

# State might shift disabled to Beth Rifka

By JULIE MACK

Contingency plans for a state takeover of services now provided by United Cerebral Palsy were announced yesterday by Dr. Ella Curry, director of the Staten Island Developmental Center.

The proposal includes use of the former Beth Rifka Nursing Home, perhaps as a temporary institution for patients now at UCP's Karl Warner Center. Eventually, Dr. Curry suggested, SIDC services could be moved to the former nursing home, once the other SIDC residents have been moved into group homes.

UCP, the state's largest private provider of services for the retarded, has threatened to disband its programs unless the state increases its funding. The agency claims it has been short-changed by at least 20 percent and is unable to cover its costs.

Dr. Curry's statements, made at a monthly meeting of the Staten Island Regional Retardation and Disabilities Council, were an indication that the negotiations between UCP and state officials are not going well.

"At this point, we are miles apart," said Dr. Curry. "What has been put on the table, we can't live with."

If negotiations should fail and UCP follows through on its threat, Dr. Curry suggested that the state assume direct responsibility for the 310 patients at the Karl Warner Center in Willowbrook.

She said the state's first move should be to renovate and modernize Warner, a 40-year-old building on the grounds of SIDC. Patients at Warner could be

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