

Layoffs

(From Page 1)

rive at a state hospital, it's the end of the road.

"And we know even if our jobs are retained, things aren't likely to get that much better here," Dunn said. "And we desperately need new services. Right now, we have a revolving door. We see the same patients over and over again."

Dunn and other South Beach employees say everybody at the center is talking about the layoffs and the ripple effects that result.

A spokesman for the state Department of Civil Service said that for every job eliminated, 2.5 people would change jobs. That is

due to people with more seniority bumping less senior people at other job sites.

"It makes it difficult to work when people are asking where am I going to go and when am I going," said Ken Dischel, a psychologist who works with South Beach's most violent patients. "When all the staff is talking about is this job situation, it has to make the patients feel some anxiety. They wonder what's going to happen to those who regularly treat them."

Barry Markman, who heads South Beach's Public Employees Federation chapter, said that the blame for all the confusion and uncertainty rests with the Cuomo

administration.

"They could have waited 21 days as we and legislators suggested until they knew what the Legislature was going to do," Markman said. "If they did, a lot of the pain might have been averted."

But Cuomo said sending out layoff notices was necessary so as to avert the need for more layoffs later. The later layoffs notices go out, he said, the less the savings from each job elimination.

Meanwhile, employees say the confusion at South Beach is being repeated throughout state agencies and its network of services.

At the state Health Depart-

ment, one worker was told that his position in the New York City office had been terminated, but that he could find a job in Albany. Later, he was told the only job for him would be in Syracuse. And, finally, he was told that he probably could stay in New York City.

"They are destroying people's lives," said Frederick Parker, director of the bureau of audit and analysis for the Health Department, who himself is slated to lose his job. "They should know that there is a level of abuse to which people can't go beyond. And they are coming close, very close."

Page 1 of 2 Pages