

## Community Alliance of Sarasota County

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### Developmental Disabilities Committee

February 10, 2009

## Meeting Summary

#### Members present:

Jennifer Bolan	Senior Friendship Centers (for Sue Firestone)
Joann Gepfert	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Ellen Hepner	Children's Medical Services
Deborah Hobson	Family Network on Disabilities
Teresa Johnson	Parent
Keith Kitchens	Suncoast Center for Independent Living
Susan Magers	Sarasota County School Board Parent Liaison
Kameron Partridge	Easter Seals
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Diane Weiner	Manasota ARC
Kim Williams	The Florida Center

#### Members not present:

Irania Graterol	Goodwill Industries – Manasota
Sarah Hickey	Sarasota County School Board
Andrea King	Sarasota County Parks and Recreation
Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Department
Carol Burmeister Prichard	Community Member – Special Education Professional
Mary Smith	Family Network on Disabilities
Ryan Stoyles	Community Haven
Laurel White	Vocational Rehabilitation

#### Staff:

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

#### Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Kameron Partridge welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

#### Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Benny Weaver announced that he has arranged for the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners to present a proclamation declaring March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness month at their February 18 meeting. Members are encouraged to attend the presentation and to bring consumers as well. Copies of the Proclamation

will be available for the various agencies to display. Pauline Tracy mentioned that this will be an opportunity for the Board of County Commissioners to recognize the Developmental Disabilities Committee. Members thanked Benny for arranging the proclamation event. Kameron Partridge noted that she will contact the local TV stations to cover this event.

### **CIT Training Update**

Pam Meunier, the County's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Policy Coordinator, gave an overview of the local Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training. The 40-hour CIT training is offered to traditional and non-traditional law enforcement officers to learn how to appropriately deal with persons with mental health and substance abuse issues and persons with developmental disabilities. The training also offers a full array of what an officer needs to know about their own safety and the safety of the community, including the symptoms of mental health and substance abuse, medications, behaviors, and how it all plays into the elderly. Martha Lenderman, an expert on Baker Act/Marchman Act training in the State of Florida, will instruct the officers for one full day and will include a role playing session with different scenarios. A consumer/family member session is also implemented into the training to give their perspectives on past experiences with law enforcement.

The next CIT session will be on April 20 to April 24 at the R.V. Waymire Training Facility in Venice. Pam welcomed members to attend the next class and explained that the developmental disabilities portion of the training will be offered on Friday, April 24, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Dr. Jaekel (The Florida Center) and Karen Brocklehurst (Community Haven) are first on the agenda for the day, followed by representatives from Coastal Behavioral Healthcare and First Step of Sarasota who will speak on children and adolescent issues. At 11:00 a.m., the trainees will hear from guest speaker Reno Williams, a 10-year-old boy from Lee County who suffers from Asperger's Syndrome (a form of Autism). Reno will share his views on Autism, how persons with Autism should be treated, and the importance of educating the community on the disability. Pam distributed her business card and offered to meet with members to review the curriculum and to get their input. CIT's future goal is to have a trained officer on duty for every shift.

Pam noted that on March 27 there will be a "de-escalation" training session offered to the Health Department staff. Sarasota Memorial Hospital may be implementing the CIT training for their security staff soon. It was mentioned that the CIT training would be beneficial to emergency room personnel.

### **Old Business**

#### **Composition of Committee**

Kameron Partridge reported that contact was made to Diane Weiner and Margie Genter to attend the meetings. Kameron welcomed Diane to the meeting and stated that Margie will be attending future meetings but was unable to attend this meeting. Pauline Tracy pointed out that there was a copy of the "Voting Members" in the members' packets for review and discussion. Jennifer Bolan mentioned that Sue Firestone will be the representative for Senior Friendship Centers. Pauline stated that further

representation needs to be addressed on all agencies' second seats and that this seat is intended for a parent or caretaker from the agency's consumers. It was mentioned that Andrea King will contact Kelly Delehanty from the United Cerebral Palsy and Joanne Gepfert will contact the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). Keith Kitchens noted that he will follow-up on getting a parent or caretaker as the second representative for Suncoast Center for Independent Living (SCIL). Pauline noted that the committee's bylaws will need to be revised once all the changes have been made.

### **SCAT discussion**

Chip Taylor reported that the *Non-Profit Agency Transportation Model Work Group* met on February 2 with a discussion on looking at the agencies that already provide transportation and how to collaborate and coordinate a shared transportation service system. Benny Weaver stated that the work group is currently mapping where students are being picked up and how to get them to one location to share transportation with other agencies. Members commented that:

- Manasota ARC has been providing their own transportation for years and recently began collaborating with Easter Seals.
- Suncoast Independent Living (SCIL) has some clients that drive but most are transported by parents, caregivers, or SCAT. Several of their staff are on SCAT committees. The agency has a local coordinating board.

Pauline reported that the next meeting for the *Non-Profit Agency Transportation Model Work Group* will be on February 17. Susan Magers announced that the initial *Eligibility Component Work Group* meeting with Beverly Kent will be on Thursday, February 12 at 10:00 a.m. at SCAT.

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

Kameron Partridge reported that the committee's idea to have a University of South Florida (USF) intern assist with the collection of data is not viable as there is not a graduate program at the Sarasota County campus. Kameron noted that there is a great deal of information available throughout the County but there is a need to have a central collection location. Kameron stated that the Sarasota County School System could track the 18 to 22 age group and asked Joann Gepfert to see if she could identify a way to track the 23 to 30 age group. It was pointed out that the birth years to track for the 18 to 30 age range should be between 1978 and 1991. Members commented on what information should be collected:

- How many clients are currently being served?
- How many clients are there in Sarasota County?
- How many of these clients are on the Med Waiver?
- How many are on the Med Waiver waiting list?

Other questions that should be addressed:

- Are the agencies providing the proper activities for their consumers?
- What will programming look like for these consumers in the future?

- What is being done for the consumers who do not qualify for the Supportive Employment or Community Placement programs?

Diane Weiner mentioned that Manasota ARC recently received a grant for a computer lab program for their younger students and has been very successful. Benny stated that Loveland's students enjoy working with mosaics. It was mentioned that the committee should identify a tool to survey parents, caretakers, and the consumers on activities they would prefer during the day.

Members agreed to form a new work group to move forward on the 18 to 30 age group. This work group will identify ways to collectively bring the data together on what services are in the community, where the gaps are, and what are the needs. Kameron Partridge and Diane Weiner volunteered for this work group. Kameron stated that she will ask Ryan Stoyles to participate along with someone from UCP.

### **Priority Updates**

Susan Magers asked to table the priority updates (Aftercare, Advocacy, and Respite) until the next meeting.

### **New Business:**

None

### **Announcements**

None

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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