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## Lots of room for state offices

By DAN JANISON

A combination of uses would well suit the sprawling 330-acre Willowbrook campus now occupied by the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC), two official representatives of that community said yesterday.

Their views, showing little change from previous statements on the fate of the property during the past two years, came in the wake of Gov. Mario M. Cuomo's identifying the site as a future mecca for state agency offices.

Just what that right combination might prove to be remains unknown.

Cuomo announced plans Thursday to fund a bistate re-

gional development bank from revenues gained by moving 2 million square feet of agency offices out of the World Trade Center, thus producing higher rentals from private tenants.

SIDC is the only Island site so far targeted, in what state officials describe as a five-year program to transfer the state offices.

"We'd be looking for a combination of uses, with a caveat that the first priority is the handicapped" still housed there, said Assemblywoman Elizabeth A. Connelly, whose office is located on the grounds.

There are a total of 44 buildings on the site, counting a handful of buildings used for storage,

sewage treatment and other purposes not convertible for office space.

Ten usable buildings of five and six stories each are currently vacant, an SIDC official said yesterday. Some have been described by state officials as "ideal" for agency use.

Mrs. Connelly said yesterday that office use, which she envisions as one of the components of an eventual new plan for the site, could eventually involve the state Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD). She said they are targeted to move in 1986.

Movement of those agencies,

# Variety urged for SIDC land

therefore, is not included in the first phase of the five-year office transfer program, according to outlines of the plan distributed by Cuomo in Manhattan Thursday.

In July of last year, a study prepared for the state Office of General Services, which is coordinating the office transfer, said SIDC could be converted into a condominium development of 1,200 to 1,600 units.

The report, prepared by Gruen Associates, a consulting firm, also said the site had a potential to house commercial office space because it could offer lower rents than Manhattan.

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and other areas.

The report caused something of a backlash from those who feared, in Mrs. Connelly's words at the time, "cutting up the Willowbrook property in little pieces and cramming it shoulder to shoulder with condominiums."

According to Joseph Manifold, chairman of Community Board 2, there still is no assurance that private developers would not have a hand in the property's future, even if some of the offices eventually move there.

"About nine months ago we were informed that SIDC was

forming a community advisory board" for future planning, he said yesterday.

"We were asked to be a part of that," Manifold said. "I submitted the name of Tom Prisco, chairman of the health and hospitals committee, and heard nothing more about it."

One of the uses Manifold said he sees for the property is health facilities to increase hospital space for a growing population in the area.

Available space at SIDC has slowly grown.

Mentally retarded and disabled people housed in what was once known as the infamous Willowbrook State School are being transferred into what officials call community-based facilities.

The gradual withdrawal of the patients under the auspices of

the OMRDD, which runs SIDC (the former state school) was done under court order in 1975 by the Willowbrook Consent Decree.

But that process has been slower than originally projected, and the state is again expected to ask a court for an extension of a deadline in operating the disabled facilities.

Also in the summer of last year, it was noted that existing and potential baseball and softball fields enjoyed by some could be eliminated.

Mrs. Connelly said that three weeks ago, there was some talk among General Services officials of moving the organization Little Leagues from the Northeastern United States to the property from its current location in Newburgh, N.Y.

But again, no concrete plans have been produced.