

Drug treatment chief vows service growth

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The state's chief of drug abuse treatment vowed yesterday to expand services despite a fiscal crunch on every level of government.

Gov. Mario M. Cuomo's proposed cuts to the state Division of Substance Abuse Services (DSAS) will delay the addition of residential treatment beds, but no existing beds or major services will be cut, agency director Arthur Y. Webb said.

Acknowledging Staten Island's record for community opposition to treatment programs, he called upon local providers to educate

the community and state lawmakers to limit the public's veto power in site selections.

Webb encouraged his host, College of Staten Island (CSI) President Dr. Edmond Volpe, to work with DSAS in developing curricula to train professionals to work in substance abuse and alcoholism treatment fields.

The director, who served seven years as commissioner of the state Office of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities until his present appointment by the governor nearly a year ago, led a CSI symposium on "Drugs

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Arthur Y. Webb

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