

and command higher salaries than new hires, according to Margaret McGraw, a spokesman for the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

"It has been a gubernatorial and administrative policy that is going to create disparity in the cost of providing services," Miss McGraw said. "If not for that policy, there would be a lot more unemployed people in New York State."

A 1975 federal court decree has forced the state to phase out institutional care and to develop community residences. Specifically, the decree ordered the state to improve conditions at the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook, evacuat-

ing all but 250 of the original 5,300 mentally retarded patients by 1982. Bartels recently extended the deadline to April 1985.

In the last decade, the population of state institutions for the retarded has dropped by nearly half, from more than 25,000 to 12,830, according to the Commission on Quality of Care.

Former Willowbrook patients accounted for 74 percent of the residents of the 24 group homes and apartments surveyed by the commission.

The five nonprofit agencies studied were the Association for the Help of Retarded Citizens, United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, the Young Adult Institute, the Federation of Puerto Rican Organiza-

tions and Catholic Charities. The survey was conducted between January and June of 1981.

United Cerebral Palsy, which used to run 29 two and three-bed apartments throughout the city, recently transferred control to the state of five apartments in Staten Island and one apartment in Brooklyn. Robert Schonhorn, the agency's executive director, said last March that state funding did not cover the cost of operating the six apartments and United Cerebral Palsy could no longer afford the deficit.

Thomas Schurtz, associate state commissioner of mental retardation, said he is currently negotiating a new funding mechanism with Schonhorn, who has indicated he may withdraw from the other 23 apartments as well.

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