

Plans for Richmond Complex residential housing discussed

BY ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

The Staten Island Regional Retardation and Disabilities Council (SIRRDC), meeting last night in the Institute for Basic Research, heard a presentation by the Island Borough Developmental Services office. The service group is the local representative of the state Office of Mental Retardation Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD).

The group also saw a presentation on the physical configuration of the residential components of the Richmond Complex. In April 1987, the Willowbrook consent decree will be finalized and the

Staten Island Developmental Center, the old Willowbrook State School, will close and be replaced by the Richmond Complex unit.

Diane M. Buglioli, SIRRDC chairman, said the group's main concern is the lack of funding "Staten Island has experienced in the Early Childhood Direction Center, which has been cut by around \$18,000 a year."

As a result, the group has lost its social worker and, according to Ms. Buglioli, receives services "only once a week, for four hours."

In other business, the group discussed OMRDD's transition from a Medicaid-financed day treat-

ment program for mentally retarded adults to a day training model that as yet has not been identified.

Ms. Buglioli said the "parameters have not been set but they (OMRDD) will be stopping some funding for day treatment before the other program is outlined."

Although the council is solely advisory, it represents all of the consumers on Staten Island and the agencies that provide services. Ms. Buglioli said the group will address the problem with city and state officials. "So we have some leverage... we are the local input," she added.