

## Community Alliance of Sarasota County

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

### Developmental Disabilities Committee

January 13, 2009

## Meeting Summary

### Members present:

Joann Gepfert	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Irania Graterol	Goodwill Industries - Manasota
Deborah Hobson	Family Network on Disabilities
Andrea King	Sarasota County Parks and Recreation
Susan Magers	Sarasota County School Board Parent Liaison
Kameron Partridge	Easter Seals
Carol Burmeister Prichard	Community Member – Special Education Professional
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Laurel White	Vocational Rehabilitation
Kim Williams	The Florida Center

### Staff:

Kathleen Marie Hall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

### Welcome and Introductions

Chair Susan Magers welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

### Old Business

#### Composition of Committee

Pauline Tracy reported that there was a [draft](#) in the members' packets for review on the voting members. Members made the following revisions:

- Community Representatives:
  - Delete Sarah Hickey
  - Add Deborah Hobson as a family member from Family Network
  - Need a Family/Caregiver representative
- Business or Community Representative:
  - Add Carol Burmeister Prichard
  - Add a Senior Friendship Centers representative
  - Delete Diane Weiner

Susan Magers asked members if anyone had a contact with Publix, SunTrust Bank, or the Hyatt to fill any of the vacant business or community representative slots. Laurel White volunteered to contact these companies.

- Government:
  - Laurel White – Vocational Rehabilitation
  - Sarah Hickey – Sarasota County School Board
  - Need a contact from the Agency for Health Care Administration.
  
- Provider Agencies:
  - Add Diane Weiner – Manasota Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC)
  - Need two Goodwill representatives – Kameron Partridge volunteered to follow-up on filling these seats (members suggested Margie Genter or Irania Graterol)
  - Add Kelly Delehanty – United Cerebral Palsy (UCP)

Susan asked members to try to identify family members who could represent the *Provider Agencies* category. Pauline noted that these representatives do not have to be a resident of Sarasota County.

### **SCAT discussion**

Susan Magers reported that there was a [summary report](#) from the November meeting in the members' packets for review. Susan stated that a joint memo (Health and Human Services and SCAT) was sent to the Board of County Commissioners to request a delay in implementing SCAT's proposed fee increase to the agencies until October 2009. The work group met again in January to discuss the capacity issues (see [summary](#)) and concluded with two next steps:

- Create a *Non-Profit Agency Transportation Model Work Group* – Ryan Stoyles and Chip Taylor will co-chair this group. The objective is to review best practices from the non-profit agencies that do not utilize SCAT services for transporting their clients and then develop a transportation model. Their first meeting will be held on February 2.
- Create an *Eligibility Component Work Group* – Susan Magers and Beverly Kent will co-chair this group. The objective is to collaborate with Medicaid Support Coordinators to determine which clients can utilize fixed routes vs. subscription services and then review the local best practices on student eligibility.

### **18-30 Age Group Discussion**

Kameron Partridge mentioned that she is in the process of developing a disabilities needs assessment for Easter Seals. According to Sarasota County School Board statistics, the number of persons with developmental disabilities under 18 is declining, while those over 18 are increasing.

Items of discussions were on:

- Possibility of shifting care from pediatric to teens and adults
- Co-pay and insurance crisis due to the economic downturn
- Current available but limited resources
- Local licensed homes

- School transition procedures that should begin in elementary school instead of high school
- Creation of a matrix to follow the students
- Medicaid Waiver waiting list and the possibility of making it portable
- Identity of a person or group to assist in capturing data
- A local centralized evaluation center

Susan stated that for the first time in Sarasota County, the School Board has shifted their Autism Program from elementary to middle school due to the change in numbers. Members felt that this age group should be monitored more closely as adult children are outliving their parents. Benny Weaver stated that the average age of clients at the Loveland Center is 50. Policies and procedures need to be put in place for the community to address (including housing issues). It was decided that the next step should be to request the assistance of a local university to compile the statistical data on this age group. Kameron stated that she would contact Jean Rose, the Dean of Arts and Sciences at USF and others for this purpose.

### **Priority Updates**

- Aftercare – Pauline Tracy reviewed a summary of the survey results with the members. Pauline pointed out that there were additional open-ended question results that would be reviewed at the next meeting. Kameron noted that recent statistics showed that there are only 143 children in Sarasota County who have Autism. Susan Magers pointed out that seven years ago the number was only 70.
- Advocacy – Kameron noted that the Legislature will likely reduce the Medicaid Waiver by another 5% at the upcoming special session. Pauline stated that Sarasota County will see a \$16 million reduction in March and anticipates a budget reduction of \$20-\$40 million for the next fiscal year. Susan pointed out that the Sarasota County School District has proposed to cut \$40 million from their budget (assistant principals becoming 11 month employees, deleting all Data and Literacy Coach positions and many Information Technology positions, deleting high school block scheduling which will eliminate 71 positions, and an increase in healthcare costs to staff.
- Respite – Susan noted that according to the national parent information report, respite is being cut from the budget. This will definitely create a national crisis.
- Transportation – See SCAT Discussion.

### **New Business**

#### **Announcements**

Andrea King announced several items:

- *Special Touch Ministries* has a one-week off-site camp in May and the cost is based on a sliding fee scale. Andrea will forward the information to staff.

- T-Rec Coalition's main focus is to create activities for persons who attend Loveland Center, Easter Seals, Community Haven, and UCP. Andrea distributed flyers from the Coalition:
  - On January 24, a dance will be held for teens and adults with disabilities at the Venice Community Center.
  - On January 26, McCurdy's Comedy Theatre will present a special performance, *Special O'Laughics*, of new and talented local comedians.
- Andrea volunteered to create a list of summer camps for the Committee.

Susan Magers announced that there will be a guardianship presentation at Woodlands Church on February 19. It was suggested that once the "Public Guardianship" program is up and running, the Committee should invite a representative to a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

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