

# Task force schedules Willowbrook hearing

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Hoping to gauge community sentiment before making its recommendation, a task force on the disposition of the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) property in Willowbrook has scheduled a public hearing for Feb. 7.

The hearing will allow Islanders to give their opinions on several proposals for the property, including a controversial plan to create a new, consolidated campus for College of Staten Island.

The task force, which consists of four top state officials and nine Islanders has not endorsed

any of the proposals yet. The group reviewed the college plan for the first time in a meeting yesterday at SIDC.

Although almost a dozen concepts for redeveloping the site are under consideration, the CSI plan has been viewed by participants as the most significant request, in terms of the amount of property involved and the support the plan has received from state officials.

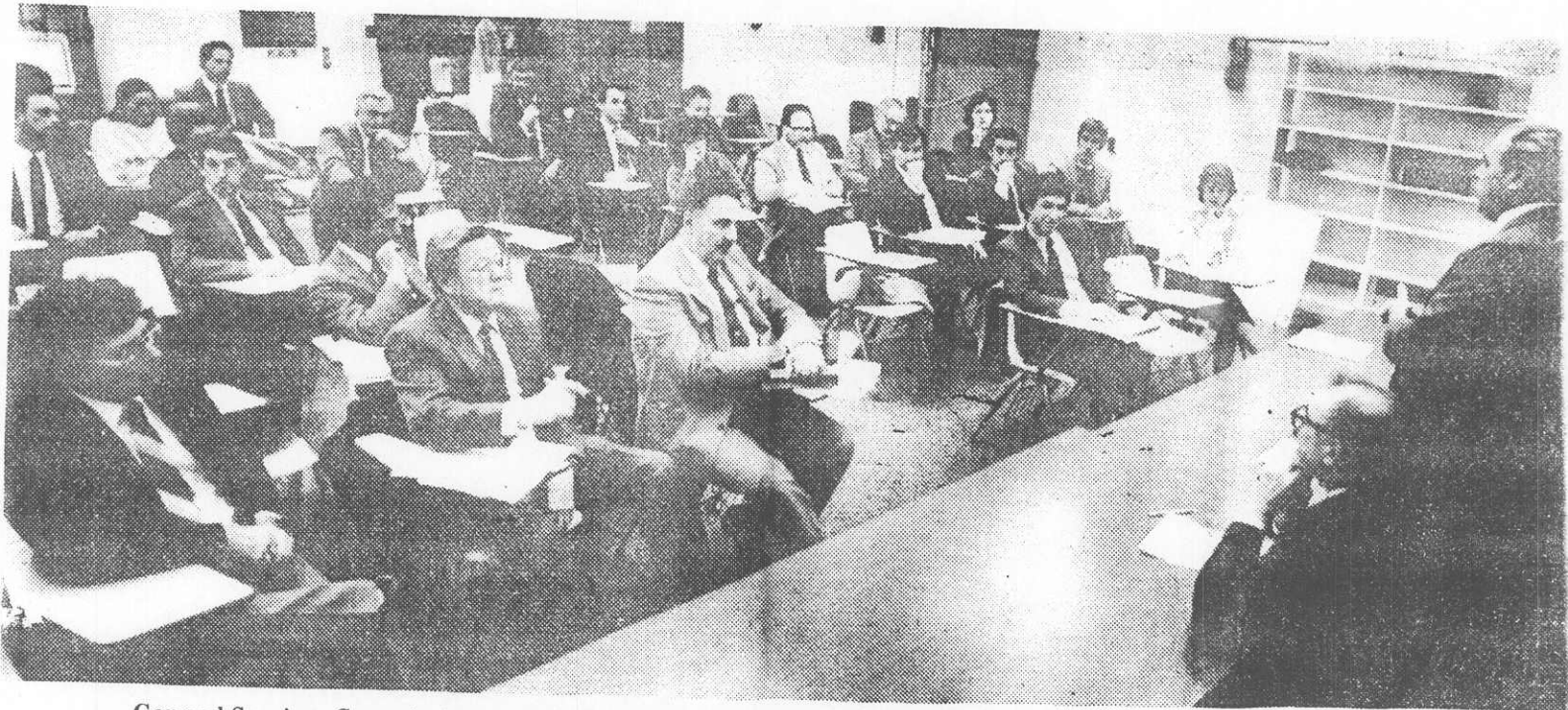
The CSI proposal already has the informal backing of the state Budget Division; the commissioner for state services for the mentally retarded, Arthur Webb,

who co-chairs the task force, and the staff of Office of General Services Commissioner John Egan, the other co-chair.

The budget department has encouraged the college to pursue its request for the Willowbrook property, according to CSI officials. Webb voiced his support for the college proposal in an Advance Editorial Board meeting last month.

While Egan has not publicly aired his views on any of the proposals, he suspended the task force's monthly meetings last July while waiting for the col-

(See TASK FORCE, Page A 4)



General Services Commissioner John Egan speaks to the group assembled at the Staten Island Developmental Center to review the plan for CSI's consolidated campus.