

\$5 million aid sought

HOUSTON — Officials are seeking \$5 million in emergency shelter funds following reports that vanloads of mental patients from an Austin state hospital were left at a Houston bus station to fend for themselves.

And a frustrated hospital official says he's quitting because "there doesn't seem to be a solution."

Robert Navarro, board chairman of the Harris County Mental Health and Mental Health Authority, said he plans to ask for the aid Friday, when the board of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation hold its regular meeting.

"I talked to several state officials and they said they were very interested in the proposal," Navarro said.

Eugene Williams, the county agency's executive director, said the money would be used to provide a range of living projects, including apartments with 24-hour supervision and "group homes" where patients who require little supervision could live.