



A typical room at center appears to be as neat as a pin.



Instructor Mary Alice Clark teaches youngsters animal identification.

appeal what she called "this unbalanced, inaccurate account of conditions at the center."

"Unfortunately, it comes at a bad time when we are trying to win community support for placement of our clients in group homes and apartments. It has been a tough uphill battle and the community backlash every time we find a home or site has gotten to the point of the ridiculous," she said.

"IN THE CASE OF one recent building we chose, some members of the community suggested we turn the building around so it wouldn't face their neighborhood. At the same time we are being asked to phase out the client population, which is currently 749, and get it down to the 250-bed complement."

The center is also being cut back on funding while being asked to provide community services.

Recently, it started a new program that deals with sub-acute residential treatment services. "Since the establishment of the transitional living unit and the community readiness unit at the center, experience has shown that there is a group of clients with chronic mental disabilities who have been underserved."

This group includes those who are not acutely psychotic or dangerous but remain in need of a well-structured, habilitative service program within a residential treatment setting.

THE PROGRAM IS housed in an attractive house, formerly the home of a faculty member, located in the rear of the grounds. It houses six patients and a resident supervisor.

According to Curry, the patients will remain for a period of nine months or until they are able to return to the community-services population. ■

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