

Community Alliance of Sarasota County

www.sarasotaalliance.net

Developmental Disabilities Committee

August 11, 2009

Meeting Summary

Members present:

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| Cain Blackwell | YMCA/Safe Children Coalition |
| Margie Genter | Goodwill Industries - Manasota |
| Ellen Hepner | Children's Medical Services |
| Teresa Johnson | Parent |
| Andrea King | Sarasota County Parks and Recreation |
| Susan Magers | Sarasota County School Board Parent Liaison |
| Michelle Pilkington | Agency for Persons with Disabilities |
| Kameron Partridge | Easter Seals Southwest Florida |
| Boyd L. Stout, Jr. | Parent Representative for United Cerebral Palsy |
| Ryan Stoyles | Community Haven |
| Jamie Mahadeo | Sarasota County Health and Human Services (for Chip Taylor) |
| Laurel White | Vocational Rehabilitation |
| Kim Williams | The Florida Center |

Members not present:

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| Sue Firestone | Senior Friendship Centers |
| Sarah Hickey | Sarasota County School Board |
| Deborah Hobson | Family Network on Disabilities |
| 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 |
| Caitlin M. Trask | United Cerebral Palsy |
| Benny Weaver | Loveland Center |
| Diane Weiner | Manasota ARC |

Others present:

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| Anne Barrow | Agency for Persons with Disabilities |
| Jody Guttridge | Children's Medical Services |
| Kayly Dennis | Vocational Rehabilitation |

Staff:

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| Kathleen Marie Hall | Sarasota County Health and Human Services |
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Welcome and Introductions

Chair Susan Magers welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Old Business

18-30 Age Range Work Group

Kameron Partridge reported that a [resource spreadsheet](#) was in the members' packets for review. A discussion ensued on the multiple locations for several agencies, the main telephone numbers, inserting hyperlinks for web addresses, the Tapestry connection, and adding the spreadsheet to the Developmental Disabilities Committee's webpage. It was suggested to add "Advocacy" under "Family Supports" and add Children's Medical Services, The Florida Center, and Early Steps to the agency categories. It was questioned whether Oak Park School's telephone number should be listed; members agreed not to add the school's number. Kameron asked members to mark the programs that each agency uses and return it to her by the end of the meeting. It was suggested that Kathleen Hall email the spreadsheet to the members who were not in attendance at the meeting.

Composition of Committee

Susan Magers reported that there were still vacancies on the committee (ACHA and several agency parent/family seats). It was suggested that members assist in filling the vacant seats.

Developmental Disabilities Strike Team

Susan Magers reported that the July 23 Developmental Disabilities Strike Team [summary](#) was in the members' packets for review. Michelle Pilkington reported that the strike team made a decision at their last meeting to change its name to the Disabilities Strike Team in order to encompass all disabilities. A discussion ensued on the various strike teams within Sarasota COAD, the strike team process within the Health and Human Services Operations (HHS OPS) Center after a disaster, and the special needs shelters. It was noted that many times persons with developmental disabilities are overlooked. There is a need to keep the focus and the Committee should be providing feedback to the strike team.

Other discussions were on the various disabilities, what would or would not qualify under developmental disabilities, and the broader definition of developmental disabilities. Michelle read the Committee's definition of Developmental Disabilities and stated that this description should satisfy the strike team members' concerns. Michelle will take the Committee's definition back to the team for another discussion. Members recommended that the strike team reconsider the name of its team. Jamie pointed out that since the strike team is under the domain of the Sarasota COAD, the final decision would be made by the COAD. Susan asked Kathleen Hall to email Anna Day the Committee's broad definition of developmental disabilities to have for their August 27 meeting. Michelle agreed to report on a monthly basis to the Developmental Disabilities Committee on the strike team's activities.

Mission and Purpose Flyer

Andrea King reported that she created the [initial draft](#) for the brochure. Staff reviewed the draft and made revisions. A copy of the [revised brochure](#) was in the members' packets for review. Members discussed and suggested the following revisions:

- Front panel:
 - Add borders to the pictures
 - Add a tagline instead of a quote: "Providing One Voice"
- Second and third panels:
 - Add borders to the pictures
- Fourth panel:
 - Add "developmental" before disabilities in the second paragraph
 - Add a quote by the Chair
- Fifth panel:
 - Delete logo for "Inclusion Now!"
 - Move the Guiding Principles to the top of the panel in bullet format
- Sixth panel:
 - Change "Easter Seals" to "Easter Seals Southwest Florida"

A discussion ensued on the "Guiding principles" and whether to adopt them or not. Members suggested placing the principles in a different order and voting on them at the next meeting. It was also suggested to place the website address, centered across the bottom of the second, third, and fourth panel at the bottom of the page.

Priority Updates

Advocacy/Education:

- On August 24, Teresa Johnson will assist with the Developmental Disabilities module of the Crisis Intervention Team training.
- A two-week teacher/assistant training is currently in session at the Summer Institute to assist with teaching Developmental Disabilities students. It was noted that parents were not officially invited to this training.
- There will be a Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training in the near future to assist with de-escalation and restraint issues.
- Oak Park School has a demonstration lab set up that parents can participate in by making an appointment with the school.

Legislative Issues:

- The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is currently monitoring Medicaid.
- There is a concern that the special education funding will be diverted to other purposes due to the stimulus dollars being designated for special education projects. The fear is that once the funds are "re-purposed", it will be difficult to get them back in the future or they will become nonrecurring funds.

SCAT Discussion

Ryan Stoyles suggested initiating a conversation with SCAT on their gasoline discount rate. Ryan asked if there was any opposition to request the discounted gasoline for the agencies that are assisting SCAT with transportation. Members agreed and asked Ryan to begin the dialogue with SCAT.

Susan mentioned that a "Thank You" note was sent to Paula Dumas for facilitating the SCAT discussions for the Developmental Disabilities Committee. Susan asked if there has been any follow-up by staff on Paula's suggestion to facilitate a town hall meeting to explain SCAT's para transit changes. Ryan stated that the follow-up was between Paula and SCAT. Susan asked Kathleen Hall to email Paula Dumas to see if this meeting has been set. Ryan stated that he would inquire with Beverly Kent during his reduced gasoline rate conversation.

New Business

Nominating Committee

Susan Magers advised that she would be stepping down as chair. It was suggested that the first Vice-Chair (Ryan Stoyles) step up to the Chair position and the second Vice-Chair (Kameron Partridge) move into the first Vice-Chair's position; this way the only seat to be filled will be the second vice-chair. It was noted that this seat would need to be filled by a parent or family member. A discussion ensued on the election, a need of continuity, and the possibility of changes to the by-laws.

Margie Genter moved, Kim Williams seconded that the first vice-chair (Ryan Stoyles) will move into the chair's position, the second vice-chair (Kameron Partridge) will move into the first vice-chair position, and the second vice-chair (to be filled by a parent or family member) will be elected at the September 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Susan asked that two members volunteer to assist Caitlin Trask on this committee. Laurel White and Mary Smith volunteered to be on the committee.

Announcements

- Easter Seals Southwest Florida will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of "Woodstock" this week.
- The YMCA of Sarasota will host a Special Olympics area aquatic competition at Potter Park on August 15.
- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ADP) will host an event at Selby Library for those on the waitlist on August 20.
- There will be a free ["Back to School Movie Night"](#) at Phillippi State Park at 8:00 p.m on August 22.
- The T-REC Coalition of Sarasota County will host the ["2009 Pool Party"](#) at Arlington Park pool on September 2.

- The Family Care Council and APD will co-host a disability and awareness kick-off event, "[Paving the way to Work, Live, and Succeed](#)", at the Church at Braden River (5412 State Road 64 East) with various presenters on October 3.
- The Family Network on Disabilities (FND) will host a 4-part parent training series in Manatee County to teach parents how to be advocates in November. Another series will be presented in Sarasota County in February, 2010.
- The "Hope Advocacy" is a FND grant program (birth to nine year old population) which offers families six hours of free advocacy service.

Kameron Partridge announced that Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a passionate advocate for individuals with disabilities, passed away. Kameron stated that she received a [heartfelt letter](#) from Eunice's son, Tim Shriver, and will forward it to Kathleen for distribution to the members.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 1:00 p.m., Sarasota County Health and Human Services, Room 226