



SAC News

Student Assistance Center at CARE

A publication between CARE's Student Assistance Center & Macomb County Schools

FALL 2006

No Magic Wands

It is sometimes frustrating when a student is referred to CARE for an assessment and given recommendations on actions they can take to solve their problem and there is no follow-through.

This happens for a number of reasons: the parents are not committed to following the recommendations, the student refuses to be involved, the student (and parents) do not believe there is a problem, or the student (and parents) are just not ready to take action.

Does this mean the referral should not have been made? "Why try? They won't follow through." The answer to the question is an emphatic "no." When a problem is recognized by school personnel, the referral should always be made. Assist in TRYING to get the student help. We can offer opportunities that will improve the life of the child, should those opportunities be taken.

But that is where it ends. You (or me!) can not do it for them. Not only can you **not** do it for them, you are not supposed to do it for them. In the words of a good social worker: "that crosses boundaries."

So what can you do?

- You can make a "school referral" or provide information to the family and they can visit CARE on their own – with out school personnel knowing that they have decided to get help. (Only schools with full service agreements with CARE can offer families the opportunity to visit CARE without a formal referral. Call for more information.)
- Make sure that students, families and staff know that this service is available.
- Share this newsletter with counselors, other staff and families. Put information in school newsletters. Schedule an informational session for your staff during a regularly scheduled meeting.

While we want to save the world, or at least save those students we work with, there is no magic wand that we can use.

Appropriate reasons for referrals:

1. Behavior problems that may warrant treatment
2. Concerns about the use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs
3. Grief and loss issues
4. Family situations that are impacting the child's ability to cope

Are Zero Tolerance Policies Effective in Schools?

The American Psychological Association (APA) says schools are neither safer nor more effective in disciplining children than they were before zero tolerance policies started being implemented in the mid-1980s. The research also shows that while school violence is a serious issue, violence in schools is "not out of control." The report says the policies, which typically impart severe punishments on youth regardless of the severity or context of the infraction - like bringing cough drops to school in violation of a no-drug policy - can increase bad behavior and lead to more dropouts.

Based on the study results, the APA adopted a resolution recommending ways to target discipline more effectively and eliminate such one-size-fits-all punishments.

This 141-page free report is available at www.apa.org/ed/cpse/zttfreport.pdf or by calling 202-336-5707.

Young Women's Work

CARE will facilitate an ongoing 12-week program for girls ages 13-16 who are experiencing difficulty with relationships, school commitments and other social situations. The curriculum was developed by Hazelden and address class-based violence, disruptive behaviors and gender and race issues. Ongoing classes begin in January 2007.

Please call Paddy Laske at 586-541-0033 ext. 216 for more information.



Possible Funding

Lowe's Toolbox for Education donates \$5 million to nearly 1,000 school in 50 states. Funding supports parent/group teacher projects that increase community spirit. Visit www.toolboxforeducation.com for more information.

You can now view SAC News
on our website!
Visit www.careofmacomb.com

**2005-2006
Funding for
Student Assistance**

School Agreements	\$90,094.38
Grants	\$40,800.00
Fundraising	\$33,927.42
Total:	\$164,821.80

teenintervene

Teen Intervene is a program for youth, ages 12-19 who are suspected of experiencing mild or moderate problems associated with alcohol or other drug use.

Teen Intervene is a research based program, developed by the Hazelden Foundation, and offers school districts an opportunity to refer youth in lieu of suspension.

A three-part parent session is run simultaneously and is mandatory for teen participation.

Call Lynda Zott at 586-541-0033 ext. 215

THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE CENTER CAN HELP!

Confidential Clinical Assessments for
Family Problems - Alcohol/Drug Use
Personal Stress - Emotional Problems

Services are confidential and
FREE to students who qualify.

586-541-2273 (CARE)

The Student Assistance Center is partially funding by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund, Detroit Newspaper Partnership, L.P., the Detroit Free Press, Macomb County school districts and fundraising efforts.

CARE Receives Recognition

- ◆ Macomb County Fetal Alcohol Resources Education & Support (MCFARES), a coalition supported by CARE, was recognized by the State of Michigan through Resolution 301, designating September 9 as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day in Michigan.
- ◆ Metro Detroit Youth Day, chaired by Goodwill Industries and the Michigan Food & Beverage Association, awarded CARE with a Certificate of Appreciation for its involvement in 2006 Detroit Youth Day.
- ◆ Kathy Rager, Executive Director, received an award from the Macomb Intermediate School District for service to schools.

Anger Management for Adolescents

Six sessions teach family members how to manage their strong emotions more effectively.

Please contact Paddy Laske at
586-541-0033 for upcoming dates.

Lutheran Services provides services to teen parents. Call 586-558-4798 for more information.

CARE ALSO OFFERS

Staff Training for
Managing Stress
Handling Difficult Students
Diversity in the Classroom
Conflict Resolution
Compassion Fatigue
Effective and Assertive Communication

More Educational Groups
Anger Management for Adults
Improving Relationships
Effective Parenting



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Office Hours:
M, T, TH: 8:30 am - 9:00 pm
W & F: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

The SAC is located within the CARE office, which is on the southeast corner of Utica Road & Masonic (13 ½ Mile Road) in Fraser