

Changes at center called 'cosmetic'

Special to the Advance

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The Public Employees Federation said yesterday that the state has only "cosmetically" improved conditions at the Staten Island Developmental Center.

Robert Bush, PEF mental hygiene task force coordinator, said efforts to improve the facility "have only created bureaucratic tieups that have prevented employees from spending an adequate amount of time with their clients."

The state is under court order to reduce the number of residents at the center to 250 by April. The facility currently houses about 1,100 residents.

The PEF represents about 16,000 doctors, nurses, social workers and psychologists in state mental health facilities.