

A Report to the Community

The Work of the Reproductive Health Advisory Lakeview School District – August 2004 to May 2006

The following is a breakdown of the progress/purpose of reproductive health advisory meetings held and staff work from 2004-2006.

Reproductive Health Advisory meetings held: 3 in 2004-2005 (9/21, 9/26, 1/11). One was scheduled for May 2006, but was cancelled due to adverse weather - tornado watch.

Staff who teach sexuality education classes met on September 9, 2004 to review what changes needed to be made to curriculum to come into compliance with new state laws passed, June 2004, around teaching sexuality education curriculum in schools. A new Reproductive Health Advisory group of 21 members, four being high school students, was accepted and approved by the Lakeview Board of Education on 9/20/04. Also, half of the advisory members were parents, and one parent a co-chair. Members were also encouraged by the Board of Education to serve at least a two-year term on the advisory for consistency. Lakeview teaching staff then made recommendations to the new Reproductive Health Advisory Board at the September 21, 2004 meeting. Some updates and other issues were items for discussion, including teaching about Internet use/personal safety around sexual issues. Recommendations were made and adopted by the Board of Education.

The staff teaching sexuality education classes also attended 3 professional development workshops/institute:

One in April 2004 (with four area school districts – the start up of the Battle Creek Area Education & Health Collaborative - BCAEHC), one in April 2005 (with four school districts - BCAEHC), and one in April 2006 (Lakeview staff reviewing assessments of what we teach to share with BCAEHC)

Two public hearings, as required by Michigan law, were held at Territorial School, administration conference room, September 30 and October 12, 2004. The public was invited to review the recommended changes made to Lakeview sexuality curriculum (see attached). The Board of Education then reviewed and accepted these changes at their October 18, 2004 meeting. Staff then began implementing the changes in the 2004-2005 school year.

Parent meetings on sexuality curriculum have been a regular occurrence at Lakeview School District for the past 10 years. Over the past six years there have been 6 regularly scheduled parent meeting held each school year. About 50 parents attended the six parent meetings in 2004-2005. Two for 4th grade curriculum, two for 5th grade, one for 6th grade and one personal safety (gradesK-3) meetings were held. Parents have also checked out materials from the parent resource library on sexuality education that was initiated four years ago. This last year, 2005-2006 over 20 parents checked out resources from the library and over 60 parents attended parent meetings. Many parents have called asking for a copy of the reproductive health curriculum (grades 4 and 5) or other additional information/resources. Our District will again be able to purchase resource materials for the parent resource library through the funding of the Battle Creek Area Education Health Collaborative, as will the three surrounding districts in the Greater Battle Creek Area. All districts are all working to increase resources and support to parents around sexuality education.

Consultation provided to this school district in reproductive health curriculum and Advisory Board work (2004-2006) was supported by a grant from the United Way of Greater Battle Creek to the Battle Creek Area Education & Health Collaborative (BCAEHC): an educational collaborative to support districts in the development of sexuality education in the Greater Battle Creek area.

