

## Synanon Turns Down City Help; Fears Control in Aiding Addicts

Synanon Foundation, the non-profit program for rehabilitating narcotics addicts, has rejected a city offer of funds to expand its work here, because of "controls and regulations" that would have been imposed on the foundation.

The proposed working agreement with the city would have provided the foundation with a subsidy for the care of about 100 addicts. At its estimated daily rate of \$3 a person, the foundation might have realized \$500,000 in three years. It has said it needs funds sorely.

But the city, which has financial arrangements with many private and voluntary agencies, requires that certain standards be established. These are enforced by various city departments and generally determine those eligible to receive the service, employ qualifications and facilities to be used.

The Synanon movement, which has offices here at 2 East 78th Street, is modeled somewhat after Alcoholics Anonymous. It provides addicts with a continuing program of group living and self-help.

William Crawford, the East Coast director for the foundation, disclosed yesterday that the city proposal had been rejected. He described the city offer, formulated after three months of talks, as a "good and generous one" but added:

"The most important single

factor in rejecting this financial association with the city is the effect such a move would have on people now living in Synanon and on those who need our help but haven't gotten here yet," Mr. Crawford explained. "When we become part of 'the establishment,' we sacrifice an essential element of our program."

The foundation, which has been appealing nationwide for financial aid, began meeting here last April with city committee made up of officials from the Health, Hospitals and Welfare Departments and the Community Mental Health Board. The committee was headed by Dr. John R. Philp, First Deputy Health Commissioner.

Dr. Philp said yesterday that the purpose of the meetings had been "to reach an agreement by which the city could support Synanon and could enter more New York City addicts into the program."

He said the committee had never made a formal offer but had submitted a "proposed working agreement" based on points developed during the discussions. He acknowledged that he had received a letter from Mr. Crawford turning down the proposal and indicating that the only way Synanon could accept money "would be in the nature of an unconditional gift."

"This would be impossible for the city, Dr. Philp said.