

Perceptions of family program inaccurate

By BRIDGET EVARTS
Community News Reporter

Charges that Forsyth/Stokes County Intensive Family Preservation Program is under-serving African-American clients may be inaccurate.

The program runs under the umbrella of the Forsyth/Stokes Area Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. It is geared toward preventing unnecessary placement of children into foster homes or juvenile facilities, by providing in-house services to the entire

family during an intensive six-week period. Family Preservation staff is on call 24 hours a day, and adjusts their schedule around the family.

Some critics say that the program ignores African-American families, allowing black children to enter foster care without much intervention.

Director Gerald Allen spoke to the history behind these allegations, and addressed the need for scrutiny.

"The concern I've heard on the part of the state is that once a child gets in foster care, it's really hard

to get them out," said Allen.

Some of the fire Allen's program is drawing could be the result of erroneous information and a lack of comprehensive statistics.

One reason for a lower number of African Americans served by the program is that a number of clients referred to Family Preservation come from the predominantly white Stokes County. African Americans comprise only 5 percent of Stokes popu-

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The Intensive Family Preservation Program of Winston-Salem, Director Gerald Allen, with Judy Arthur and James Johnson.

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

Vol. XXIII No. 36

THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News and Information

THURSDAY MAY 8, 1996

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Suspicion: Parents scrutinize school systems

▲ Distrust characterizes school redistricting

By BRIDGET EVARTS
Community News Reporter

As Guilford County grapples with the process of redistricting its school system, reactions to the plan parallel those to Forsyth County's redistricting experience. Both school systems implemented the redistricting process to accommodate neighborhood schools and choice in where students can go to school. Christina Perrin, who has a child attending Old Richmond Elementary, said she's glad her child goes to a school

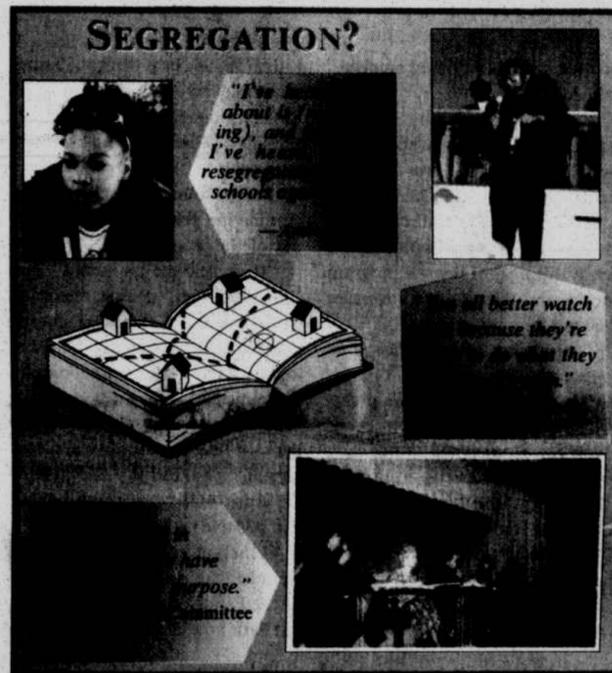
close to her home.

"I like the way they're switching it ... I don't have a car, so I like that I can get there," said Perrin. Old Richmond is part of Zone 4, which will be implemented this year.

While many parents, both black and white, want their children to attend schools close to home, some are afraid the price for this convenience will be segregation.

In both counties, parents are suspicious of the motivation behind redistricting, especially in the African-American

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▲ Segregation complaint launches investigation

By BRIDGET EVARTS
Community News Reporter

A complaint filed almost two years ago with the U.S. Department of Education against the local school redistricting plan will soon resurface with a full-scale investigation.

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools implemented the first zone of the redistricting plan in 1995, amid protests from some in the community who saw the plan as a return to a segregated school system. Concerns about maintaining a balance of integrated schools prevented three school board members from voting for the redistricting plan.

Soon after that vote, a complaint was filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR). OCR began investigating the complaint, which stated that the school's choice plan relied too heavily on good intentions and did not allow enough control, in August 1995.

Since then, the investigation has risen through the ranks of that office, and has been monitored by the Desegregation Assistance Center, southeastern region.

"We've already gathered some information, and we'll verify that information and talk to various

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The Boy Scouts Urban Emphasis Group is composed of (seated, left to right) Ray McAuster, Traci Hunter, George Randall, Ken Sadler; (standing, left to right), Doug Thorn, Bill Hayes, Clarence Gaines, and Kermit Blount.

Triad group promotes Boy Scouting

By BILL TURNER
Special to the Chronicle

Mount Zion Baptist Church was a most unusual setting last week for what the meeting's convener, Traci Hunter, described as "one of the most critical collaborations in the Triad area: getting more black boys into Scouting." Hunter is district executive of the Boy Scouts of America, Old Hickory Council, based in Winston-Salem.

Mount Zion as the meeting's venue was exceptional because it is among only eight black churches in Winston-Salem with scouting programs. There are 168 black churches in the city, according to the Rev. Cedrick Rodney, who attended the meet-

ing. Rodney is pastor of St. Phillips Moravian Church, the oldest black church in the state. "Our church had a Boy Scout troop, and we want to rekindle our commitment," he said. "That is why I am here."

Dr. Ken Sadler, a dentist and director of quality assurance for Carolina Medicorp, introduced George Randall, national director of the Urban Emphasis Initiative of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Dallas-based Randall goes around the country spearheading the efforts of national BSA headquarters to find and train strong and committed leadership, to ensure that boys from economically underprivileged communities have the opportuni-

ty to join scouting programs. He spoke to two dozen people who attended Winston-Salem's Urban Emphasis Training Meeting. Sadler talked of Winston-Salem being like Greensboro and High Point, where every public housing community has scouting programs.

Greensboro and High Point could not have sent a more passionate spokesman for their programs than North Carolina A&T State University's head football coach Bill Hayes. In a cheerleading mode, Hayes began by admitting that he lacks a lot of things. "But I have never been accused of lacking heart, passion, and commitment to young men," he added. He spoke about the value

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Forsyth County Training Institute culminates in Mass Meeting

By FELECIA P. MCMILLAN
Special to the Chronicle

"We're marching, marching up to Zion. That beautiful city of God!" Alma Barber of Second New Bethel Baptist Church, led marchers in this rousing chorus as more than 200 marchers — children and elders dressed in white attire — pranced down Martin Luther King Drive waving banners displaying the names of various churches Sunday, May 4. The march was the culmination of a week-long training institute held at Shiloh Baptist Church. More than 1,200 deacons, ushers, Sunday school workers, Baptist Training Union workers, junior, young adult and senior missionaries participated in classes at the institute held April 28-May 2.

Dr. Serenus Churn, pastor of Mt. Zion, was the keynote speaker for the worship service. Evelena

Clayborn, president of the Forsyth County Missionary Union, presided over the session. The theme for the union meeting was "From Maintenance to Ministry: Building Upon a Firm Foundation."

Helen W. Falls, who has been a missionary at Mt. Zion Baptist Church for more than 50 years, said, "The march was very impressive because we were trying to portray to the community that God is alive and he is working through his people. The march is to show the community that we believe we can depend on God for guidance."

Bronnie Daniels, the first vice president of the Forsyth County Missionary Union, remembers participating in the march as a child. "It was always such a pretty sight to see, women and men marching in the street for the Lord," she said. She brought the idea to

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Alma Barber (left) of Second New Bethel Baptist Church led the marchers in singing "We're Marching Up to Zion." She and Mae C. Corley of First Wauhtown Baptist Church carried the banner to lead the march of the Forsyth County Missionary Union.