

**Community Alliance of Sarasota County**

[www.sarasotaalliance.net](http://www.sarasotaalliance.net)

**Developmental Disabilities Committee**

October 13, 2009

**Meeting Summary**

**Members present:**

Cain Blackwell	YMCA/Safe Children Coalition
Margie Genter	Goodwill Industries – Manasota
Sarah Hickey	Sarasota County School Board
Deborah Hobson	Family Network on Disabilities
Teresa Johnson	Parent
Alma Cervantes	Suncoast Center for Independent Living (for Keith Kitchens)
Susan Magers	Parent
Kameron Partridge	Easter Seals Southwest Florida
Michelle Pilkington	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Carol Burmeister Prichard	Community Member – Special Education Professional
Myriam Reyes	Parent Representative for Manasota ARC
Mary Smith	Family Network on Disabilities
Ryan Stoyles	Community Haven
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Jennifer Eddins	United Cerebral Palsy (for Caitlin M. Trask)

**Members not present:**

Sue Firestone	Senior Friendship Centers
Ellen Hepner	Children’s Medical Services
Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff’s Department
Boyd L. Stout, Jr.	Parent Representative for United Cerebral Palsy
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Diane Weiner	Manasota ARC
Laurel White	Vocational Rehabilitation
Kim Williams	The Florida Center

**Others present:**

Andrea King	Sarasota County Parks and Recreation
Taquisha Joyner-Stokes	United Cerebral Palsy
Federico Valadez	Project 10 Coordinator

**Staff:**

Claire Alexander	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
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## **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Ryan Stoyles welcomed members and guests to the meeting and thanked Immediate Past Chair, Susan Magers for her dedicated service as Chair of the committee. A quorum was present.

## **Discussion on Bylaws**

Ryan Stoyles reported that there will be a discussion on the bylaws at the November 10 meeting.

## **Sarasota County School Board Transition Project**

Sarah Hickey introduced Federico Valadez, Project 10 Coordinator for Region 4 under the Department of Education. Federico explained that Project 10 is a grant-funded transition education network with five regional transition representatives. Region 4 covers Sarasota, Manatee, Desoto, Hardee, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Marion, Sumter, and Lake counties. Their purpose is to assist schools in providing secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes. Project 10 is focused on four major initiatives including capacity building, interagency collaboration, transition legislation and policy, and student development and outcomes. The project also funds Project Connect which assists in sponsoring focus groups and inter-agencies to advocate, interpret, and educate on legislative changes in the community. Most importantly, the Project assists with student development and outcomes. Needs assessments are currently being conducted in all twelve counties to determine the needs to achieve those indicators. There are four Individual Education Plan (IEP) transition indicators that the Florida Department of Education focuses on including Indicator 1: Graduation Rate, Indicator 2: Dropout Rate, Indicator 13: Annual IEP Goals and Transition Services (enabling students to meet the post-secondary goals), and Indicator 14: Postsecondary Students (competitively employed, enrolled in some type of postsecondary school, or both, within one year of leaving high school). Federico asked that the Committee encourage and educate businesses to join the "Business Leadership Network" and hire students and adults with disabilities. It was suggested that a representative from the "Business Leadership Network" be invited to speak to the Committee at a future meeting. Additional information can be found on <http://www.project10.info/>.

Chip Taylor mentioned that the Community Alliance has adopted a set of community outcome targets with high level indicators and is always interested in looking at additional indicators. Federico noted that the School Board indicators are available on the DOE website. Susan Magers pointed out that DOE has a new survey that does exit interviews on students who are dropping out of school to determine the reasons why; and what type of counseling these students received to try and stay in school.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Ryan Stoyles suggested that an item be added to the agenda each month to approve the minutes. Ryan noted that meeting summaries are posted on the Community

Alliance website at [http://sarasotaalliance.net/meeting\\_summaries\\_2009.asp](http://sarasotaalliance.net/meeting_summaries_2009.asp) and will be sent out prior to each meeting for review.

***Michelle Pilkington moved, Susan Magers seconded to approve the September meeting summary as written. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Old Business** (as needed)

### **18-30 Age Range Work Group**

Kameron Partridge reported that there was an [updated spreadsheet](#) in the members' packets for review. Kameron asked members to return their completed form to her by the end of the meeting. Further discussion (content and additional agency information) will be held at the 18 to 30 Age Range Work Group meeting directly after the Committee meeting. It was suggested to enlarge the checkmarks and include email and website addresses on the spreadsheet along with links to the other agencies. It was mentioned that once the document is finalized it will be on the Developmental Disabilities Committee web page. Another discussion at the meeting will be the transition coordinators traveling to the local agencies.

### **Composition of Committee**

Ryan Stoyles reported that there was a copy of the [Composition of Committee](#) in the members' packets for review. Ryan requested that providers focus on filling their vacant parent/caregiver seats. In addition, several other seats are vacant that need to be filled including a Family/Caregiver under the Community Representative category, and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) under the Government Agencies category. Sarah Hickey stated that a representative from AHCA attends the Sarasota County School Board meetings and she will discuss this opportunity with them. Ryan asked members to identify other areas of representation that are not being addressed at this time. Members mentioned adding a "Client/Student" seat under the Community Representatives category and one under the Government Agencies category for "Sarasota County Parks and Recreation" (Andrea King).

### **Developmental Disabilities Strike Team**

Michelle Pilkington reported that there was a copy of the September meeting [summary](#) in the members' packet for review. The team is still seeking a volunteer to step up as the Chair of the group. Discussions were on upcoming events in the community, priorities, and gathering resources to place in a pre- and post-disaster directory for families and consumers. The next meeting will be on October 29.

A discussion ensued on creating an updated resource directory, the Whole Child Project in Manatee County, the linkage between the Whole Child Project and Manasota 2-1-1, and the on-line "Tapestry" Initiative with Manasota 2-1-1. It was suggested that Jessica Ventimiglia from Manasota 2-1-1 and Pat Johnson of the Whole Child Project be invited to present to the Committee at a future meeting.

## **Mission and Purpose Brochure**

Ryan Stoyles reported that the [revised brochure](#) was in the members' packets for review. Ryan suggested replacing the pictures with more recent ones and asked members to forward pictures to Kathleen for review at the next meeting.

## **Priority Updates (brief reports)**

- Advocacy/Education – The Human Services Advisory Council has recommended cutting the 2010 respite services funding which will affect constituents greatly in the future. Recommendations will go before the Board of County Commissioners on October 28. Members suggested that Chair Ryan Stoyles send an email to the Commission on behalf of the Developmental Disabilities Committee with a brief history of the committee and a request to reconsider funding of respite care services in 2010. It was stressed that there be no mention of any specific agency in this email.

A discussion ensued on the respite issue including the abuse factor, the impact on the children and families, the service falling back on Sarasota County, and who should write the email. Teresa Johnson volunteered to prepare the draft email and forward it to the Executive Committee members for review. Once the email is finalized, the Chair will send the email to the Commission through his personal email along with a cc to County Administrator Jim Ley and Deputy Administrator Susan Scott. A copy of the email will be sent to distribute to the members of the Developmental Disabilities Committee.

***Susan Magers moved, Sarah Hickey seconded to send an email to the Board of County Commissioners to advocate for the continuance of Sarasota County Government funding for respite care services. The motion passed unanimously (Chip Taylor abstained).***

Andrea King announced that there was a recent article in the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, [“Triathlete teams with a cerebral palsy victim”](#) that was a very positive narrative on how a Manatee County resident trained for a triathlete event with a developmentally disabled person.

- Legislative Issues – House Bill 81 relates to the use, prevention, and reduction of seclusion and restraint on students with disabilities in public schools and needs support from all.

## **Update on the Special Meeting with Agency for Persons with Disabilities Staff**

Chip Taylor reported that no further information was available as numerous phone calls have not been returned by APD in Tallahassee. Additional attempts will be made to contact APD. A discussion ensued on the wait list, clients being taken off the waitlist through letters sent out by QSI positions and APD's questionnaire to assist with future planning for the needs of the community.

## **New Business**

### Announcements

Suncoast Center for Independent Living will host a mini-conference, "On Track to Transition" on October 15 for parents, students, and professionals who are preparing for transitioning students from school to community. The center will also be initiating a discussion on an after-school program for teens.

T-Rec Coalition will host several upcoming events including a *Costume Masquerade Ball* on October 23 at the Oak Park School Gymnasium and an informal meeting for "Special O'Laughics" at McCurdy's Comedy Center on October 26.

Easter Seals Southwest Florida will host a job fair on October 23 with employers present and a listings of current job openings.

The Family Network on Disabilities (FND) and Pave the Way Consulting will host a 4-part parent training series, *The Art of Advocacy*, to teach parents how to be an effective advocate. The first series will be held in Manatee County in November with another series presented in Sarasota County in February 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

***Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 1:00 p.m., Sarasota County Health and Human Services, Room 226***