

Community Alliance of Sarasota County

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Developmental Disabilities Committee

March 10, 2009

Meeting Summary

Members present:

Sue Firestone	Senior Friendship Centers
Margie Genter	Goodwill Industries - Manasota
Sarah Hickey	Sarasota County School Board
Deborah Hobson	Family Network on Disabilities
Teresa Johnson	Parent
Keith Kitchens	Suncoast Center for Independent Living
Susan Magers	Sarasota County School Board Parent Liaison
Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Department
Kameron Partridge	Easter Seals
Ryan Stoyles	Community Haven
Diane Weiner	Manasota ARC
Laurel White	Vocational Rehabilitation
Kim Williams	The Florida Center

Members not present:

Joann Gepfert	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Irania Graterol	Goodwill Industries – Manasota
Ellen Hepner	Children's Medical Services
Andrea King	Sarasota County Parks and Recreation
Carol Burmeister Prichard	Community Member – Special Education Professional
Mary Smith	Family Network on Disabilities
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center

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

Chair Susan Magers welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Developmental Disabilities Strike Team

Pauline Tracy reported that the Community Alliance Executive Committee recently discussed creating a Developmental Disabilities Strike Team. The purpose for the team is to prepare citizens in the community with developmental disabilities before a disaster and to coordinate the response to them after a disaster. Anna Day has volunteered as

the strike team's support person. Anna explained that this strike team will act as a resource clearinghouse to the developmental disabilities community after an event. Ryan Stoyles and Sarah Hickey volunteered for the strike team but did not want to chair the team. Anna stated that an email will be sent out to the Developmental Disabilities Committee members to encourage their agencies to delegate a staff member for the team.

A discussion ensued on disaster plans and both the Community Haven and Manasota ARC stated that they had a plan in place. Pauline distributed the Health and Human Services OPS ICS 207 Organizational Chart for review and noted that it would be useful for the strike team to compare all emergency plans in place to identify where the team would fall. Keith Kitchens mentioned that there is an emergency preparedness conference in the planning stages for June 3 through the Disabilities Task Force and will be hosted by Suncoast Center for Independent Living. The purpose is to educate persons with developmental disabilities and their caregivers on what to expect in case of an emergency. Flyers will be sent out shortly.

Legislative Issues

Susan Magers announced that the Community Alliance Legislative Advocacy Committee Chair, Janice Mee has requested the committee members to discuss and bring forth additional legislative issues. A discussion ensued on the mission and goals of the Legislative Advocacy Committee, how the Community Alliance collaborates with the local legislative delegation, the current stimulus package, and how many issues never get addressed until there is a crisis or law suit. Members mentioned that the legislators only want to hear about the new and innovative solutions; not the problems at hand. Susan asked the members to identify one top issue that could be presented to the Legislative Advocacy Committee regarding how the current economic downturn is impacting their constituents and why it will disenfranchise them. A discussion ensued on legislation issues including training, transportation, and community living issues were all top concerns that should be addressed. Additional concerns:

- To increase provider enrollment in the Med Waiver program.
- To streamline and simplify the provider enrollment process by changing quality control measures.
- To increase the consumer directed care program funding to allow consumers and representatives to have more choices and providers.
- To improve support of all consumers (adults, children, and their families).
- To show the discrepancy between information given to the Legislatures and the actual numbers/dollars.
- To increase email campaigns for Medicaid Waiver funding.
- To continually repeat the "real" stories to the legislators in order to be heard; whether they act on it or not.
- To increase funding for intensive behavioral services.

Susan pointed out that the Committee should implement a strong statement to the legislatures such as:

Increase funding to provide appropriate services for the people who are qualified to prevent the abuse and those lacking appropriate training to provide the services that are needed. Furthermore, to allow

community providers to continue to participate and receive funding at levels that they can afford to provide the service.

It was suggested that the above statement be emailed to the members for review and editing before the next meeting.

Susan stated that the next Legislative Advocacy Committee meeting will be on March 12 at the Sarasota County Health Department to discuss the current stimulus package and the activities of the legislative session.

Impact Survey

Pauline Tracy announced that an Impact Survey was emailed to the Community Alliance members requesting agencies to provide their current impact on client services in the community due to the economic downturn. The survey deadline has been extended due to the lack of agency participation. Pauline encouraged members to complete the survey. Members asked that the survey be emailed to the Committee members to complete.

Old Business

Composition of Committee

Pauline Tracy reported that no additional family members/caregivers or consumers names have been received to fill the additional vacant provider seats. Laurel White stated that Hal Hedley has volunteered to sit on the committee as a "Family" member but was not sure where he would fit into the listing. Pauline pointed out that anyone can attend the meetings without being a member. Diane Weiner stated that she will request a volunteer at their next Manasota ARC meeting. Members asked staff to send out a reminder to the members to address the vacant seats.

SCAT Discussion

Transportation Model

Chip Taylor reported that there were several agencies (Easter Seals, UCP, and The Pines) that were not in attendance at the last meeting. It is crucial that all the agencies collaborate to be part of the transportation solution. Discussions were on the agencies good faith effort, GIS technology, consumer/caregiver carpooling efforts, how the agencies could reimburse the consumers for their efforts, and implementing training for eligible consumers to ride the regular bus routes.

Eligibility Component

Susan Magers reported that the Eligibility Component Work Group met with Beverly Kent, Joann Gepfert, SCAT trainers, and support coordinators. Discussions were on the Adult Day Treatment (ADT) services, the SCAT Plus Para Transit budget, implementation of training for support coordinators and consumers, "pocket" pickup (group rates), the stigma of riding public transportation, SCAT's Travel Guide, and statistics on consumer needs for transportation. Kameron Partridge requested that the word "treatment" be changed to "training" in the ADT services.

In addition, the work group brainstormed on an eligibility checklist that family members, agencies, and the Sarasota County School Board Transitional Team could utilize to determine the candidates for either the fixed route service or door to door. Susan noted that public transportation is considered a “safe-place” in the community and that all bus drivers have been trained to deal with distressed clients. Sarah Hickey stated that SCAT is in the process of putting all the pieces in place to assist riders in becoming more independent. A video tape of SCAT’s bus travel training will be placed on the Sarasota County website along with a GPS tracking system that riders can utilize through their cell phones with step by step instructions. A rider companion program is also being implemented through a grant from Independent Transportation Network (ITN).

Priority Updates (brief reports)

- Aftercare – No update.
- Advocacy – Teresa Johnson reported that a segment on Autism will be included in the April session for Crisis Intervention Team Training and will be working with Pam Meunier, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Policy Coordinator, in selecting the proper material for the piece. Teresa mentioned that she will be attending the entire session and that Susan Magers will attend the Autism piece on Friday, April 24. All members are welcome to attend the session. Teresa also pointed out that she will be working with Wayne Applebee, Criminal Justice Policy Coordinator, on implementing a developmental disabilities segment into the continuing education piece for the Sarasota County Policy Academy.

Sarah Hickey noted that she has been working with the *Family Safety Council* and Foster Care case workers on implementing services and training for foster children. Many of the Sarasota County foster care children fall into the ESE program category.

Susan Magers noted that the Sarasota County School Board will hold a proclamation on Tuesday, March 11 for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Pauline Tracy showed the pictures from the recent proclamation that was presented at the Board of County Commissioners meeting. Pauline noted that copies of the Board of County Commissioners proclamation were still available.

Other discussions were on training and the types of restraints used at adult facilities. It was noted that Manasota ARC utilizes the *Professional Crisis Management* (PCM) program (three-day, 7-hour a day training session) that is highly recommended by the Behavioral Services Department of APD.

- Respite – No update.

18-30 Age Range Work Group

Susan Magers noted that Kameron Partridge will Chair the 18 to 30 Range Work Group. A notice of the first meeting will be sent out shortly. Sarah Hickey mentioned that the Sarasota County School Board will be collaborating with the *All Faiths Food Bank* to

develop an 18 to 22 year old program. It may be possible to extend the program beyond 22 and will report back to the committee at the next meeting.

New Business

Announcements

March 24 is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day at the Legislature. There are free flights available for families who would like to attend. Sarah Hickey and Susan Magers will be attending this event with their children.

April 30 is the annual county-wide Agency Fair that will be held at Oak Park School for all children with disabilities.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 1:00 p.m., Sarasota County Health and Human Services, Room 226