

Carey names commissioner

By BRUCE ALPERT

Gov. Carey has appointed Zygmund L. Slezak, a psychiatric social worker with 23 years of state service, as acting commissioner of the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Slezak replaces James E. Introne, who yesterday assumed the No. 2 job in the Carey administration. Introne succeeds Michael J. DelGiudice as the director of state operations, a position second in authority only to the governor's secretary, Robert J. Morgado.

Staff members were told yesterday that Introne would probably return as commissioner in February after completing his new assignment. But key mental retardation officials said they expect Introne will remain in the No. 2 job at least until the governor completes his second term and

perhaps longer, if he wins re-election next year.

"We expect that Slezak will be here for some time to come," staff members said.

Slezak, 50, a resident of upstate Amsterdam, N.Y., has been first deputy commissioner of the department since Introne became commissioner in Aug. 1979.

He began work with what was then the Department of Mental Hygiene in 1958.

Since then Slezak has served in a variety of administrative positions, including the state's first director of community services for the mentally retarded.

As commissioner, he will be charged with carrying out the mandates of the Willowbrook Consent Decree, which calls for the virtual emptying of the Staten Island Developmental Center.