

## Press barred from talks on Willowbrook

Court-appointed monitors of the Staten Island Developmental Center met yesterday in Manhattan to review state plans to virtually empty the Willowbrook institution within 14 months.

Results of the monitors' deliberations were not immediately known because the monitor, the Willowbrook Review Panel, barred the press and public from attending.

Reporters maintain that the meetings must be public under the state's Open Meetings Law because the panel's \$300,000 annual budget is funded entirely by state taxpayers.

The state's plan would reduce the developmental center's population from nearly 1,700 to 250 by April, 1981.

If the seven-member panel rejects the placement plan, it is empowered to bar its implementation in federal court.

A spokesman for the panel originally said that reporters would be able to attend the meeting in Manhattan's Summit Hotel, but panel members said that they would be inhibited in their "frank" deliberations of the state plan with reporters present.

Advance reporters Bruce Alpert and Anemona Hartocollis were among those barred from the meeting.