

20
3/8/84

Director: SIDC better than federal report

By JULIE MACK
Advance Staff Writer

If federal officials returned next week to Staten Island Developmental Center, they would not find many of the deficiencies they cited in February, according to SIDC director James Walsh.

"They may still find problems, but they would see that issues are being addressed," Walsh said yesterday.

His comments came in response to a critical report by the federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), which was detailed yesterday in the Advance. The agency's report, based on an inspection at the center Feb. 6, listed more than

125 deficiencies in quality of care for the 800 mentally retarded clients.

The problem areas included food and nutrition, pharmacy services, sanitation, inadequate clothing for patients, and infection control.

"I think the feds are getting tougher (in enforcing standards), but that's OK," Walsh said. "We're all pushing for the clients."

Among the changes Walsh says he has made in recent months is an overhaul of the food service, which was criticized in February as "constantly in a state of crisis management." In addition to a new kitchen, the food service has been reorganized with new

delineations of responsibility, Walsh said.

"Each person (in management) will be responsible for supervising a certain area, and each will have targets for improvements and dates by which those improvements must be made," he said.

"Their (federal officials') impression of our food service is one of poor organization. My feeling is that the organization is there, but because of other pressure, the supervisors didn't put enough emphasis on day-to-day operations. Now we'll have check lists and we'll get status reports to better determine how things are going."

On infection control, SIDC has now assigned a nurse to take

7
2-7-84