

Anti-cancer service proposed

Oakland County could become the first governmental unit in the nation to offer a breast cancer detection service.

County Executive Daniel Murphy has asked the county board of commissioners to approve his \$100,000 program that would combine a relatively new detection technique called thermography with more conventional methods of detecting breast cancer in women.

The program, which will be considered in committee before going to the full county board for vote, would make the detection service available to women in Oakland County for free or a small charge of probably under five dollars.

THE PROGRAM. offering a simple and safe detection method, would be coordinated with the American Cancer Society, the Michigan Cancer Foundation and various hospitals, clinics and private physicians.

This disease is the major cause of death due to cancer among women, Murphy said. More than 22,000 women die annually in the United States of breast cancer and the mortality rate has not significantly changed in 40 years. About one woman in 15 will develop breast cancer at some time in her life.

According to Murphy's figures, about 140 women die annually of this cause in Oakland County and 340 new cases are likely to be diagnosed in 1975.

"I BELIEVE part of the failure to lower the breast cancer mortality rate has been due to the lack of easily available mass screening programs," Murphy said. "I'm confident the service we are proposing would have a significant impact on breast cancer deaths in Oakland County and would provide incentive for other governmental units in the state and nation to supply similar programs for their citizens."

The \$100,000 cost of the program would cover the first year's expenses. The thermography equipment would cost \$29,000 and salaries for the five paid staffers required would be \$45,000.

Initially, the screening service would be located at the Oakland County Health Department in the county service center in Pontiac. If the board approves the program, Murphy said the service could be offered within three months.

THE THERMOGRAPHIC process measures heat emission from the skin. Patients stand in front of the equipment for approximately two minutes while it televises heat emanating from the skin surface.

Because active tumors generate heat, they show up on the television image. All women with positive or suspicious findings would be referred for prompt attention.

The thermography would be accompanied by clinical examination of the breasts and obtaining a medical history from each woman.

The entire process would take about 30 minutes.

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Ex-guard pleads guilty

OAKLAND COUNTY—Larry Young, the former Oakland County Jail guard charged with supplying drugs to inmates has pleaded guilty and will be sentenced Thursday (March 13) by Oakland County Circuit Court Judge John N. O'Brien.

Young, 25, pleaded guilty two weeks ago to three charges of delivering a controlled substance.

Following an investigation last spring, Young was also believed to have been involved in smuggling prisoners out of jail overnight for a fee.

LT. HARRY JONES, jail administrator, said last spring that Young allegedly unlocked a side door of the jail, through which inmates in groups of two or three would exit by means of a key which overrides the electronically monitored security system. Young allegedly was able to release the men about midnight and return them to their 40 man dormitory in the jail early the next morning.

According to other sources, Young stayed with the prisoners at all times while on the outside. On a few occasions, Young allegedly took the prisoners to a motel where they were met by women. Later, drugs were reportedly brought back to the jail.

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