

vised by auditors from his department, as well as inspectors from the state Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled.

"On occasion, in any large population like that you do have strippers, you do have clients who are declodthing themselves," Kawola added. "In a fragile human service system, a small percentage of incidents will happen. But we pursue any alleged abuse aggressively."

The original lawsuit against the state brought by parents and advocates of Willowbrook patients charged that the Willowbrook institution was overcrowded and understaffed, leading to abuses of the patients' constitutional rights. The suit was settled in 1975, when the state signed a court consent decree agreeing to move Willowbrook patients into small group homes in the community.

But the state missed an April 1981 deadline, by which it had promised to reduce the Staten Island Developmental Center population to 250.

Under the abortive draft set-

tlement, the plaintiffs lawyers had agreed to let the state enlarge the site of community-based facilities for the retarded from 10 beds, the current maximum, to 24 beds.

The opposition was led by Murray B. Schneps, the parent of a former Willowbrook resident, and Michael Lottman, a member, like Schneps, of the now-dissolved Willowbrook Review Panel. Both Lottman and Schneps are lawyers, and they have joined in the latest negotiations with the state, although they were barred from the process until the draft settlement caused a controversy.

Kawola said yesterday that he was disturbed by the participation of Schneps. "Chris Hansen was a tough enough ideologue for us to deal with in the quest for some objectivity and a middle road toward some transitional placement," he said.

According to Kawola, Schneps has introduced a new area of disagreement into the negotiations. He said the state and Schneps had different views on the state's responsibility toward

former Willowbrook residents who are now living in the Hall D. Warner Center, an institution operated by United Cerebral Palsy Association of New York State.

Kawola said the state believes it is up to United Cerebral Palsy to move its population into the community, while Schneps considers those patients part of the state's obligation. Schneps argues that the state will not fulfill its commitments under the consent decree until it reduces both the Staten Island Developmental Center and the United Cerebral Palsy facility to a combined population of 250 retarded residents.

"All of a sudden out of the clear blue sky, Murray Schneps is interpreting the discussions we've had for months, while he was never there," Kawola said.

Of the 4,800 patients who once lived in Willowbrook, fewer than half have been transferred to community residences while the rest have gone to other state institutions or the care of private agencies that operate institu-