

City district

Continued from Page 1

In October, 1983, as part of that process, the city school board unanimously adopted a set of principles developed by the coalition in regard to sex education and family-living programs. The principles, which were based on parental input from a series of community forums, emphasize the role of families, respect for cultural and religious values and the need to improve communication between parents and teens.

Teen Pregnancy Coalition members wrote in the letter that, contrary to those principles, the clinic proposal would:

- hinder parents' role as the primary sex educator;
- contradict parents' values regarding premarital sex and birth control by offering contraceptive counseling;
- legitimize and promote sexual intercourse before marriage;
- ignore cultural and religious differences present in the community;
- fail to involve family members in discussions of adolescent sexuality; and
- inhibit communication between parents and adolescents through its confidentiality requirements.

Clinic opponents also argue that the process of community consultation used to develop the proposal was "confusing," that the proposal is not truly community-based and that it does not respond to parents' requests for assistance in communicating their values to their children.

In addition, the letter cited concern over "serious, unresolved issues and problems" with an existing health clinic operated by Thresh-

old Center for Alternative Youth Services, Inc., at Franklin Junior/Senior High School.

"Four years of experience with the school district/CAS (Community Adolescent Services) operation at Franklin has raised more questions than it answers regarding adherence to the principles of the school district and the coalition," the letter stated. "No information is available regarding the criteria for success or how the district decided that this approach merits expansion."

Manuel Rivera, assistant superintendent for student support services of the Rochester City School District, does not believe the proposal violates the district's principles.

"Those are good principles," he said. "We have every intention, through our policies and practices, of living up to those principles."

Although the district's proposal is due November 1, it has yet to resolve the issue of how parents' consent would be obtained for a student to use the clinic and whether parents will be informed each time their children are treated.

"There will be parental consent — definitely," Manuel Rivera said. "The board of education has made it clear that parents must be informed of the services the clinic would provide, have a clear idea of what they are and have the right to reject certain services."

However, the policies and procedures for meeting those criteria haven't yet been identified.

Parents and members of the group developing the proposal have also raised questions about the legality of informing a student's parents each time he or she receives services. "Basically, we can't require that that occur because it's against the law," Rivera said.

At a meeting October 17, a subcommittee of the group developing the proposal decided to appoint a group of parents, students, social

workers, an attorney, clergy, teachers and district staff, among others, to study both issues.

"They would look in detail at finalizing the parental consent form and . . . deal with the question of the feedback loop, so that it is not a violation of the law, but addresses the rights and responsibilities of students, parents and doctors," Rivera said.

Although district officials plan to describe the process by which consent and feedback issues are being resolved in their proposal, Rivera said that the lack of specifics could damage its chances.

As far as clinic opponents are concerned, reconsidering the approach described in earlier meetings is unfair to parents. "The school board can not assume positive reactions from parents whose basis for support may have been removed from the program," they wrote.

Members of the Monroe County Teen Pregnancy Coalition include: the Genesee Valley Office of Social Ministry; Catholic Family Center and the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry; the Baden Street Settlement; Action for Better Community; the Ibero-American Action League; the United Methodist Church's Community Ministries Committee; the Monroe County Health Department; Planned Parenthood; the Anthony Jordan Health Center; and the City School District.

Those who oppose the clinic proposal plan no further action before the Teen Pregnancy Coalition's next scheduled meeting in December.

As of Monday, October 27, they had received no formal response to their letter from the city school district.

Annual festival concert set for Perinton musical groups

Under the direction of Virginia Hogan, the Perinton Community Chorus and Orchestra (PCCO) will present its fall festival concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 2, at Minerva Deland Auditorium on Hulburt Street in Fairport.

PCCO will open its 11th season with a premiere performance of "An American Romance" for piano and orchestra by composer and concert pianist, Anthony Crain. Dr. Crain, professor of music at the State University College at Oswego, will debut his original work as guest soloist with the Perinton Community Orchestra.

The Community Chorus will perform Brahms', "Liedeslieder Walzer" and "Frosiana," a set of country songs from the poems of Robert Frost set to music by Randall Thompson.

The program will close with the chorus and

orchestra joining together for a performance of the beautiful thanksgiving chorus, "The Promise of Living" from Aaron Copeland's opera, "The Tender Land." This will conclude the first of five major concerts PCCO has planned for this season. Tickets are \$4 and may be obtained at the door by calling (716)223-9006.

On November 4 and 6, the chorus and orchestra will also begin rehearsals for its annual performance of Handel's "Messiah." Rehearsals take place at both Minerva Deland and Martha Brown Schools in Fairport on Tuesday evenings (chorus) and Thursday evenings (orchestra).

All are welcome to attend and try out. Call the aforementioned number or write to PCCO Inc., 20 Little Briggings, Fairport, 14450 for information.

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