

Continued from Page 13  
indicative of long-term neglect, grow on many shower surfaces and none of the shower areas is being properly sanitized.

"These types of unsanitary conditions permeate the residents' entire living space. Residents must eat in dining rooms infested with insects and rodents, sit and lie on floors that are dirty, not uncommonly with human excrement, and sleep in bedrooms reeking of urine.

"Their clean clothes and dirty laundry are intermingled, and trash, food and clothing litter the floors.

#### **MAINTENANCE**

"Part of the maintenance problems at Willowbrook, a 50-year-old complex, result from the fact that for years virtually no capital was poured into the physical plant, and until recently, no preventive maintenance measures were taken.

"The most glaring maintenance inadequacies, though, stem from

present, not past, neglect. For instance, throughout the institution, shower fixtures lack vacuum breakers, which are easy to install and necessary to prevent the transmission of contaminated water.

"In almost every building there are numerous examples of torn and broken furniture, ripped and broken screens, missing bathroom tiles, nonworking toilets, and walls with gaping holes.

"According to the state's own auditing teams, Willowbrook's maintenance deficiencies are extensive. Deficiencies [in March, 1981] included lack of privacy in bedroom and bathroom areas, poor lighting, a dearth of decorations, curtains and furniture, and broken water faucets.

"Six months later the deficiencies . . . were even more widespread.

#### **CLOTHING**

"It is overwhelmingly evident that [the] defendants have not fulfilled their agreement

to provide class members with 'clean, adequate and seasonally-appropriate' clothing. Some residents at Willowbrook are partially clothed, others go nude, and many wear clothes that are ill-fitting, badly torn and stained. Shoes are broken and torn, and in winter many of the residents are outfitted in summer attire.

"The insufficient supply of clothing has an adverse affect on residents' programming. A major programming problem at Willowbrook is residents not attending programming because they have nothing to wear."

#### **PROGRAMMING**

"Although the Willowbrook administration has constructed a commendable framework in which to provide programming, serious deficiencies exist in the delivery of programs. Residents rarely receive six hours of appropriate programming. Often they arrive late at the program

area, or do not arrive at all because of lack of transportation or clothing. Even when residents do arrive at their programs, they receive little actual instruction. Residents sit idly, walk about aimlessly, self-stimulate and sleep."

#### **SPECIAL THERAPY**

"Many Willowbrook residents diagnosed as needing recreational, occupational, physical, speech and psychological therapy are not receiving these services."

#### **RECREATION**

"Life in the residential units of Willowbrook . . . is sterile, dreary and one of enforced idleness. Most class members, when not in their program areas, have nothing to do. There is virtually no recreation equipment, toys or games on their units, and very little organized leisure-time activity occurs. In fact, the high incidence of behavior problems among institutionalized class members is, at least partially attribut-

able to the residents' long hours of idleness."

#### **NUTRITION**

"The Willowbrook diet card system, established to insure that residents who require special diets receive them, is not being properly administered. At least one Willowbrook resident choked to death as a result of being served an improper diet.

"The only utensils given to most residents, regardless of their functioning level, are spoons, and often there are not enough of them to go around."

#### **STAFF**

"[The] defendants consistently fail to provide class members with the required levels of supervision. Part of the problem is lack of staff training, lack of staff dedication, and staff negligence. Even when employees are on duty, residents are frequently left unattended or attended by fewer than the mandated number of employees. Even when sufficient staff members are present, they often ignore residents, depriving class members of the 'appreciable and appropriate attention by direct care staff' as required by the consent judgment."

Page 2  
9/2