

"Many people have an interest in the future of Willowbrook," Connelly said. "The state has made a big investment in a valuable piece of property. Before converting it to something else they should utilize whatever they can for themselves."

Joseph Manifold, chairman of Board 2, said that the state could utilize the buildings for another hospital or a burn center, or even a post-operative convalescence unit.

Dr. Ella Curry, director of the center, said there are presently 776 patients at the center and that by 1985 the number will be reduced to about 250. There also are 2,514 employees, three for every client. The state's new executive budget calls for the reduction of 1,159 employees at the center. She said that she hopes this can be accomplished through attrition and by layoffs.

The transfer of clients to group homes has been slowed down because of community opposition to the homes, she said.

"It is something that must move forward and must be accepted," she said.

As for the future of the center, Curry said that whatever group occupies the campus it must be compatible with the remaining clients.

"Some sort of hospital or health-related organization would fit in fine," she said. "You can't deny the original inhabitants their piece of land. They were here first. This is their life and it should be kept in their best interests," she said. ■



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Dr. Ella Curry, director of the center.



Dr. Curry seen on grounds of developmental center, the future of which is in doubt.

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