

## Lobbyists assail Cuomo budget

# Private mental groups may feel pinch

### Advance Albany Bureau

Gov. Mario M. Cuomo's proposed budget may force service cuts by some small private agencies for the mentally retarded on Staten Island, lobbyists said yesterday.

The lobbyists, representing the Staten Island Retardation and Disabilities Council, said that the Cuomo budget would make it difficult for them to lease space or to provide homemaking services.

They said the state was withdrawing money for some leases and requiring the private agencies to pay rent out of their discretionary funds. Some non-profit agencies, such as A Very Special Place, New Dorp, cannot afford to pay their rent without state aid, the lobbyists said.

The governor's budget calls for local governments to take more than 50 percent of the costs of certain programs for the mentally retarded, the lobbyists said. These include sheltered workshops and programs that send nurses, therapists or housekeepers to the homes of patients.

However, the lobbyists said, the fiscal problems of New York City and other local governments may jeopardize any takeover plan.

"It is all very frightening," said Diane Buglioli, a Disabilities Council officer. Mrs. Buglioli and other council members met in Albany yesterday with legislators, including Assemblywoman Elizabeth A. Connelly.

The state Legislature may modify Cuomo's budget until

April 1. Mrs. Connelly, chairman of the Assembly Mental Health Committee, said she would work to restore the funds for day treatment of the mentally retarded.

James Klein, an Assembly aide, said slightly more than \$2 million would be needed to keep the workshops and homemakers entirely in the state budget.