

C'ville balks on payments for center

The future of the Livonia-Westland Community Commission on Drug Abuse (CODA) still remains in doubt. Funding by the Clarenceville Board of Education is undecided. The board decided Thursday to wait until after tonight's meeting of the Livonia school board to make a decision as to whether or not Clarenceville will continue to support the program.

"We want to see what the other supporters decide before making a decision," said David McDowell, school superintendent.

"We'll put it on the agenda at a later date. Right now we want to see what action the other funding bodies take."

In addition to the Clarenceville, the commission receives funds from the Livonia school board and the cities of Livonia and Westland.

The commission sets policies for operating three drug and alcohol abuse treatment centers in Livonia and Westland and cooperates with another agency in providing part-time service to the Norway area of Westland.

A dispute has arisen over whether CODA should remain under local funding and commission control or continue to expand through state and federal grants and third-party insurance programs such as Blue Cross-Blue Shield.

Programs now provided by CODA and may be cancelled include payment of fees by third-party insurance programs, a program to aid and counsel Westland city employees with drug and alcohol abuse problems, a program now in the planning stages.

It also provides legal assistance to Livonia and Westland residents who may obtain advice and referral on such problems as landlord-tenant disputes, divorce and drug laws. Also offered is free medical checkups and testing for drug problems and venereal disease.



On a clear couch

Debbie Drucker relaxes on the psychiatrist's couch as she listens to Rick Hayes in this scene from Clarenceville High School's production of "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever" to be presented at 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday in the school, 20155 Middlebelt. (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

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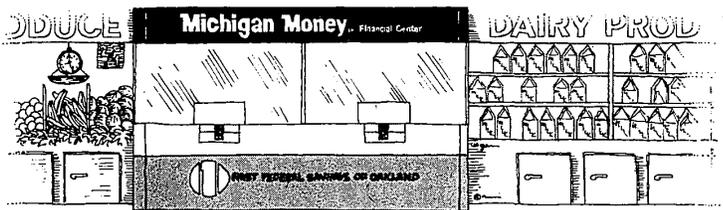
(Continued from page 1A)

ing says. "However, instead of appointing me, they appointed a man who was not employed with the department."

Hills officials ask why Ms. Swadling failed to apply for a police officer position at the end of last year when the department again advertised for police officers. She believes she shouldn't have had to re-apply. None of the other CSOs re-applied for a position, she maintains.

"I also fail to understand the difference between a city-paid CSO and a CETA-paid CSO," she says. "I was led to believe that in Farmington Hills, a CETA-funded individual is second class to a city-paid individual and is not entitled to the same promotional opportunities awarded to city-paid employees."

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