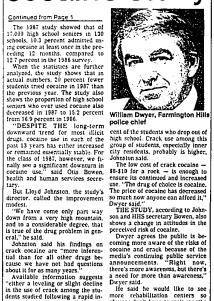
Chief disputes cocaine study

is true of the drug problem in gen-eral," he said.

Johnston said his findings on creak occaine are "more inferen-tial than for all other drugs be-cause we have not had questions about it for as many years."

Available information suggests "either a leveling or slight decline in the use of crack among the stu-dents studied following a rapid in-crease in use in 1983-86," Johnson said.

He cautioned that the survey about it for as many years."
Available information suggests
"either a leveling or slight decline
in the use of reack among the students studied following a rapid increase in use in 1983-80." Shoneon
sales
causioned that the survey
does not attempt to measure drug
use among the estimated 15-20 peruted to this story.



He helps kids work out problems

"I tend to approach problems in the here and now. I try to come up with alternative behavior that less-ens the strife for the kids and their families"

and the strife for the same and decided annihes."

JIS IDEAS and attitudes for working with Idis and teens come from some helty experience.
With degree in hand, Hamilton began his career with the Oakland County Probate Court in the boys detention unit of Children's Village. In Pontiac, His work at the residential facility for delinquent, abused and neglected children taught him a lot. And we're not talking about a fresh-faced college graduate. Hamilton had served in the U.S. Air Force for two years. As he described himself, "I had been around and seen a few things."

More than anything, Hamilton was surprised by what he saw at Children's Village. "I was surprised by control to be very tough outside and very dependent inside."

From there, he worked for 16 months as a child welfare worker in the status offender program. "It was in the crisis intervention and diversion unit that deals specifically with home truancy (runaways younger than 17)."

home trusney (runaways younger than 17)."

than 17)"
The next career step brought him closer to Farmington. Though lead-quartered in Pontiac, Hamilton served 17 months as a court caseworker for the Farmington Public Schools. "It's like a probation officer. I would recommend disposition for court cases of kids that reside in the Farmington school area and supervise the cases."

WHEN HAMILTON took the FYA
Job in October, he had sort of finally
come home. Born, but not raised in
the Farmington area, Hamilton
thought that working with FYA
would allow him to be more involved
in the community than he was as a
court casworker.

His official job title with the probate court is child welfare worker.
But he calls that "a blanket title."
He prefers to explain his work by describling what FYA really does.

"FYA is a two-fold organization.
It's a group of volunteers from
Farmington and Farmington Hills
that organizes programs and activities in areas that will hopefully prevent delinquency and neglect in the
community." he said.

FYA's second function is as a
counselor for children and families.

"Those services include referrals to

other services in the community—
mental health, substance abuse
treatment and private therapy if
they need that extensive kind of
help."
Hamilton prefers helping children,
especially teens, by helping their
families. The kids he counsels are as
young as 7 and as near-adulthood as
Yi. "Kids who come to us—referred
either by police, schools or parents
— don't operate in a vacuum. Their
problems are not theirs alone."

HAMILTON BELIEVES it's important to levolve family members
when trying to help kids because everyooc contributes to the problem.

Hamilton sides times when people
when trying to help kids because everyooc contributes to the problems
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Youth group seeks volunteers

If you're looking for a chance to give some time and effort to the community, Farmington Youth Assistance could use your help.

"There are people out there who are looking for an opportunity to give back to the community. I'd like them to give me a call." said Bill Hamilton, FYA's new cassworker, who replaces Andrea Cooley who transferred to Bloomfield Hills.

FYA is sponsored by the Oakland County Probate Court. It is financially supported by the cities of Farm-ington and Farmington Hills and the Farmington Public Schools.

Housed in the Shiawassee Center, 30415 Shiawasee, west of Orchard Lake Road, in Farmington Hills, FYA

provides programming and counseling for kids and fam-illes. A general citizens committee decides what pro-gramming to offer. Residents who volunteer would bein committee members with programs and classes.

"People can help provide programming to help the quality of life in the community," Hamilton said. "There is a vicarious reward in that you are giving back to the

"Certainly, we want people interested in improving the community. We also want people who are good or-ganizers and people interested in doing publicity," Ham-ilton continued.

Residents interested in volunteering may call Hamilton at 476-3840.



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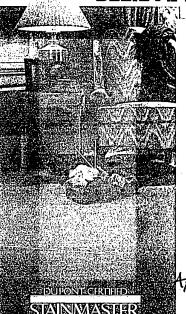
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