

Drug Users Can Come Back Through New Day Program

By MARGARET MILLER

A "coming of age" for the Community Commission on Drug Abuse means new hope for many in this area who want to shake addiction. The commission, with an expanded staff and program, is beginning an every-day, long-term program to help addicts find a new way of life.

In addition, CCOODA is trying out new methods of preventing drug problems in the area. The rehabilitation program takes the form of "day care" already under way in the commission aide centers at 3310 Five Mile in Livonia and at 5908 N. Wayne, Westland.

Funded through a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, this rehabilitation is offered to any resident of northwest Wayne County who will commit himself to the daily program.

It is being started with a small group and will add more clients, up to 25 in each center.

Hopes for success, said Mike Bogolea, CCOODA director, lie largely in the gearing of the program to the needs of people in this area and in the fact that it will bring community involvement into rehabilitation.

Bogolea said the day care program, to be supervised by Pauline Slobodnick of the CCOODA staff, and the new move toward drug use prevention, headed by staffer Marion Rousseau, are parts of a plan to increase the commission's community impact.

"There are four areas of the drug problem in which our organization has been involved from the beginning," he explained.

"First, there's awareness—identifying the reality of drug addiction in our community. Then there is education, providing facts and honest information as opposed to myths and fears.

"We also must deal with prevention, not necessarily setting a goal of total abstinence, which might be stoption, but pointing out other alternatives to keep the individual from an involvement that prevents his functioning.



"And finally there is rehabilitation, getting to the person who has been harmed by drugs to the situation where he no longer can function, physically or psychologically."

Bogolea said the four aspects all are important "but at first we found we had to concentrate mostly on awareness and education.

"Now," he added, "we can get more into the other areas, and we're expanding our staff and program to do so."

In the matter of drug abuse prevention, several new programs are being initiated by Mrs. Rousseau, Livonia mother of four who joined the CCOODA staff two months ago after serving as a volunteer.

She is making plans to get into elementary schools with factual drug information — "those kids really get scared about things being pushed at them when they get to junior high" — and she has started a question and answer newspaper column and a "Analysis Anonymous" program.

In the latter, several area drug stores have agreed to analyze substances brought to them and let the finder know the content—all completely and carefully anonymously.

Mrs. Slobodnick, Plymouth resident and mother of an eight-year-old son, started to develop the day care program when she came to CCOODA on a full-time basis last May.

That program she calls a therapeutic community and it's aimed at clients 17 to 25 years old, although there may be some outside that age range.

It's an eight-hour-a-day, five-day-a-week program and it can run as long as five months," she said, "and it involves genuine commitment on the part of the clients."

The program will include individual, group, and vocational counseling along with developing job skills, recreation and trips to places of interest in the community.

"What we're trying to do is help these people get really high on things other than drugs," Bogolea added, "so

our aim is to help them find other interests in the community and jobs when they are ready for them."

Involvement of the total community—parents, friends, schools, businesses—in relation to the clients also is planned. Evening sessions probably will be set up.

Close study of two programs has gone into the plans for the CCOODA day care set-up. One was worked out for hard-drug addicts under the Narcotics Addiction Rehabilitation Act II and the other has been instituted in Florida and is known as The Seed.

"We've tried to adapt these ideas to our specific community," Bogolea said.

In this area, addiction is more likely to be to such drugs as barbiturates rather than heroin or opium, and that calls for a different sort of rehabilitation.

"And more people involved will be from a suburban area, with a more or less defined life style."

The method of adding clients also should help the program achieve its goals, Bogolea added.

"The small number now starting the program forms a nucleus group," he explained. "We'll gradually fill the other spots, but always we'll have a nucleus of people who have been in the program longer than others."

Bogolea said the Community Commission on Drug Addiction hopes soon to give more attention to another drug problem—alcoholism.

"We're finding more and more young alcoholics," he said, "and more multiple drug use. Alcohol and barbiturates seem to be becoming more popular, and that's a lethal combination."



AN OLD-FASHIONED Day at the Races will raise funds for a modern new X-ray machine for St. Mary Hospital on Wednesday, Oct. 10. Friends of St. Mary are sponsoring the gala from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Detroit Race Course, Middle Belt at Schoolcraft. Tickets for \$25 will cover a steak dinner, cocktails, a program and a reserved seat for the race program, and a musical afterward also is planned. Tickets may be obtained by calling the hospital. Getting into the spirit of bygone days are seated, from left, Mrs. Dieter Rohl and Dr. and Mrs. Phillip LaFata, all of Livonia, and standing, from left, Dr. Robert Lilly of Farmington, Mrs. Jacob Sobleraj of Dearborn and Mrs. Robert Lilly. (Observer photo by Maurie Walker)



MARION ROUSSEAU (left), Pauline Slobodnick and Mike Bogolea check over plans for the new day care program being offered by the Community Commission on Drug Abuse. (Observer photo by Maurie Walker)

What's In Future?

Living Better For Retarded

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of two articles on Community Living Centers, Inc.

By MARGARET MILLER

When Mary Wagner of Farmington first learned

years ago that her son Tony was retarded, she went out and drove around for hours wondering "Why did this have to happen to me?"

But because this mother faced her problem with honesty and energy and originality, her son and scores of other adult retardates are living useful, contented lives at minimum cost to society. In the cases of Tony and some others, at no cost at all.

Mary Wagner's only real worry now is that the Community Living Centers, Inc., which she and her husband, Robert, helped found, can't find room for all who want to come to the homes where retardates live and hold jobs under supervision.

"I get such tearful stories," said Mrs. Wagner, who now serves as executive director of four homes currently operated by CLC. "The retarded just don't fit into a normal home and they aren't happy there.

"With their own homes and supervision all the way they lead useful lives — some pay taxes instead of being supported by state aid."

Community Living Centers, Inc., currently housing 150 persons in four homes has a waiting list of more than 200.

Thirty-two more retardates will be accepted when a pair of new homes open in Farmington early next year.

These are the first in the country of their type being built on federal funds under

the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The retardates who move in will pay, like those in two Farmington homes and one each in Hazel Park and Pontiac, a monthly room and board tab of \$24. Some earn this money on jobs they hold; some receive part of it from the Michigan Department of Social Services aid to the handicapped.

Mrs. Wagner figures it costs Community Living Centers, Inc., \$12 a day per person to operate the homes and provide, in addition to living costs, supervision, counseling and transportation to and from jobs.

That's far below the \$30 to \$40 cost that has been estimated for keeping a retarded person in a state institution.

Since 1969, when Wagner House opened in Farmington as the first CLC home, the program has been developed through a federal Developmental Disabilities grant.

"This is a research and demonstration grant," Mrs. Wagner said, "and with it we've shown that we can do this job well on \$12 a day. Of this, \$8 is room and board — often paid in full by our clients — and the other \$4 is for supervision, counseling and transportation."

With the federal grant coming to an end, Mrs. Wagner said the organization is seeking State Mental Health funds that have been set

Erma Bombeck At Northville Town Hall

Columnist Erma Bombeck will lead off the Northville Town Hall series, relocated for its 1973-74 season, on Thursday, Oct. 11.

Lecture and celebrity luncheons both will be held in the Thunderbird-Hilton, 1470 Northville Road, with the talk beginning at 11 a.m. and the luncheon served when it is completed.

Some season tickets for the series, which also includes "Fat Bob" Taylor, the singing plumber, transactional analysis expert J.A. Brown, and interior decorator Donald Brooks, still are available for \$12.

Future lectures are scheduled Nov. 8, March 14 and April 25. Write to Northville Town Hall, Box 53, Northville, 48167, to order season tickets, or call Mrs. Donald D'Como, 18257 Edenberry, Northville.

No single tickets are being sold for the Bombeck lecture.

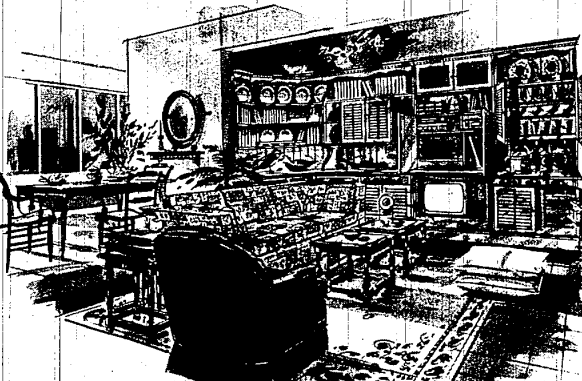


ERMA BOMBECK

Oct. 5, from Mrs. Richard Booms, 18339 Laraguth, Northville. No single tickets are left for the luncheon next week.

Lectures and luncheons all are being held in the Thunderbird-Hilton's Essex room.

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