

UCP's growth raises questions about state reform

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

How is the substitute for "Willowbrook" doing?

Who is caring for the mentally retarded patients, spending the big sums and minding the store?

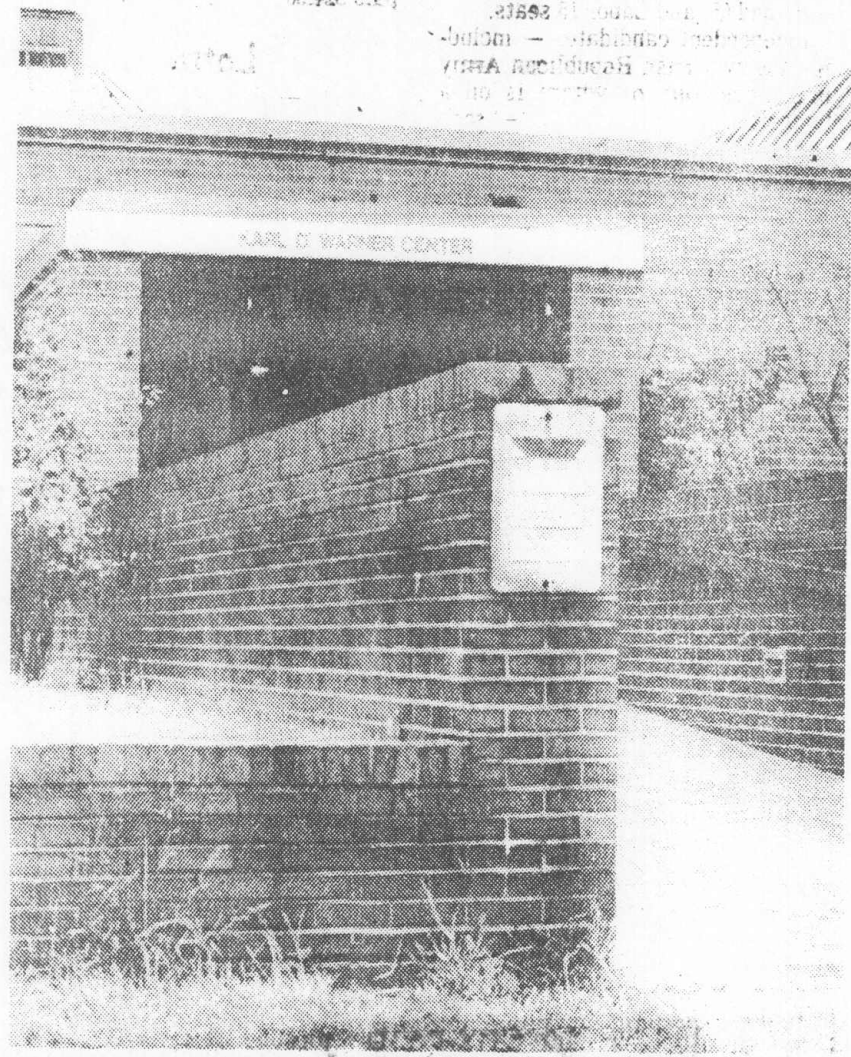
In its effort to improve state-run facilities like Willowbrook, New York State has created a private bureaucracy whose performance and fiscal management is in dispute.

Six years ago the state, facing a federal court order, began turning over much of the care of the men-

tally retarded population to about 270 private agencies. The state once ran its own institutions, but the agencies now feed, clothe, house and educate thousands of retarded people, spending tens of millions of dollars in government funds.

In 1977, a small charitable organization, United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, was recruited to take charge of 627 residents in seven buildings at the Staten Island Developmental Center

(Continued on Page A 8)



The Karl D. Warner Center was formerly part of the Willowbrook State School. It now houses 450 patients cared for by UCP.