

Report from 4C

Children's needs now getting more attention

Current legislation and several new state programs and agencies are focusing more on the needs of children, according to Susan Brook, executive coordinator for Child Michigan Community Coordinated Child Care (4C) Council.

She spoke recently on "Current Legislation Affecting Michigan Children and Their Families" at Michigan State University's College Week, sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service.

"The 4C Council advocates the comprehensive delivery services of children," said Ms. Brook. "It is made up of representatives from public and private agencies. It is a public information and referral group and anyone can join the council."

"The purpose is to make sure Michigan citizens have an input into policy decisions that affect children and their families."

AFTER A STUDY of Michigan's programs for children, the Office of Juvenile Justice Services was formed. This office is formulating a statewide plan for uniformed services for juveniles, delinquents and neglected. It will also administer the child care funds.

The child care study committee is currently investigating the needs and problems of children. The committee is looking into adoption, child care, child abuse, neglect, family planning, public schools, juvenile code, high risk infants, and more. Current legislation affecting children includes pending House Bill 671, which would create an office of family and child advocacy. This office would speak up for the child in court cases.

There is no central place where you can get answers about laws affecting children. The bill would establish such a place.

The legislature passed a new child abuse law which expands the number of people who must report an abuse or neglect case. The law also states that suspect cases do not have to be reported to the police until after the Department of Social Services can look into the matter. An amendment has been introduced which, if passed, would require that all suspect cases be reported immediately to the police.

"WHEN PUBLIC ACT 136 was passed in 1971, it gave Michigan the most comprehensive special education program in the country," noted Ms. Brook. "This act says that the state must provide special education training or care to any handicapped person, age zero to 21. Most other states leave their special education programs for schoolaged children and end when the child reaches the age of majority."

The act also requires that the parents be involved in the decision about what special

education programs the child will receive.

In 1974, the federal government passed the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. It states that public school records of a child must be made available to the parents upon request.

"This act is so new that many parents are not even aware they can have access

to their children's records," she observed.

Another new act many people are not aware of is Public Act 286 of 1974. Among the provisions of this new adoption law, is an adoption subsidy for parents adopting children who are normally hard to place.

"For example, if adults adopt a child requiring medical care, they can get an adop-

tion subsidy to help pay for medical costs," she added.

A CONTROVERSIAL piece of legislation is pending House Bill 4704. If passed, one aspect of the bill would amend the Juvenile Code so that the probate court would no longer have jurisdiction over status offenses.

Status offenses are those acts which would not be considered a crime if committed by an adult, running away from home, playing hooky, etc.

Many of the probate judges do not think status offenses should be taken away from their jurisdiction. So they helped write

House Bill 6004, which would also amend the Juvenile Code, but would leave status

offenders under their jurisdiction.

"The House Judiciary Committee is currently looking into both bills," said Ms. Brook. "They hope to blend the best of both bills and come up with a substitute one in the fall."

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Education is basis for hiring, prof says

A woman's education, not just her sex, causes discrimination in hiring, says a Michigan State University management professor.

If women do not possess the educational credentials deemed necessary for careers in management, reporter Dr. Henry Toss, then their exclusion should come as no surprise.

For example, liberal arts degrees, whether held by women or men, are not as preferred for entry level managerial jobs as are those with majors in accounting, marketing and management, he explained.

Toss's conclusions are based on a study which he conducted with Dr. Patricia Revora of the University of California, Irvine.

Eighty U.C. graduate students in administration, 41 male and 39 female, rated bogus resumes on suitability for two managerial positions as part of a class assignment. Many of the students were employed fulltime, and about 30 per cent were single, 34 per cent were married, and seven per cent were divorced.

APPLICANT SEX, marital status, undergraduate major and graduate degree were systematically varied to yield 100 different resumes. The resumes were divided into 10 sets, each evaluated by eight students.

The results indicate that all factors are important, Toss said. He added, however, that the experience of the job applicant, particularly field or specialization and graduate degree, plays a more influential role in these decisions than do personal characteristics such as sex or marital status.

Overall the most desirable job candidate was a married male with two children, Toss noted. He had an undergraduate major in business administration and an MBA.

The next suitable applicant was a single woman with an MBA and an undergraduate major in industrial sociology.

A divorced male was considered least suitable, with a single woman close behind. Both candidates had undergraduate majors in history and M.S. degrees in administration.

"IF SEX is the only background information given about a candidate," Toss said, "evaluations rely on stereotypical notions about the educational backgrounds of males and females."

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