

A program that's 'sadly needed'

Family planning: Starting with a medical checkup

By SUSAN TAUBER

The girl and boy are in high school. They've been dating for several months and have made the decision to have sexual relations. But neither of them wants the girl to get pregnant.

They want to use birth control but are plagued with questions and concerns about different methods.

Until recently, these two teenagers would have few alternatives about where to go for advice. Their choices were to go to a family physician or gynecologist, use methods sold in drug stores or take a chance.

Many teens opt for the last two alternatives. They don't want to go to a family doctor for fear of their parents learning about their birth control needs. If they want to visit a gynecologist, they may not have the money to pay for the appointment.

For the last two months, Rochester area teens have had another alternative about where to go for birth control. A new clinic opened in Avon Township. Under the supervision of public health nurses and nurse practitioners, it offers free to teens under the age of 18 a gynecological check-up, information about birth control methods and the chance to select a method and try it.

The teen can get all this without the consent of her parents.

The clinic is Family Planning Program. It's sponsored by Oakland County Division of Health. The health division received a grant from the state health department in 1972 and the county began the clinics in Oakland County in 1973.

Since the program was set up in Southfield, Pontiac, Walled Lake, Holly, Royal Oak and now Avon Township, 3,000 girls and women have visited the clinics. Some of the patients were as young as 12; some of the teenagers had already had one or two abortions.

THE PROGRAM was started, according to Jacqueline Davis, public health nurse and program coordinator with Oakland County Division of Health in Southfield, the base for the program, because of a concern for teenage pregnancy.

The program is also available for low-income women who can't afford to see a doctor for birth control advice.

"Teenagers under the age of 18 can come to us free," said Mrs. Davis.

"For women over 18, they have to be financially unable to afford care. This may be a woman whose husband is out of work this year. Even if he made \$20,000 last year, if he isn't working

Informing the teenager and woman, examining her with confidence and respect is what Family Planning Program is all about.



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this year, she can use our services."

The program is set up according to U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare guidelines.

Clients need to make an appointment to attend a Family Planning Program clinic. They may call Mrs. Davis at the Family Planning office in Southfield at 424-7020.

"I don't want to be pregnant," was one teenage girl's answer when asked why she went to the Avon Township clinic, which is open 1:5 p.m. every Tuesday.

"It's really interesting going there. It was a learning experience," she said.

MISS X, who went to the clinic with her boyfriend, said she was scared before she went. She had never had a gynecological examination and didn't know what to expect.

"When I went in for my exam, the nurse explained everything to me before she examined me. It wasn't that bad after all."

"I was there for 2½ hours. The women working there gave me a bunch of articles on birth control pills, diaphragm, foam and condoms. My boyfriend and I watched a movie on birth control. The people made us feel very comfortable. They made sure we knew everything about birth control before we left."

Miss X said she was told if she didn't decide what type of birth control method she wanted to use, she could try each one to see which she preferred.

Informing the teenager, examining her, treating her with confidence and respect is what Family Planning Program is all about. Treatment is conducted by trained personnel.

At the Avon Township clinic, there's a clerk, a public health nurse and a registered nurse.

"The public health nurse is a nurse with college degrees who is specially trained in public health. They see the patient as an individual and can offer more than birth control information. They can discuss mental health, alcoholic problems or how to handle a sick child," said Mrs. Davis.

THERE IS ALSO a nurse practitioner at the clinic who served her clinical training at an Avon Township doctors' office.

The doctors, Richard K. Meils, Anthony Nehra and Robert Savin, helped set up guidelines for the Family Planning Program and also supervise the nurses if they need a doctor's input.

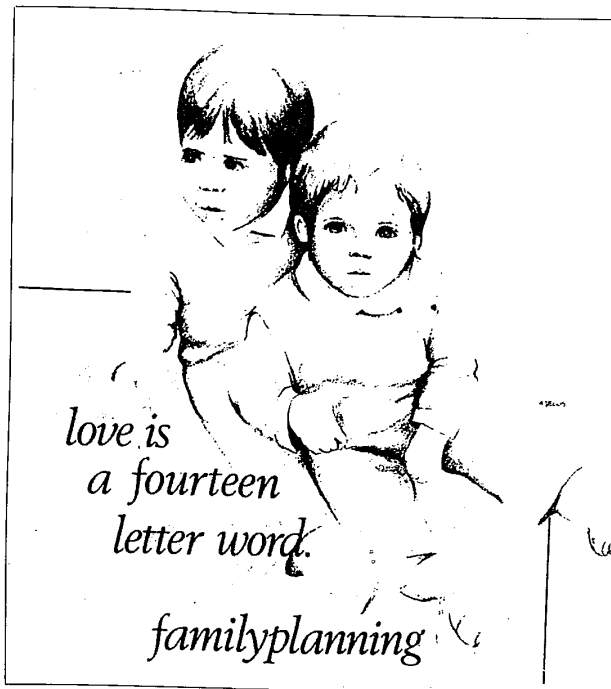
"This clinic is a good thing to have in this area," Meils said. "It's sadly needed and we're happy to sponsor it."

Though the surroundings aren't like a doctor's office, the treatment is much the same.

When a client comes, after she is shown the movie and the clerk takes information about her, she goes into another room where she discusses birth control methods with the public health nurse.

Then she goes into the examining room, where she meets the nurse practitioner who explains the tests to her.

The nurse takes a pap smear to test for cancer, does a test for gonorrhea, and takes blood to test for syphilis, the iron content of the blood and rubella immunity. She takes a urinalysis to rule out diabetes and gives the girl or woman a complete physical examination for already present or



starting abnormalities, such as a vaginal infection.

"IF THE GIRL wants to use an intrauterine device (IUD) for birth control, we wait until we get the test results back to make sure she isn't pregnant before we give it to her," explained Mrs. Davis. In the interim, the girl is given another birth control method to use.

If she decides on a diaphragm, she is given one to practice using. Once the nurse sees she can insert it and take it out correctly, she is given her own.

"We ask the girl using a diaphragm to come back in a week for another visit so we can check it," said Mrs. Davis. Then she doesn't have to come back for another year.

Birth control pills are given free to the clients, as are the other items. If the girl is pregnant and wants an abortion, the nurses give her information on at least three licensed, approved abortion clinics. They don't recommend any.

"We have six clinics with physicians available. They are on call to talk to

the nurse practitioner if she thinks it's necessary. If the client needs to see a doctor, she can be rescheduled to go to a clinic where there is a doctor," Mrs. Davis added.

Teenagers and women eligible to come to a Family Planning Program won't learn about it through advertisements. There aren't any. Folders about the clinics are distributed by public health nurses and, said Mrs. Davis, "We hope school counselors and clergy people are aware of our services are available."

Buildings, programs will increase

New college president envisions growth

By CINDY HOOGLASIAN

Michigan Christian College (MCC) is a long-standing part of the Rochester area.

MCC's president, Walter L. Gilfilen, wants to increase the college's community participation.

"So many people in the area seem to think of MCC as a training school for preachers, stuck away in the trees," Gilfilen said. "Consequently, there is a tendency for a church-related college to feel it is separated from the community. But this isn't the feeling we want."

"We're interested in finding ways to participate more in town activities and draw Rochester people onto our campus," said the president. "One means we're considering is adult education."

This is one of several goals established by the new president. Since Gilfilen assumed the post on Aug. 15, he's been working on long-range developmental plans for MCC and its property.

"I've been working on the expansion of campus facilities, charting locations for new buildings and drawing up a master plan for the institution's full development," he said. "Hopefully, within six months, we'll have a good beginning on a long-range plan for the school."

One of the first changes he'll try to achieve is changing the school's Bible-tutoring image.

MCC is a two-year liberal arts junior college with courses in a broad range of areas, including science and communications. The curriculum is based on required Bible courses and daily chapel.

"WE BELIEVE it's important to teach liberal arts with a Christian influence," Gilfilen said. "It's essential to give a firm ethical and religious background in a liberal arts field."

Even MCC's president takes time each day to attend chapel services on campus. He's also active in Rochester Church of Christ, teaching Bible classes, although he said, "economics and business teaching are more in my background."

Gilfilen had three years of active preaching experience since receiving his masters degree in teaching in 1958. He got his ministry experience while

doing undergraduate work at Harding College in Searcy, Ark.

Gilfilen also hopes to add another bachelor's program to MCC's curriculum—a degree in religious education.

"We hope to offer a broad band of training for many religious fields. The program will be suitable for ministry students, Bible teachers and missionaries."

Gilfilen explained the college is seeking a charter change from the State Board of Education and approval from North Central, the college's accreditation authority.

"It's important to start the bachelor's program with a firm academic accreditation," Gilfilen said.

Though he is considering other bachelor programs, Gilfilen doesn't expect any additions until college enrollment reaches 1,000. Registration for the current term is 529.

GILFILIEN is also working on housing for married students. The father of three children, he realizes the necessity of convenient housing situations for married couples.

The Housing Development Department at Oakland University is helping him with ideas on financial assistance for the new housing. The married student housing is also dependent, he said, on expanded student enrollment.

All expansion ideas are contingent on receiving adequate financial backing, which Gilfilen said increased enrollment can't completely cover.

MCC gets assistance from Associates of MCC, a fundraising group which has managed to raise \$100,000 annually for the college.

Benny Ann Gilfilen, the president's wife, is chairwoman for the board of associates.

The fundraising is for school equipment, chairs for the chapel, paving, library books and operating expenses.

The college also seeks grants and other financial backing to augment the association's fundraising.

"One of the president's primary duties is to get grants for the institution," Gilfilen said. "I spend a lot of time getting private grants. Right now I'm in the midst of a phone-a-thon. Every night this month I'm spending three hours on the phone

calling Churches of Christ around the country in an effort to raise \$100,000.

"MY PERSONAL GOAL is \$1,000 each night. The money will be used for the expansion of our gymnasium. We are planning locker rooms and restrooms." But to begin the work, we have to solidify \$30,000," Gilfilen said.

Before coming to MCC, Gilfilen was employed at Brevard Community College in Cocoa Beach, Fla., as assistant to the president, Don Gardner, former MCC president, called Gilfilen when he was thinking of accepting a position in Houston and suggested he come to Avon Township to interview for the president's job.

"I'm glad to be living in the north again," Gilfilen said.

"This was the first time we've seen the leaves change in 14 years. Our two children have never really seen snow. They know it's real and have a vague idea of what it must look like but they've never experienced it," he said.

Gilfilen's daughter Janice just started her freshman year at MCC.

The youngest, Timothy, is in his sophomore year at Rochester High School. David Mark Gilfilen is a systems engineer with IBM in Nashville, Tenn.

THE GILFILIENS live in the president's house near the school. It's an old farm house on college property.

The students are getting the benefit of the new president's southern hospitality. On Halloween, the Gilfilens had a party for the campus enrollees.

The return north has given Gilfilen a chance to polish up on an old skill—skiing.

"We lived in Idaho for three years before we moved to Florida. I learned to ski there but that was 14 years ago. I think I'll start out on the bunny hill on campus. If I get good enough, I may try 'suicide hill,'" he mused.

Photography has been Gilfilen's hobby.

"I went through graduate school shooting weddings and portraits but I

haven't been doing much work in that area lately," he said.

If Gilfilen takes up photography

again, his new environment will lend itself nicely to the art. As he strolled behind the administration building, he

stopped briefly saying, "This lake will be just beautiful when it freezes and there's snow all around."

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