

Mental health: Many diagnostic, treatment services here

Community residences are back in the news again.

First, there is the ongoing problem at the Staten Island Developmental Center, formerly known as Willowbrook State School for the Retarded.

A court decree in 1975 mandated the center to reduce its population to 250 residents this month. But the center still has about 1,000 residents under its direct jurisdiction and 500 more under the care of United Cerebral Palsy of New York State on the Willowbrook campus.

The change from caring for the mentally retarded and mentally ill at large, impersonal state institutions to smaller, more home-like facilities is part of the state's program phasing out institutions.

Moving the center's residents into group homes on Staten Island and the rest of the city has not been easy, and as a result the center may face a contempt of court citation for not week.

The center's new director, Ella Curry, was appointed in November to succeed Elin Howe, who had been director for three years.

Also in the news are plans to establish community residences for psychiatric patients by the state Office of Mental Health. This plan, like the one for group homes for the retarded, has created a stir in communities that oppose it.

South Beach Psychiatric Center officials say only a "small number" of three-person apartments for psy-



The South Beach Psychiatric Center.

S.I. Advance Photo by Irving Silverstein

cular Dystrophy Association has a referral center a 76 Guyon Ave., Oakwood.

United Cerebral Palsy of New York City offers a sheltered workshop for adolescents and adults at 296 Richmond Ave., Port Richmond.

The Volunteers of America Care Facility runs a group home at the Arlington Terrace Apartments, Mariners Harbor, for 12 residents. It also operates seven apartments housing 12 retarded adults.

The following programs are offered for the mentally ill or learning disabled:

South Beach Psychiatric Center, 777 Seaview Ave., Ocean

voluntary group meeting twice a month.

The Downs Syndrome Foundation, 10 Joline Lane, Tottenville, is a school for children with Downs Syndrome, commonly known as mongolism.

Job Path, 30 Bay St., St. George, a division of the Vera Institute of Justice, has operated an on-the-job training program for retarded adults since June.

The Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation, 1050 Forest Hill Rd., Willowbrook, searches retardation and its causes.

The Staten Island Chapter, Mus-

chiatric patients is being planned for Staten Island, but the Island's three community boards and Borough Board are all keeping a close watch on the situation.

Here are the facilities available to serve the mentally retarded and physically disabled on the Island:

The Staten Island Borough Developmental Services Office is now establishing an information and referral service for developmentally disabled or retarded persons. The office is scheduled to open next month at 26 Dumont Ave., Dongan Hills. The phone number is 351-7701.

Staten Island Developmental Center, 2760 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook, has a complex of buildings on a 382-acre site and is administered by the state. Because of the court decree, the center is not accepting new admissions. It offers several services, including a respite-care facility on its campus. United Cerebral Palsy operates a program at the center for about 500 residents, formerly cared for by the state.

Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children, based at 1150 Castleton Ave., West Brighton, provides a day training center with sheltered workshops and other social trainings, as well as operating two group homes in Tottenville and Willowbrook.

Staten Island Aid Rehabilitation Center at 215 Bay St., Tompkinsville, offers a sheltered workshop for adults.

Staten Island Blind Society at 352 Nelson Ave., Great Kills, is a