

Student education plan pushed

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- increasing social worker time at the high schools.
- implementing support groups at each high school.
- extensive training of school staff to help handle the problems.
- establishing a referral network with community substance abuse agencies.
- providing one-on-one counseling for students in need.

"Before the problem of chemical use by school children can be addressed, we must recognize that a problem exists," the report said. "This subcommittee feels that Farmington schools... like all other communities have a problem.

"Many children have revealed drug abuse in their homes. Several children have been identified and re-

ported (for using drugs), while others have been identified and handled within the building."

Trustee Susan Rennels called the report "timely" because of the recent focus on drug abuse in the community.

THE FARMINGTON HILLS Police Department recently issued a 19-point plan calling for better education in substance abuse prevention. The department also formed a community committee to prompt action.

Several members of the community spoke in support of the school's efforts last week.

"After five years, it's a dream come true for all of us," said Tina Jensen, representing Farmington Families in Action, a parent group active in substance abuse education

throughout the Farmington schools.

An FFA member who presents the Beginning Alcohol and Addiction Basic Educational Studies program — also known as BABES — to Farmington third graders also voiced support for the plan.

"The children are looking for more education," she said. "I really think it's worthwhile. I'm glad you're looking at the total picture."

Farmington Hills businesswoman Angel Bakos, a member of the Farmington Hills Police Citizens Crime Prevention Advisory Committee, spoke on behalf of her group. "We are ready to lend our support to your efforts," she said.

AS PART of the overall health education effort, the district proposes to use the Michigan Model for Comprehensive School Health Education, a program endorsed by Gov. James

Blanchard, the National Governors Association and the National Association of State Boards of Education.

Currently, there are "bits and pieces" of health topics handled in science, family life, life skills and physical education classes, White said.

The Michigan Model is designed to coordinate these efforts by making training, materials and programs uniform throughout the district.

The areas of AIDS education — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — was specifically addressed by the committee.

Plans call for a citizens advisory board to be established, for speakers to be invited, and that the program be expanded to grades eight-nine from the current high school AIDS education program. Districtwide in-service programs would also include AIDS awareness.

carrier of the month Farmington

Mary Ann Peters, 12, delivers the Farmington Observer in Gramercy Court subdivision. She has delivered the Observer since March 1985.

The Thomas Beahan Junior High School seventh grader's favorite subject is math. Her hobbies are tennis, roller skating, skate boarding and baby-sitting. She belongs to the Marzuka Polish Dancing Club.

Mary Ann plans to attend law school and become the first woman president.

Meeting people, managing money and pleasing people are some of the things she learned on her route.

Mary Ann is the daughter of Elynn and Norman Peters. She has one brother, Mike, 20, and one sister, Jane 17.



Mary Ann Peters

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Hills cops offer to analyze drugs

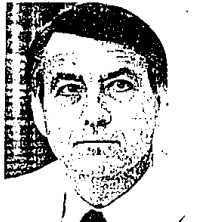
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will not even ask the parents their names.

If the analysis results show that a particular substance is an illegal drug, police — using the parents' code number — will provide them with information about rehabilitation.

"We can provide them with a list of resources available locally and in the county for them to get some help," Part of the battle against substance abuse for parents is identifying their children's problems, he added.

The program is not limited to adults. "Maybe in the beginning, we'll get a lot of stuff (brought in for testing). Some people will probably be teary. But they shouldn't be. We aren't going to follow them," Murphy said.



Lt. Richard Murphy Promises no trickery

sent by business and community leaders, members of the Farmington Public Schools and police.

Other parts in the 19-point action plan include stepping up enforcement targeting narcotics dealers and distributors; producing videotapes on substance abuse to be available to the school district library, police and video stores; as well as establishing meetings and presentations for local judges and prosecutors on drug awareness and substance abuse.

Dwyer said to have faith in the action plan and expects results to be evident. Enforcement is the easiest to measure simply by the number of arrests and forfeitures of property and cash, he said.

Rehabilitation can be measured by comparing the number of referrals with previous totals.

THE ANALYSIS program is one of many programs and plans the citizens advisory committee is getting off the ground. "It was important to the committee to make sure this (19-point action plan) is all followed and not allowed to fall through the cracks," Dwyer said.

The committee, which meets monthly, "keeps plugging away," said member Betty Nicolay, chairwoman of Farmington Families in Action. It's finally showing that the community — not just the police and FFA — really cares about this problem (substance abuse), she said.

The advisory committee is repre-

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