

THE ISLAND

Disabilities council to host forum

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

The Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council will host a forum Friday on the process of establishing community residences for the developmentally disabled.

The program, scheduled to last for two hours, begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Elizabeth Connelly Resource Center, 930 Willowbrook Rd., Willowbrook.

A question-and-answer period

will be included within the discussion.

In March, Community Board 3, which oversees the South Shore, voted unanimously to reject a home for six retarded adults in Greenridge. Since then, several homes in the Board 1 and Board 2 areas, which cover the North Shore and Mid-Island, respectively, were supported.

Community board approvals are not required for the establishment of such homes. Rejections result in administrative

hearings, which usually result in a ruling in the sponsoring agency's favor.

Community homes typically house eight to 10 developmentally disabled persons whose disabilities include mental retardation, autism, and other impairments of the brain and central nervous system.

Staten Island can expect 35 to 40 similar residences to be established in the borough during the next four years, according to local social services providers.

The Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council is a coalition of agencies and parents. The council offers information, referrals and advocacy. The Staten Island Council advises the city Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services on needed services for the Island's developmentally disabled. Meetings are held the fourth Friday of each month at the Connelly Center. For more information call 983-5354.

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