the board of visitors at South Beach Psychiatric Center. Also expected to attend are Robert V. Connelly and Jerome Isaacs, members of the Staten Island Developmental Center board of visitors.

The commission, formed in the summer of 1978 by

Gov. Carey to oversee services provided by the state Office of Mental Health, the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and the State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, is charged with monitoring services statewide. It investigates complaints as well as deaths from other than natural causes in the mental hygiene system and re-

ports directly to the governor and state commissioners.

In a separate development, the Willowbrook Benevolent Society has scheduled a meeting for parents of residents at the Staten Island Developmental Center on Sunday at 3:30 p.m. in Building 2 of the Willowbrook institution.