A TRAIL OF TROUBLE

Owner of shuttered adult home sued at 2nd facility

AN OPERATOR OF a Canarsie adult home shut down by state officials after residents died is profiting from another problem-plagued facility, the Daily News has learned.

Baruch Mappa, who owned the Seaport Manor adult home before it was shuttered in 2003, owns the nearby New South Shore Manor's building. Mappa's two children and three grandchildren operate the new home, state Health Department sources said.

Mappa pocketed $120,000 in rent from New South Shore in 2004, according to the latest financial filing with the state. Residents have sued the home for allegedly stealing their money.

"It's unfathomable to me how someone like this can continue to provide housing to people, especially people with psychiatric disabilities," said Davin Robinson of the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, a nonprofit group that reports on adult homes care.

Seaport Manor was closed after residents died from negligent care. Some patients committed suicide. The facility was so problem-plagued that residents prostituted themselves for spending money.

New South Shore Manor has been "targeting individuals with mental disabilities" to "steal money and personal property from them," according to a federal lawsuit filed last month.

Home officials have been accused of aiding a consultant in stealing more than $40,000 and retaliating against residents who sought an attorney's help.

The home also has been cited for violations by the state Health Department for running out of prescription medicine for residents, and for having an "alternate system of recordkeeping" for dispensing residents' personal allowances.

The lawsuit charged home officials had one resident "hospitalized against her will, without medical causes," in retaliation for consulting a lawyer.

In addition, Seaport administrator Elizabeth Rosenberg also recently has begun working there, said a New South Shore Manor source.

Rosenberg was removed from her job at Seaport by state officials after the facility was probed for unsafe conditions.

Mappe and other Seaport operators were fined $20,000 for the problems at the home.

State officials went to court to try to bar Mappa and the others from operating adult homes, but the suit failed.

"The problem is Health Department doesn't hold operators accountable," said MFY Legal Services lawyer Jean Philips, who represents the Manor residents in the lawsuit.

"They just close them down . . . and residents are moved to another place where they are treated the same."

Mappa could not be reached for comment.