

# State orders 12 layoffs at South Beach Center

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and BRUCE ALPERT

New York State notified 12 employees of the South Beach Psychiatric Center yesterday that they will be laid off effective April 7, according to hospital officials.

Linda Breslin, South Beach deputy director for treatment, said the list of layoffs would be expanded next week. The list could extend to 71 of the hospital's 1,000 employees at the main campus in Ocean Breeze and at satellite clinics in Brooklyn, she said.

Gov. Mario M. Cuomo has ordered the layoffs to help close a state budget gap he has put at \$1.8 million.

Miss Breslin said the state was trying to make most of the cuts in outpatient services. She said

officials wanted to preserve the staff who work with live-in mental patients. But she added that the least senior employees, regardless of where they worked, generally would be the first to go.

The deputy director said South Beach hoped private mental health agencies would fill any gap in state services created by the layoffs. The state facility already has "collegial relations" with Staten Island Hospital, the North Richmond Mental Health Center and the Staten Island Mental Health Society, Miss Breslin said.

"We have to make some decisions about how to organize our work force when it's over," she said. "But our aim is that we will not leave people without services."

South Beach has 350 beds in

Ocean Breeze. The hospital treats about 5,000 outpatients a year, both in Staten Island and Brooklyn, according to Miss Breslin.

Those given layoff notices yesterday included psychologists, administrators and clerical workers, Miss Breslin said. None of them were therapy aides, who account for the majority of South Beach employees.

Officials of the hospital's two labor unions, the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) and the Professional Employees Federation (PEF), could not be reached for comment yesterday. The South Beach offices of the unions were closed while the labor leaders met with hospital administrators, according to Miss Breslin.

Meanwhile, United Cerebral

Palsy Associations of New York State, a nonprofit agency serving the mentally retarded, sent layoff notices to 15 teachers yesterday, according to UCP spokesman Cora Hoffman. The notices, effective in two weeks, will eliminate half of the 30-member teaching staff at the Karl D. Warner Center in Willowbrook.

Because of the teacher cuts, 187 mentally retarded patients will be assigned to larger classes of 12, instead of the current six-student classes, Mrs. Hoffman said. She conceded that the new classes would not comply with state Education Department requirements.

The layoffs at UCP were ordered by the agency's executive director, Robert Schonhorn. Schonhorn said the state re-

imbursement of UCP is too low to continue supporting the current level of services. He said the agency is in debt for more than \$2 million, and the state contract provides only about 20 percent of his costs.

Schonhorn told the state Legislature this week that unless funds were increased, he would dismantle all of the agency's programs and send 700 patients back to state-run facilities. UCP has more than 2,000 employees.