

What Can Be Done About Willowbrook?

To the Editor:

Once again, as has happened year after year for at least the last 13 years, Willowbrook hits the headlines as a snake pit ("U.S., Citing Violations, Plans to Deny \$22 Million for Old Willowbrook Site," April 19).

The Federal Government (my left-hand pocket) is going to deny its

share of financing for the institution. This means that the state government (my right-hand pocket) will have to pick up the whole annual cost of \$43 million.

The reason for the denial? A list of 55 violations and infractions, many of them also found last year (they inspect a place like this only once a year?), including lack of adequate treatment, occupational therapy, living and bathing facilities and even of food, all of which has to be attributed to penuriousness, right?

Well, that inadequate \$43 million budget covers the "care and treatment" of 700 patients. That works out to \$61,428.57 each. If they're worth that much to the taxpayer, shouldn't they be worth an inspection at least as frequent as a cockroach-infested restaurant gets?

Who is supposed to be running Willowbrook? And under what mandates and supervision of what official in the state government? And shouldn't both of them be discharged forthwith?

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