



43 of 98 DOCUMENTS

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HEADLINE: Md. Home for Retarded Won't Lose Funds

BODY:

A state institution for the mentally retarded in Silver Spring, cited earlier this summer for a variety of deficiencies, has been cleared of any threat of losing its Medicaid funds or its operating license.

After a four-day follow-up inspection, Maryland licensing and certification officials concluded yesterday that the Great Oaks Center has made enough improvements in its staff, treatment services and the protection of its 305 clients to comply with state and federal health regulations.

In July, the officials had given the facility 45 days to make improvements or risk losing about \$ 10 million in federal Medicaid payments, which account for about half its budget.

Since then, the facility has hired more direct-care workers and supervisors, given the staff extra training and reorganized the institution so each staff member works with fewer residents, according to Great Oaks' Director Marvin M. Malcotti.

The citations, the result partly of stiffened federal standards last year, marked the fourth time since 1985 that deficient conditions have jeopardized Great Oak's government funds. Each time, the institution has managed to satisfy regulators before subsidies were to be cut.