Keep CVC open, lawmakers asked

By Suzie Rollins Singer staff writer

A group of Oakland County residents. Wednesday appealed to members of the state Legislature not to close Clinton Valley Center, a mental health unit at Pontiac.

The group — comprised of staff persons, health board members, residents

sons, health board members, residents-qui-large and former patients — calls jiself an Ad Hoc Commitee to Save Clinton Valley Center. Headed by Dorothy Eicker of Bir-mingham, they testified in Lansing be-force. the House Appropriations Com-mittee's mental health sub-committee.

mittee's mental health sub-committee.

"THE GOVERNOR has asked the legislature to find more money to keep the facility open, and we're going to try and convince them it's absolutely necessary," she said.

In June, the state Department of Mental Health targeted Clinton Valley to be closed in November if it could not secure \$550 million from the Legisla. The country of the country

ing Northville Regional Psychiatric Hospital. However, there are no plans for relo-cating the remaining 240 patients.

"THERE IS no definite plan for these people if Clinton Valley were to be closed. It would cost more to send these people to to ther centers than to bring CVC up to code," Eicker said.
"There's no provision for the other half of the group, Foster home care has been a concern to many people, and there are too many negative reactions to rely on that form of help," she added.

Gov. William Milliken's original budget message asked for \$534 million for the Department of Mental Hort Fle Legislature, however, appropriate \$528 million. Recently, Milliken asked lawmakers to appropriate \$6.5 million they cut from his request.

Milliken's request would allow three centers — Clinton Valley, a Caro mental health center and a Kalamazoo center — to remain open.

The Oakland County Board of Com-

missioners as well as the Oakland County Community Health Services Board has gone on record opposing Clinton Valley's closing.

Group to fight utility fuel bill ballot plan

A new Michigan citizens coalition announced plans to fight a Nov. 2 ballot
proposal which it says would cause
nigher unemployment rates as well as
higher utility bills.

They are oposing a proposal by the
Michigan Citizens Lobby which would
eliminate automatic fuel adjustments
of utility bills and would make all rate
cides subject or full-rate hearings.

James Barrett, president of the Micidens State Chamber of Commerce,
said the ballot proposal that stemmed
from a petition drive by the Michigan

Citizens Lobby spells economic disaster for the state.

"We have the highest unemployment rate in the country affeady, We've braved our third year of we're beginned to be compared to be compared to be compared to be compared to recover, the initiative could deliver the knock-out blow," Barrett said. The group, called Citizens for Michigan Jobs and Energy, is supporting instead a legislative proposal that is awaiting court certification to get on the ballot — a proposal Barrett called "sensible and rational."

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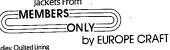
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