

How to help the abused child

By Philip A. Sherman
staff writer

An expert in child abuse intervention will speak about coordinated response to child abuse cases during an address this morning in the Oakland County Commissioners Auditorium.

The program Robert Cramer developed as district attorney for Madison County, Ala., will be duplicated here and start this fall, "hopefully in October," said Meg Mitzel, executive director of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council for Oakland County.

Cramer is credited with creating a program where children, in a comfortable, protected environment, are interviewed by professionals who

determine if and what type of abuse occurred. "It involves all in the intervention process to coordinate so as not to 'revictimize' the child," Mitzel said.

HER CONCERN is that normal interviewing techniques can cause a child to relive the trauma of sexual abuse. "The system further traumatizes the child when interviews are not coordinated and take place in many different places," she said.

Under Oakland County's program, to be known as CARE, the Child Abuse Resource Effort, Mitzel expects children to fare well enough during the interviews to provide

court testimony "and get more prosecutions."

CARE House is co-chaired by Richard Thompson, Oakland County prosecutor. Mitzel said she doesn't have a site picked out for the house, but added it probably will be established in Pontiac in order to be accessible to the court system. It will

serve the entire county.

Children will enter CARE through the county's Children's Protective Services Program, Mitzel said. She noted professionals such as social workers, doctors and nurses are required by federal law to refer suspected cases of child abuse to such an agency.

County GOP holds fund-raiser

The annual fund-raising reception for Oakland County Republican commissioners is set 5:30-8 p.m. Thursday, June 29, at Romas of Bloomfield, 2101 S. Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills.

Cost is \$30 and includes snacks, soft drinks, beer, wine and the option

of purchasing mixed drinks.

Checks can be mailed to the GOP Commissioners Committee, 1233 Maryland Blvd., Birmingham 48009. Questions should be directed to Birmingham county commissioner Don Jensen at 647-5830.

MADD aims at summer safety

MADD greets summer with its first K.I.S.S. In addition to its traditional focus on preventing holiday drunk driving, Mothers Against Drunk Driving will stress seasonal safe driving and boating with its second Keep it a Safe Summer (K.I.S.S.) campaign.

This three month summer safety program is designed to reduce the number of drunk driving crashes from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

More than 390 MADD chapters

across the country will support the K.I.S.S. program with blood drives and the distribution of materials such as our K.I.S.S. kits with information on non-alcoholic drinks, safe boating tips, hosting a safe party and bike and pool safety tips. The K.I.S.S. kits also contain activities for children and a keep it a safe summer bumper sticker.

For more information on how you can obtain a K.I.S.S. kit, please contact MADD/Oakland at 693-0270.

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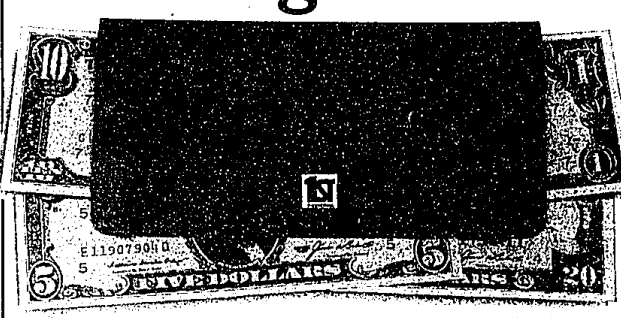
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