

## Community Alliance of Sarasota County

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

### Developmental Disabilities Committee

September 8, 2009

### Meeting Summary

#### Members present:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Cain Blackwell      | YMCA/Safe Children Coalition                       |
| Kayly Dennis        | Vocational Rehabilitation (for Laurel White)       |
| Irania Graterol     | Goodwill Industries – Manasota (for Margie Genter) |
| Sarah Hickey        | Sarasota County School Board                       |
| Teresa Johnson      | Parent   |
| Keith Kitchens      | Suncoast Center for Independent Living             |
| Susan Magers        | Parent   |
| Judith Martin       | Community Haven (for Ryan Stoyles)                 |
| Michelle Pilkington | Agency for Persons with Disabilities               |
| Myriam Reyes        | Parent Representative for Manasota ARC             |
| Mary Smith          | Family Network on Disabilities                     |
| Chip Taylor         | Sarasota County Health and Human Services          |
| Caitlin M. Trask    | United Cerebral Palsy                              |
| Benny Weaver        | Loveland Center                                    |
| Kim Williams        | The Florida Center                                 |

#### Members not present:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Sue Firestone             | Senior Friendship Centers                         |
| Ellen Hepner              | Children’s Medical Services                       |
| Deborah Hobson            | Family Network on Disabilities                    |
| Richard Montemagno        | Sarasota County Sheriff’s Department              |
| Kameron Partridge         | Easter Seals Southwest Florida                    |
| Carol Burmeister Prichard | Community Member – Special Education Professional |
| Boyd L. Stout, Jr.        | Parent Representative for United Cerebral Palsy   |
| Diane Weiner              | Manasota ARC                                      |

#### Others present:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Alma Cervantes  | Suncoast Center for Independent Living |
| Jody Guttridge  | Children’s Medical Services            |
| Andrea King     | Sarasota County Parks and Recreation   |
| Michaela Magers | Student                                |

#### 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. A quorum was present.

## **Election of Second Vice-Chair**

Susan Magers reported that Teresa Johnson has volunteered to fill the vacant second Vice-Chair seat. It was noted that at the last meeting Ryan Stoyles agreed to accept the Chair seat as well as Kameron Partridge accepting the first Vice-Chair seat. Susan opened the floor for additional nominations and explained that in order for a person to be eligible for an officer seat one must already be a sitting member on the committee. No additional nominations were brought forth. Members unanimously approved (by a show of hands) the selection of Teresa Johnson as the second Vice-Chair. It was also pointed out that Susan will now become the "Immediate Past Chair".

## **Old Business**

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

Susan Magers reported that a [resource spreadsheet](#) was in the members' packets for review. Anyone who had not turned in their completed spreadsheet was asked to do so prior to the end of the meeting. Jamie Mahadeo reported that at the last meeting the group discussed the draft spreadsheet and the suggestions for the School Board Transition Coordinators to visit the area community agencies in order to understand the services that each agency provides to the community. A discussion ensued on the School Board Transition Program. Sarah Hickey stated that she will discuss the suggestion with school staff on who would visit the agencies.

## **Composition of Committee**

Susan Magers asked members to assist with filling the various vacant parent/family seats on the committee.

## **Developmental Disabilities Strike Team**

Michelle Pilkington reported that the August 27 Developmental Disabilities Strike Team [summary](#) was in the members' packets for review. Michelle stated that the strike team had another discussion on the name of the team and agreed to keep the name as the "Developmental Disabilities Strike Team". Other discussions were on the need for additional members on the team, the Incident Command System (ICS), and the available ICS training.

## **Mission and Purpose Flyer**

Susan Magers reported that there was a revised [draft brochure](#) in the members' packets for review and comment. A discussion ensued on whether to adopt the "Guiding Principles". Chip Taylor stated that this brochure should be a communication tool between the Developmental Disabilities Committee and the community. It should be kept simple in order to be easily understood by citizens. It was agreed to delete the

principles (fourth panel) and replace them with two bulleted accomplishments: “Improved Transportation” and “Developmental Disabilities Strike Team”. Other recommended suggestions:

- Front panel:
  - No changes
- Second panel:
  - Delete picture and replace it with the fifth panel picture (mom and three children).
- Third panel:
  - Legislative Statement – delete the comma after the word “safety”.
- Fourth panel:
  - Delete “Guiding Principles” and all bullets
  - Replace with “Accomplishments” and the following bullets: Improved Transportation and Developmental Disabilities Strike Team
  - Change quote at the bottom to state: “Susan Magers, Member of the Developmental Disabilities Committee”
- Fifth panel:
  - Bold the monthly meeting information
  - Delete the second picture (mom with three children)
  - Enlarge and bold the “Keep me informed!” section and add Telephone No. before “Email Address”.
- Sixth panel:
  - Delete “Sarasota County School Board Parent Liaison”

It was suggested that copies of the brochure should be given to the Community Alliance Steering Committee members once it is finalized.

## **Priority Updates**

### **Advocacy/Education:**

- Business Leadership Network – Sarasota and Manatee counties have partnered to form a network to promote diversity policies that include people with disabilities and hiring practices that target candidates with disabilities. Some of the members include CVS, Publix, and Tropicana. Sarah Hickey volunteered to provide updates on the network and their meeting schedule.
- Suncoast Center for Independent Living will be hosting a mini-conference, [“On Track to Transition”](#) on October 15 for parents, students, and professionals who are preparing for transitioning students from school to community. A flyer will be sent out soon.
- A Sarasota County School District Task Force will be formed to discuss restraint and seclusion for students with disabilities due to a recent incident in the county.

### **Legislative Issues:**

- No discussion.

## **SCAT Discussion**

Judith Martin stated that there was no update for the committee and one will be provided at the next meeting.

## **New Business**

### **Upcoming Special Meeting with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities**

Chip Taylor reported that the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) Director, Jim DeBeaugrine is holding a series of meetings around the state to discuss new initiatives that will affect APD customers. Chip suggested inviting the Director to a future meeting to present APD's new initiatives and for the Committee to share their accomplishments. Susan asked members if there was an interest in this type of opportunity. Members agreed. Susan suggested that members should provide talking points for the meeting. It was mentioned that the Developmental Disabilities Council will be holding a meeting in October in Tallahassee and many of the agencies will be attending this meeting. It was suggested to have their meeting after the Council's meeting, to invite constituents and the surrounding county agencies, and to do an RSVP for the event.

### **Other New Business**

- None

## **Announcements**

- October is Developmental Disabilities "Support of Employment" Month.
- The Family Care Council and APD will co-host a disability and awareness kick-off event, "[Paving the way to Work, Live, and Succeed](#)" on October 3 at the Church at Braden River (5412 State Road 64 East) with various presenters.
- The Family Network on Disabilities (FND) and Pave the Way Consulting will co-host a 4-part advocacy training mini-series, "[The Art of Advocacy](#)" in Sarasota and Manatee Counties to teach parents and professionals how to enhance their advocacy skill and to increase their knowledge of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA). The training will be held in Manatee County on October 29, November 5, 12, and 19. The same training will be held in Sarasota County in February 2010 (4, 11, 18, and 25).

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 1:00 p.m., Sarasota County Health and Human Services, Room 226**