UCP names acting director of center

From Our Albany Bureau

ALBANY — United Cerebal Palsy (UCP) Associations of New York State has named Keith Penman acting director of the 500-bed Karl Warner Center, Willowbrook, an agency spokesman said yesterday.

Penman replaces Theresa Rafferty, who, sources say, was forced to resign from the center for the retarded last week by UCP Executive Director Robert Schonhorn.

Ms. Rafferty's departure has been criticized by parents of center residents. They said that Ms. Rafferty had done an excellent job and, unlike Schonhorn who preceded her in the post, consulted regularly with them about the care given their children.

Penman, an employee at the UCP center since its opening in 1977, served as Ms. Rafferty's associate director, according to UCP spokesman Walter Rosenthal.

Before his employment at the Willowbrook Center, Penman said he was employed by UCP of Akron, Ohio. He holds a graduate degree in special education.

The Karl Warner Center is located on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center.