

S. J. Advance

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TV show to spotlight disabilities office

Will show behavioral treatment of patient

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

The Multiple Disabled Unit of the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Services Office is scheduled to be featured tonight on "Eye to Eye" at 9 p.m. on WCBS-TV Channel 2.

The program will include the unit's behavioral therapy work with Peter M., a man in his mid 20s who is autistic, developmentally disabled, blind and was diagnosed with a "severe maladaptive behavior disorder" of self-injury.

A client of the unit for 1½ years, Peter has gone from requiring restraining handcuffs and intensive supervision to being able to spend weekends at his family's home in Westchester County, said Robert Witkowsky, director of the Willowbrook-based SIDDSO. The Multiple Disabled Unit is housed in a building at South Beach Psychiatric Center.

The TV program deals with charges of abuse against a New England facility that treats severely disturbed children.