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Area official a candidate for top post

Advance Albany Bureau

ALBANY — Dr. Ella Curry, director of the Staten Island Developmental Center, is being considered for the top job at the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, sources said last night.

Dr. Curry's name was among three submitted to Gov. Mario M. Cuomo for the cabinet-level position by a special panel headed by the agency's former commissioner, James N. Introne.

Dr. Curry, a former administrator with the state Department of Correctional Services, has been director of the Willowbrook retardation center since November 1980.

Elizabeth Weiss, spokeswoman for Cuomo, would neither confirm nor deny the report.

Zygmund Slezak, who has been acting commissioner for state mental retardation agency since last year, is among the candidates for the commissioner's job.