

## Comptroller's Audit Finds Flaws In New York Care of the Retarded

By The Associated Press

New York State regulators are failing to provide required health examinations for many retarded people living in private homes, and in many cases are not enforcing regulations on safety, finances and licensing, according to an audit by State Comptroller Edward V. Regan.

In the report released yesterday, Mr. Regan said an investigation had found that many of the homes, including 37 percent of those in New York City and 10 percent statewide, lacked valid licenses or operating certificates as of June 1983.

Further, the report said, case managers are not making required visits and reports; staff training is inadequate, and some safety violations, when found, were ignored.

The report, based on records of homes that housed 1,300 people, suggested that the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities had focused on other concerns and neglected the Family Care Program, which houses 3,700 retarded people in 1,700 homes.

### Revisions Promised

The office agreed with many of Mr. Regan's recommendations that it change policies and procedures, and said it

was revising its regulations. The office is to report on its progress in 90 days.

Mr. Regan said his auditors reviewed records kept at five centers that oversee homes for the retarded in Queens, the Bronx, Melville, L.I., and in Binghamton and West Seneca upstate. Investigators also visited some homes.

Many clients, a summary of the audit said, "are not receiving the required annual physical, dental and psychological examinations." "Case managers do not visit their clients monthly as required, and when they do make visits, there is unsatisfactory documentation of the visit."

It said that there were no records of any dental or recreational evaluations from April 1980 to March 1983 for 10 retarded people in the Bronx and that records were lacking for 70 percent of the required psychological examinations and 57 percent of the required physical checkups.