

## Community Alliance of Sarasota County

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

### Developmental Disabilities Committee

April 14, 2009

### Meeting Summary

#### Members present:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Irania Graterol           | Goodwill Industries – Manasota                    |
| Teresa Johnson            | Parent  |
| 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 |
| Mary Smith                | Family Network on Disabilities                    |
| Laurel White              | Vocational Rehabilitation                         |

#### Members not present:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Sue Firestone      | Senior Friendship Centers              |
| Joann Gepfert      | Agency for Persons with Disabilities   |
| Margie Genter      | Goodwill Industries - Manasota         |
| Sarah Hickey       | Sarasota County School Board           |
| Deborah Hobson     | Family Network on Disabilities         |
| Ellen Hepner       | Children’s Medical Services            |
| Keith Kitchens     | Suncoast Center for Independent Living |
| Richard Montemagno | Sarasota County Sheriff’s Department   |
| Ryan Stoyles       | Community Haven                        |
| Diane Weiner       | Manasota ARC                           |
| Benny Weaver       | Loveland Center                        |
| Kim Williams       | The Florida Center                     |

#### Staff:

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Jamie Mahadeo | Sarasota County Health and Human Services |
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#### Welcome and Introductions

Chair Susan Magers welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

#### Legislative Issues and Statement

Susan Magers reported that since the last meeting Ryan Stoyles made a change to the Legislative Issues statement via e-mail. Other members have also e-mailed comments to Kathleen for inclusion. The committee needs to continue to work on this via e-mail. It was requested that the legislative statement be sent out again so everyone has the

latest information. Susan asked that everyone review the statement again and forward any comments to Kathleen.

Susan attended the Developmental Disabilities Day in Tallahassee. It was very poorly attended. There were a handful of people with developmental disabilities. Most of those who attended were from agencies. They were able to talk to the governor and several legislators. The legislators seemed to be receptive to what the attendees were saying. However, there is no money to follow through.

Discussion ensued regarding the new developmental disabilities license plate.

### **Composition of Committee**

Susan asked those in attendance who represent agencies invite their constituents to participate in the meetings. Representatives of family members and the public will enhance greatly the work of the committee. Family input will help direct the focus of the committee. They are specifically interested in getting family members of adults affected by developmental disabilities to participate due to their experiences in working within the system.

### **SCAT Discussion**

Susan advised that they have developed a checklist to allow an evaluation of whether fixed route service is appropriate for a particular individual. There has been no follow up meeting of the transportation subcommittee scheduled. Minutes of the last meeting were made available to the committee.

### **Priority Updates**

Susan mentioned that the law enforcement training in Venice will occur the week of April 20 to 24. The topic of developmental disabilities and autism will be discussed on April 24 in the morning. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Pam Meunier to ensure there are enough seats.

### **Developmental Disabilities Strike Team**

They are looking for someone to chair the committee if anyone is interested. The committee requested that an e-mail be sent to all members advising of the next meeting of the strike team. Everyone was encouraged to attend. Discussion ensued regarding how volunteers could be recruited from the pool of individuals who are trained respite workers. These individuals have already gone through the background screening process. The committee discussed at length how individuals with developmental disabilities can be identified and dealt with in the event of an emergency.

## **18 – 30 Age Range Work Group**

Kameron Partridge reported on the meeting. She showed the committee a flip chart resource directory that needs to be updated and provided to families. They would like to get this information to parents of 9<sup>th</sup> graders and above. One issue is how to pay for the printing of the pamphlet. It was noted that Sarah Hickey gets a small grant from the state to produce materials. This may be a resource to pay for printing. Printing should be limited to no more than 500. The problem is that these types of resource pamphlets are out of date as soon as they are printed.

There were only 66 individuals with developmental disabilities reported by the school board. This is the number of individuals who attend self-contained (ESE) classes. It does not include those attending mainstream school classes.

They will be holding an open house at the agencies for transition planners to orient themselves on the environment and curriculum provided by these agencies.

Kameron advised that they would like to meet again. She will e-mail some dates to the group.

### **Attendance Update**

Susan reported that Kathleen Hall has sent her the attendance chart. She noted to the group that if you miss more than 3 consecutive meetings, you will be contacted and asked if you wish to continue.

### **Announcements**

Susan asked if the committee wanted to meet in July. They will discuss this at their next meeting.

Susan noted that the bylaws need to be reviewed to determine when the transfer of officers will occur. Once that happens, there will be an open position that should be replaced by a family member. She asked that the agencies seek individuals who may be interested in becoming involved.

A flier needs to be put together explaining the purpose and work of the Developmental Disabilities Committee to let people know what is being done and encourage wider participation. Susan asked that this be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Developmental Disabilities Committee will be held on May 12 at 1:00 p.m. at the Sarasota County Health and Human Services building, Room 226 (Auditorium).