

Prosecutors endorse anti-drug team

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

A parent involvement program started by two Livonia women has been formally endorsed by a state prosecuting attorney's organization.

The program, Parent to Parent, is designed to help prevent and fight substance abuse by young people. Parent to Parent began in the Clarenceville School District last year and is being used in the Livonia school district as well.

Clarenceville takes in parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills. Most of Livonia and northern

Westland are included in Livonia Schools.

"It's just a good common sense approach and it seems to be working," said Tom Robertson, assistant executive secretary of the Prosecuting Attorney's Coordinating Council, in explaining the association's support for the program. "We thought it would be a good thing to recommend to parent organizations and the various communities in the state."

"We're very excited about it, and we feel that it's an important step," said Kathy Kallio of Livonia Families in Action. Kallio and Eileen Ross, also of LFIA, developed the

Parent to Parent program.

THE ENDORSEMENT came at the prosecuting attorneys' annual mid-winter conference, held Jan. 21-23. The focus of the conference was drug abuse among children, and what could be done to prevent it.

Among the speakers at the meeting were law and judicial representatives from around the country.

"As part of the overall theme, (Kallio and Ross) presented a couple of workshops," Robertson said. "The prosecutors were impressed, and indicated they would endorse the program and recommend it to others."

Kallio said she and Ross were invited to the conference by Maura Corrigan of the assistant U.S. attorney's office. Corrigan has attended some of the Parent to Parent training sessions, Kallio said.

THE SESSIONS give parents a chance to help each other establish rules for their children and support one another in enforcing those rules.

"They're now motivated to do many things about this (substance abuse) problem," Kallio said. "One of the people that was trained said, 'What you have done, you have given us a common ground to work from.'"

Parent to Parent training sessions were conducted with parents from Washington Elementary School in Livonia.

Since then, the Washington School group has held a "potluck/pot talk" dinner, at which representatives of the Livonia Police Department talked about drugs, and a community meeting to watch "A Generation at Risk," a public television show concerning problems among teens.

"THE BASIC theory that I felt from it was that if the parents of all the peers of their children got together and established the basic ground rules and stuck with that, their children wouldn't be as susceptible to peer pressure as they would be without it," said Judy Boltrick, a Washington School parent who took part in the program. "They're not

going to have the need or desire to go against the rules, because their friends can't."

"I really thought it was a benefit," she said. "You do a lot of different things. It gets people back together on a social basis."

The five-week program includes information on substance abuse — such as statistics, ages when youngsters start using drugs and alcohol and reasons why they start — and activities every week for parents to do with their children.

Thirty-six parents were trained through the program at Clarenceville, and 10 at Washington School, Kallio said. She said plans are to take Parent to Parent to Farmington and Dearborn.

Basic cable rates upped

MetroVision's 21,000 subscribers will pay more for basic cable service in 1987.

As of Feb. 1, MetroVision's basic service (Tier III, channels 2-113) will increase from \$10.45 to \$12.45 a month, said Lark Samouelian, executive director of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.

"There will be no increase in costs for other services," Samouelian said, adding subscribers were notified by mail of the increase.

MetroVision's rate increase was expected in light of the government deregulation — the 1984 Cable Communications Policy Act — that took effect Jan. 1.

The new law enables cable television companies to increase their monthly rates without obtaining approval from local government units that hold the cable television franchise.

Cable industry officials, including those at MetroVision, felt past government regulations forced companies to come in under the profit margin they originally expected when first franchising with municipalities.

A rate increase in the basic cable service will help offset the cost of providing premium services, such as the special movie channels, that have not been hit with a rate increase, Samouelian said.

MetroVision provides cable television services to residents in Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills. The cable commission represents the three cities.

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