

## Community Alliance of Sarasota County

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

### Developmental Disabilities Committee

June 9, 2009

### Meeting Summary

#### Members present:

Margie Genter	Goodwill Industries - Manasota
Joann Gepfert	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Carmen Hill	Vocational Rehabilitation (for Laurel White)
Susan Magers	Sarasota County School Board Parent Liaison
Kameron Partridge	Easter Seals
Boyd L. Stout, Jr.	Parent Representative for United Cerebral Palsy
Ryan Stoyles	Community Haven
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Caitlin M. Trask	United Cerebral Palsy
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Diane Weiner	Manasota ARC
Kim Williams	The Florida Center

#### Members not present:

Cain Blackwell	YMCA/Safe Children Coalition
Sue Firestone	Senior Friendship Centers
Ellen Hepner	Children's Medical Services
Sarah Hickey	Sarasota County School Board
Deborah Hobson	Family Network on Disabilities
Teresa Johnson	Parent
Andrea King	Sarasota County Parks and Recreation
Keith Kitchens	Suncoast Center for Independent Living
Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Department
Carol Burmeister Prichard	Community Member – Special Education Professional
Myriam Reyes	Parent Representative for Manasota ARC
Mary Smith	Family Network on Disabilities

#### Others present:

Milena Capek	United Cerebral Palsy
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#### Staff:

Kathleen Marie Hall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Jamie Mahadeo	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

#### Welcome and Introductions

Chair Susan Magers welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

## **Accomplishments and Priorities Discussion**

### **Accomplishments**

Susan Magers asked the members to discuss the Committee's accomplishments for the past year. It was acknowledged that SCAT's transportation fee issue was their biggest accomplishment. Ryan Stoyles explained that a work group collaborated with SCAT over the past eight months to address the additional fee per trip issue. The group is hopeful that the fee will be waived for the agencies that have assisted in the process but those agencies that did not assist will see an increase in fees.

### **Priorities**

Susan Magers asked the members to discuss the Committee's current priorities, the progress on each priority, and which priorities should remain for the next year. Members discussed and agreed on the following:

- Transportation should remain as a priority.
- Advocacy should remain as a priority and add "Education" at the end (Advocacy/Education).
- Aftercare and Respite should be deleted for the next year due to the economic downturn and no available funding to promote these two priorities at this time.
- Add Legislative Issues as a priority.

***Ryan Stoyles moved, Caitlin M. Trask seconded to remove Aftercare for one year as a priority due to the economic downturn. The motion passed unanimously.***

***Ryan Stoyles moved, Kameron Partridge seconded to remove Respite for one year as a priority due to the economic downturn. The motion passed unanimously.***

***Ryan Stoyles moved, Kim Williams seconded to modify the Advocacy priority to state Advocacy/Education. The motion passed unanimously.***

***Ryan Stoyles moved, Diane Weiner seconded to add Legislative Issues (County, State, and National level focused on Developmental Disabilities) as a priority. The motion passed unanimously.***

## **Old Business**

### **Mission and Purpose Flyer**

Susan Magers requested to table this item until the next meeting.

### **Composition of Committee**

Susan Magers reported that there were several vacant seats on the Committee and asked members to assist in filling these seats. It was noted that Cain Blackwell, Sarasota YMCA will fill the vacant *Community Representative* seat and that Irania Graterol would act as a proxy for Margie Genter under Goodwill but not as their parent/family representative. Caitlin Trask pointed out that she will remain in the

Provider seat for United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) and Boyd Stout will fill the parent/family seat for UCP.

### **Elections of Officers**

Susan Magers reported that elections for the chair and the two vice chair positions will be held in September for the Committee. It was noted that one of the officer positions must be a parent/family member according to the bylaws. Susan pointed out that she will be stepping down as chair and asked a member to volunteer as the Nominating Chair for the election process. Caitlin Trask volunteered to Chair this committee. Susan asked members to contact Kathleen Hall if they were interested in any of the positions or to assist Caitlin in the election process.

### **Developmental Disabilities Strike Team**

Susan stated that there was a [handout](#) in the members' packets for review. A discussion ensued on "in-home support" companions staying with their clients in the shelters, the recent Sarasota COAD drill, and that all agencies should have a disaster plan in place for persons with developmental disabilities. An additional discussion was held on whether the team should be exclusively for persons with developmental disabilities or for all persons with disabilities. Susan asked members to email Kathleen Hall with their feedback on this matter. All members are welcome to attend the strike team meetings. The next meeting will be held on June 25 at the Health and Human Services building.

### **SCAT Discussion – Transportation Model**

Ryan Stoyles reported that there was [summary](#) of the June 2 meeting in the members' packets for review. A lot of progress was made at this meeting with SCAT including the excellent collaboration and the positive outcome. Ryan stated that Beverly Kent of SCAT made a goodwill statement that the agencies that were assisting with the process will be positively impacted in comparison to those who rely heavily on SCAT Plus for transportation. SCAT's plan is to implement budget reductions that will affect Para-transit clients (\$1.00 round trip fee instead of \$2.50), to eliminate the door-to-door Saturday service, to focus on teen and adult public transportation training to alleviate door-to-door service, and to create a work group for those agencies that want to initiate their own transportation service. This work group will create a step-by-step flow chart to assist the agencies that will initiate their own transportation service. SCAT will provide letters of support to the interested agencies that apply for grants to purchase vehicles. Facilitator, Paula Dumas has offered to speak at an upcoming town hall meeting that will target the clients paying the additional fee. A discussion ensued on the tier system, including redefining the system, the appeals, and the services being eliminated or reduced.

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

Kameron Partridge reported that there was a [draft spreadsheet](#) in the members' packets for review. Kameron mentioned that this spreadsheet will be updated with all the

agencies at the table and the names from the recent Oak Park Agency Fair directory. Susan Magers stated that she will email the Agency Fair directory to Kathleen Hall for distribution. It was suggested to add each agency's phone numbers under their name. Once completed, the spreadsheet will be emailed to Kathleen for distribution to the members. It was suggested that a resource directory be added to the bottom to include the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). A discussion ensued on where this spreadsheet will be posted. It was suggested to post the spreadsheet on the Community Alliance website, Manasota 2-1-1, Sarasota County Call Center, and Tapestry. Members asked to delete Jobs & Benefits and Division of Worker's Compensation. It was also mentioned that the agency phone numbers should be added to the Community Alliance Developmental Disabilities Committee's webpage.

## **New Business**

### **Next Meeting Discussion**

A discussion ensued on canceling the July meeting.

***Benny Weaver moved, Margie Genter seconded to cancel July 14 meeting and to reconvene on Tuesday, August 11 at 1:00 p.m. at the Health and Human Services Building in Room 226. The motion passed unanimously.***

It was requested that Kathleen Hall send out a cancellation announcement on the July 14 meeting. Susan Magers suggested reviewing the webpage (including the possibility of including phone numbers next to each agency) and the Mission and Purpose flyer at the August 11 meeting.

## **Announcements**

Ryan Stoyles volunteered to give the Developmental Disabilities Committee's report at the June 15 Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

***Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 11, 1:00 p.m., Sarasota County Health and Human Services, Room 226***