



April 2011 Highlights

- Health Care Reform is a major topic of discussion. Gwen McKenzie, CEO, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, will be making a presentation on Wednesday, May 18 at 1:30 on how health care reform will affect the community. All are welcome to attend.
- The Community Alliance will be making a presentation to the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners on June 28 in the afternoon. All are welcome to attend.
- The Developmental Disabilities (DD) Committee along with advocates statewide, were successful in encouraging Governor Scott to rescind his decision to reduce reimbursements to the DD providers effective April 1st. These cuts would have left many DD consumers without valuable services which allow them to maintain their independence and improve their quality of life.
- The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is now moving forward with plans to hire a contractor to administer the program in the very near future. Advocates see this as a major step in addressing the prescription drug abuse problem affecting our communities.
- The Doctor Education Program initiated through the Community Alliance's Behavioral Health Strategic Planning Work Group and the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) Health Provocateur project has linked hospital CEOs and health department directors in a four-county area to address doctor education and prescription drug misuse. As of mid-April 350 physicians and medical staff have registered to attend one of seven one-day trainings.
- The pain clinic ordinance approved by the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners in 2010 has been very successful. Seven pain clinics have closed and no new clinics have opened. A land use ordinance related to zoning for pain management clinics is now being considered. There will be 3 public hearings for the new process: May 11 at 9:00 a.m., May 24 at 1:30 p.m., and May 24 after the zoning public hearing. All are welcome to attend.
- Dr Roger Peters, with Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI), has delivered his final evaluation report on the Drug Court and will be presenting it to the Criminal Justice Commission on April 26.
- Information on the Community Alliance can be found at www.sarasotaalliance.net or by contacting Pauline Tracy at 941-861-2561 or via email at Pauline_tracy@doh.state.fl.us.

The mission of the Community Alliance is to advance communication, collaboration and advocacy of the health and human service needs of all citizens in Sarasota County through more integrated, effective and efficient delivery systems.