

ine this and come up with a way to do that."

Popler later spoke at a City Hall press conference with Councilwoman Una Clarke, chairwoman of the City Council Subcommittee on Mental Health.

He predicted that whatever money was saved on the programs would be more than eaten up by other agencies as people helped through treatment found themselves unable to work and turning to the social service system.

"This just doesn't make any sense. We're not talking about cuts, but 100 percent elimination," he said.

According to the Staten Island Retardation Disabilities Council, a group made up of parents, clients and workers, the cuts would mean elimination the following programs as of Jan. 1:

- Workshops and supported work programs run by the Association for Children with Retarded Mental Development.

- Evening respite for 160 people at A Very Special Place's community center.

- The Island's only program that cares for people with developmental disabilities who are over 55 years old, which is run by A Very Special Place.

- Home care for 48 families and school respite programs for 10 families run by the Center for Family Support.

- The college program for developmentally disabled adults at the College of Staten Island.

- The day training program at Eden II, Clifton. The cuts would indirectly affect the day skills-development program and the supported employment program as well.

- All outpatient clinical services, the Training In Parenting program and the Education for Adulthood Training, as well as medical management for 110 people with attention deficit disorder, all run by the Elizabeth W. Pouch Center of the Staten Island Mental Health Society.

- The housing preservation and development staff position at the Staten Island Center for Independent Living.

- All services not directly reimbursed by Medicaid or Medi-

care at St. Vincent's North Richmond Community Mental Health Center, including the special psychiatric center for people with developmental disabilities at Bayley Seton Hospital.

- Weekly therapeutic respite and recreation programs for children and adults, family respite and supported work and employment programs, which currently

serve 325 families and has a waiting list of another 300.

- The closing of all workshops and the loss of respite programs, evening and Saturday recreation programs, the Day Training program and some day treatment services run by New York City United Cerebral Palsy.

(Staff writer Donald Gross contributed to this report.)

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