



Community Alliance of Sarasota County

May 2011 Highlights

- Health Care Reform continues to be a major topic of discussion. Gwen McKenzie, CEO, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, made a presentation on Wednesday, May 18 to the Community Alliance and others on how health care reform has and will affect the community.
- The Community Alliance will be making a presentation to the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners on June 28 in the afternoon. All are welcome to attend.
- During the last week of April, over 350 medical professionals from Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties were educated through the *Safe Rx Campaign!* They received training on appropriate prescribing practices, information on how to protect their practices, and referral sources for patients in need of substance abuse treatment. In general, professionals commented they were thankful to be included in such an important initiative and preliminary evaluation data shows positive outcomes. 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.
- The Board of County Commissioners will consider three potential ordinances regulating Pain Management Clinics on Tuesday, June 7. This is a priority issue of the Behavioral Health Stakeholders' Consortium. The ordinances include a Zoning Ordinance which limits new clinics to open only within two zoning districts by special exemption. (Special exemption includes neighborhood meeting with residents detailing the business plan, Planning Commission review and Board of County Commissioner public hearing.) A regulatory ordinance which proposes the required use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and implements certain standards of operation. A third option being presented allows the Board the option to extend the current moratorium. Human Services and Sheriff's Office staff will hold a public open house on June 1 for the purpose of receiving comments from the public and regulated community on the proposed ordinance.
- In May, the Sarasota COAD was voted in as a voting member of the Florida VOAD. Only two local COAD/VOADS are allowed a vote on the Florida VOAD.
- May 13 and 14, the COAD held a Community Disaster Preparedness Workshop. Over 90 people attended the training.
- 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.