

Press Briefing on Straight and TX War on Drugs
2/10/1982 - 3:30pm

OA 16999

MacDonald, Donald Ian (MacS); F

STRAIGHT

- I. A primary drug free treatment facility geared to the needs of young people
 - A. Origin
 1. Parent Group formed in St. Petersburg, Florida in 1976 - Small LEAA Grant
 2. Late August 1976 - Treatment Facility opened
 - B. Goal of Program - Family Involvement
 1. Send clear message that Drug Use by young people is not accepted
 2. Whole family involvement
 3. Constructive use of peer pressure against drug use (99% of kids resist 3 or 4 times)
 4. Deal with peer pressure that drugs are good - set goals of:
 - a. Honesty
 - b. Good Family Relations
 - c. Constructive relationships with peers
 - d. Set Value Systems
 - C. Approach of STRAIGHT
 1. Mixture of Many approaches
 - a. AA
 - b. Social approach - Routine
 - c. New Ways to deliver
 2. Program is changed as needed.
 - D. How Young People get to Straight
 1. Parents make decision.
 2. Medical Referral - Pediatric Population
 3. Miscellaneous from mental Health units, Juvenile Justice, Law Enforcement
 4. Ph.D., M.D. - Mental Health Specialist

II. How organized - Ranges from

A. Five Phases involved with various levels of responsibilities and time in each phase.

1. Phase 1 - Min. 14 day, Average 40 days

- a. Get kids to admit problem and how they got in their condition
- b. 12 hour day 7 days a week at facility
- c. Kids live with family in the community. Peer in family has been or is in Straight
- d. Peer counseling
- e. Vote of peers and counselors.

2. Phase 2 - Average 21 days Goal - Gradual restructuring family unit

- a. Child works on self image
- b. Can live at home or as a respons
- c. Parent can visit and spend weekend together if not at home
- d. Kid must ask to go the Phase 3
- e. Staff vote

3. Phase 3 - Average 25 days - works on Peer

- a. Returns to school
- b. Learns how to deal with negative peer pressure
- c. At STRAIGHT 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm and All day on week-end
- d. Kids ask for Phase 4 and Staff votes

4. Phase 4 - Min. 90 days, Average 100 days Personal Responsibility - gradual withdrawal from Program

- a. Four days a week after school and weekend
- b. Learns how to use free time constructively
- c. Establishes strong ties with family by being given permission to do things with friends.
- d. Can be reagedned to other phases if needed
- e. Ask and Staff Votes

5. Phase 5 - Average 60 days - Social Responsibility
 - a. Kids in Phase 5 help run the program
 - b. Supervise and organiza functions
 - c. Graduation Seventh Step

III. Miscellaneous

- A. Average Time in Program 246 days: about 8 months
- B. Cost 1,000 to 2,500 depending on Family
- C. Never turned a family away because of money
- D. Over 600 kids have been through the program
- E. 57.8% of first 600 (going back 5 years) have remained drug free
- F. Board of Directors
 1. 1/3 are parents whose kids have been through STRAIGHT
 2. 1/3 are parents whose kids have been through other treatment facilities
 3. 1/3 are people who are community leaders

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II. How organized - Ranges from approximately 24 to 40 days. (8-2 months)

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TEXANS WAR ON DRUGS
Committee

I. History and Goals

- A. Set up by Government ^{of} Clements in 1979
- B. Comprised of 17 members, Prominent Texans
- C. Goals of Committee:
 - 1. Pass Laws that would make Texas the least desirable state to be a drug dealer.
 - 2. Make sure there are uniform and consistent Law enforcement throughout all counties in Texas
 - 3. Organize Parents at Grass roots to reduce drug use among youth

II. Results - Package of bills were presented to Texas Legislature

- A. Head Shop Bill - Passed is a bill against drug paraphernalia
 - 1. Consists of proving intent to
 - 2. Only bill of its kind not under challenge in courts.
- B. Sale to minors - Tough Law with Tough penalties to Adults who sale or give drugs to minors
- C. Trafficking Bill - Set up Several New provisions for Dealers
 - 1. Large Commercial dealers will receive stiff penalties
 - a. 12 ounces of Heroin or Cocaine and over 200 pounds of pot = 15 years
 - b. Forfeiture off Assets
 - c. Conspiracy Clause
 - 2. Law passed and is functional
- D. Additative Law - Provides for protection of glue and paint sniffers
 - 1. Additives to be put in glue - oil of mustard
 - 2. Aditative to be developed for paints

E. Health Care Professionals. Those caught dealing in illegal drug activities will lose right to practice immediately and permanently.

F. Triplicate Prescriptions. Regulates prescription for certain abusable drugs

1. CA, IL, NY and ID have similar laws

2. Supported by Medical community

III. Funded by Members of Committee - No Government money in operation of Committee.

A. Non-Profit foundation under TWDC

B. Function of Non-Profit foundation TWDC

1. Education in Community

a. Seminars

b. Publications

c. Parent Groups

d. Service Clubs

2. Director - Six field representatives run program

3. State is broken into regions

IV. Grass roots support critical - All legislation passed as packed because of over 100,000 letter and many visits of parents to Senators and Representatives.

V. Parents Groups number ofver 3000 in Texas.

A. Visit with five people of Ricchardson Families in Action.

B. Predate TWDC.

Parent Awareness 2nd
Responsibility

Prevention

concept 7915 of 2

OPERATION PAR'S ALPHA PROGRAM

The ALPHA Program at Pinellas Park Elementary School, St. Petersburg, Florida, is one of ten ALPHA projects in the state.
Operation PAR initiated the program in Pinellas County three years ago.

behavior modification

The ALPHA Program is a school-based prevention program serving children, ages 9 through 12, who show early signs of having future personal, social or academic problems. The goal is to prevent later problems by intervening in the early stage of child development by stopping self-defeating patterns of behavior from ever starting or continuing. The program seeks to teach these children self-control and to develop a positive self-image.

The program is a ^{3 days a week} 15-week session. Twenty children are taken out of their regular classes three days a week to attend classes in the ALPHA Center. In addition to their regular academic program, they receive group and individual counseling. At the conclusion of the 15-week period, they "graduate" and return to their regular classrooms.

Two things about the project are of special interest. Before a child is accepted into ALPHA, their parents must commit to meet with the counsellors and the teachers at least once every two weeks. Children whose parents won't participate are not accepted. The family aspect of child development is an essential part of the program.

Second, the program, while it is run in the schools, is coordinated and administered by an outside drug prevention facility. In this case, the school provides the classroom and a teacher, and Operation Parental Awareness and Responsibility provides the counsellors and coordinator.

This program is funded by a special appropriation by the Florida State Legislature with supplemental funds from the Pinellas County United Way.

Susan King

#

founder
State's Attn
County Sheriff
Citizens
Very serious drug
problem
Education &
Parents.

1969

PAR - Comprehensive Substance Abuse
Education & Prevention

People 350 in Treatment

≈ 300 people adults etc
in prevention

Primary school program
90 minutes school
classroom

Alpha Program in one school

Youngster that display some
difficulty with school
work & social + recreation

3 days a week for 12 weeks

Goal is Improved behavior
youngster + parent to assume
responsibility

Parents involved in counseling
3, 4, 5 hrs 9 to 12

7 yrs Ago

~~3 yrs Ago~~

~~PAR Treatment~~

{ Some drug free some non drug free
Residential Large Parent
Participation in all program

Trustee 1970 - Funded
NIMH → NIDA
State → Local - Client
Fees united way

Pres. + 60% NIDA
20% State
20% United Way

Board of Directors 14 ^{private-report} D Local /
People Community

Average - Length of stay

<u>Average Cost</u> \$9,000/yr	→	<u>Residential</u>	12 to 15 months
\$7,000/yr	→	<u>Outpatient</u>	12 months
\$350/yr	→	<u>Early Intervention</u>	5 weeks of evaluation

NINA

ONLY Program that does a Drug

Prevalence Study = Similar to Hullabal
Saver

13% Daily Marijuana

Referrals

- a) ~~Law & Courts~~ Legal System
- b) Parents
- c) Media / Community

Due to questions in the press emanating from the Court hearing today concerning STRAIGHT, Inc. the parties (and some parents through counsel) are hopeful that this statement will help alleviate public and parental concerns.

The parties share a desire that children with drug problems receive appropriate care and treatment if their individual needs require such services.

The Parties have agreed on a process to review and then resolve the concerns that they, parents or clients may have about STRAIGHT, INC. This process includes the nomination of an independent committee to confirm the adequacy of the admission, treatment and discharge procedures utilized in the program, in general and in respect to the remaining habeas corpus petitions. This review will include cooperation on an interim basis, review of all complaints, cooperating within the ongoing Department of Human Resources licensing process, and negotiations to make any necessary long-term adjustments in the program.

Each side further regrets any undue concerns of parents or children which may have arisen. Each side acknowledges that the other has proceeded in good faith on all petitions and in regard to Travis Crow and acknowledges that such actions proved unnecessary, as the evidence indicated he was voluntarily participating in the program

All parties agree to a postponement of the habeas corpus hearing in the hope that the process agreed upon to review STRAIGHT will lessen present concerns and allow dismissal of the habeas actions.

JOINT STATEMENT

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Turner

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