Pilot program tackles female drug abuse

What makes women who abuse co-caine different from men? The ques-tion is of paramount importance to a handful of suburban women partici-pating in a state-funded pilot pro-gram and who hope to gain a better understanding of dependence upon cocaine, the illicit drug ruining their lives.

paung in a state-funded pilot program and who hope to gain a better understanding of dependence upon eccaine, the illicit drug rulining their lives.

"Identifying women's issues which are barriers to treatment," is the question at hand, according to Rosal-Execution of Eastwood Clinic Section of Eastwood Clinic Sectio

duous lask of recovery. Child care and transportation are provided. Joan, a 25-year-old mother of two who lost custody of her children, has also damaged her health by wandering the streets for extended periods during harsh winter months while in a drug stuper.

Patty a 45-year-old grandmether.

Shelly, 24, now attending Oakland County Community College, has used drugs half her life.

"MEN ARE OFTENTIMES forced into treatment_just the opposite is true of women," Schwartz said, because society tends to "sweep the issue of [emale addiction under the carpet."

In addition, Schwartz added, women are primary carregivers and

In addition, Schwartz added, wom-en are primary care-givers and "looked at to do eveything. Some never learn to take care of them-selves. They don't know what makes them happy."

These women, however, seem acutely aware of what makes them

CUTTING THE

DEFICIT

ing up." Since entering the program eight weeks ago, she has used drugs on three different occasions.

Sill, her parents and husband, who smokes marijuana, continue to support Kahly's efforts at recovery.

Joan's parents and husband, from whom she is separated, are also supportion, and the separated, are also supported, even after 10 years of continuing sustance abuse. She lives with her parents and works part time in a delicatessen.

"I'm the baby of the family," said Joan, "the only user, the only one who hasn't achieved. I couldn't live up to any of the standards I was rabsed with." Now clean for 53 days, this is Joan's aixth effort at recovery, including four hospital stays.

"I's easy, to get in touch with the Checker of the second of the standard with the conduction of the second of

OF 47 WOMEN processed for admittance into CHOICE since last apring, only 14 have completed the 12-week program or are still in treatment. Sixteen never returned after initial acceptance. Half of the remainder were asked to leave because of continued drug abuse. Urine samples are taken during the session.

Twenty women have been re-ferred to the program by court or-der, 10 for criminal charges and an-other 10 by child protective services. Pam, a young mother of two, is under house arrest for writing bad checks and wears an ankle tether. So is released for CHOICE partici-pation, including counseling, aerobic exercise and evening meetings of al-coholics and narcotics anonymous church. Three evening meetings are required weekly. When gone from home, her children attend nursery school paid for by CHOICE.



Women & COCAINE

Economists:Increase taxes, cut spending

By Dave Varge staff writer.

As Coagress spent the weckend trying to bang out a compromise between House/Democratic and Sensite Pepublican plans for cutting the federal deflett, local economists say the best medicine for our nation would be a bit of both plans.

"While Wis a little undair to categorize broadly, Republicans wan spending cuts, Democrats want higher taxes. They're both right," said

plans include tax hikes for the na-tion's wealthiest taxpayers, but those hikes differ by degrees. One el-ement, a 10 percent surfax on people who carn more than \$1 million, is ex-

pected to be part of a final package. "That lax is more a show than anything else," Tracy said.

thing else," Tracy said.

The House plan, which hits the wealthy hardest, also includes more taxes on alcohol, cigarettes and certain huxury items, but limits Medicare cutbacks and doen't include agosiline tax. The Senate plan doubles the current gas tax, hits harder on Medicare recipients but goes easier on those who earn more than \$200,000 a year.

Representatives in local Congres-

sional offices expected a budget compromise will take until Wednes-Wide 15,000 these people have day when the most recent budget extension, signed by President George Bush Friday, expires.

TAX INCREASES on the wealthy Staff tributed

Both current plans, if enacted to raise taxes on the less wealthy."

Both current plans, if enacted to raise taxes on the less wealthy."

now, would have 'negative impact to raise taxes on the less wealthy."

now the economy, Tracy said. "Both come is paying enough. As far as plans are probably going to speed us up in going into a recession, the loss plan perhaps a little faster."

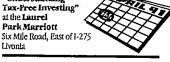
House plan perhaps a little faster."

he said.

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