

Community Alliance of Sarasota County Developmental Disabilities Committee

Meeting Summary August 10, 2010

Present:

Lynn Clement	BrightStar
Tim Connors	Suncoast Center for Independent Living
Margie Genter	Goodwill Industries
Kathleen Marie Hall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarah Hickey	Sarasota County School Board
Stephanie Hoffman	Area Agency on Aging
Teresa Johnson	Family/Caregiver Representative
Andrea King	Sarasota County Parks & Recreation
Susan Magers	Family/Caregiver Representative
Jamie Mahadeo	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Laura McIntyre	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Kameron Partridge	Easter Seals
Michelle Pilkington	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Susan Richmond	Center for Autism Related Disabilities (CARD)
Mary Smith	Family Network on Disabilities
Jessica Ventimiglia	Manasota 2-1-1

Kameron Partridge welcomed the participants and self-introductions were made. The June 8, 2010 meeting summary was approved without corrections.

Work Group Reports

Community Awareness Work Group:

Teresa Johnson reported that the work group reviewed the June summary and made the following suggestions:

- Invite the North Port Nightmares football team to speak at a future meeting to discuss a future community project.
- Gather information on membership vacancies.
- Create committee letterhead for informational packets.
- Hold a “family day” activity in the future.

Tracking and Identifying our Population Work Group:

Susan Magers reported that 28 surveys have been completed by area agencies. Federico Valadez from Project 10 has been invited to facilitate the interactive “Gaps and Overlaps” activity at the September 14 meeting.

Community Alliance of Sarasota County Developmental Disabilities Committee

Meeting Summary August 10, 2010

Engaging Those in Need and Delivering Services Work Group:

Mary Smith distributed a draft of the Zoomerang survey for review. A discussion ensued on how to market the survey, the time frame, paper vs. electronic dissemination, the importance of the data, sensitivity to verbiage, snap-shot explanation on certain words, housing needs, reading level on Zoomerang, and the approval of the school board.

Members asked that the following revisions be made:

- Question No. 7 – place “intellectual disabilities/ developmentally delayed” in parenthesis after mental retardation.
- Question No. 41 – add “check all that apply.”
- All areas of survey should state “individuals with developmental disabilities or needs.”
- Add “Living Arrangement” question (where one lives).
- “Source of Income” question – reword the question to state: “Please indicate the sources of income that the individual is currently using”, add “None” as one of the answers, change “Family financial support” to “Family/guardian financial support.”
- “Optional Information” – add the following comment, “If anyone would like a copy of the survey results, please provide a contact email address below.”
- “Needs Assessment” section – add a comment box under each question to explain why the need is not being met, under “Education” Change Post Secondary to “After high school” or put in parenthesis “college or vocational training,” and move “Behavior Therapy” after “Mental Health.”
- Top of page 2 – change “three questions” to state, “the following questions.”
- Top of survey state, “anonymous” survey.

It was noted that all questions need to be answered or the survey will not submit. It was suggested to disseminate the survey to local agencies within the Committee through an email message and the survey link. The agencies could then forward the same email to their clients to participate in the survey. Other suggestions included members linking the survey on their agency website, forwarding the survey through the Sarasota School Board ESE system and to clients within the Sarasota County Health Department, placing the link in the Sarasota Herald Tribune’s “Community News” section and in community newsletters. Mary stated that this type of survey could be completed on an annual, biannual or every 5 year basis.

Community Alliance of Sarasota County Developmental Disabilities Committee

Meeting Summary August 10, 2010

Mary asked Jamie Mahadeo to make the revisions to the survey. The next step will be to email the revised survey to the members as a demo. Mary asked members to email Jamie with any feedback, questions, or marketing suggestions for the survey. It was also mentioned that there should be a quick review of the survey at the beginning of the September 14 meeting.

Membership Update

Kameron Partridge reported that there is a concern of disconnect between the Developmental Disabilities Committee and the Community Alliance Steering Committee with information not being relayed appropriately. Currently, the Developmental Disabilities Committee Chair is listed under the Client/Consumer Representative category on the Community Alliance Steering Committee. Kameron felt that this seat should be moved to the "Developmental Disabilities Representative" category and the members currently in this category should be required to be an active member of the Developmental Disabilities Committee. It was also suggested that the Chair of the Developmental Disabilities Committee should automatically become one of the Developmental Disabilities representatives on the Steering Committee. Members felt that the Community Alliance bylaws should reflect these changes in the future. Jamie Mahadeo suggested discussing this concern with Pauline Tracy.

Teresa Johnson mentioned that it was suggested at the last meeting that the Committee's Family/Caregiver category should be increased from three to six members. Jamie suggested that the current seats should be filled before adding any additional seats.

Developmental Disabilities Strike Team

Michelle Pilkington reported that the team met on July 29 and finalized the resource guide. The guide has been placed on the Sarasota COAD and Community Alliance websites. The next upcoming meetings will be on August 26 at the All Faiths Food Bank and on September 30 at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Meetings are scheduled on the last Thursday of the month.

Community Alliance Update

Kameron Partridge reported that consultant Doug Ross facilitated a marketing workshop at the June meeting. Doug reported his findings at the July meeting including exploring the membership, the role of the Executive Committee, and creating an advisory board. Further discussion will be held at the August 11 Executive Committee meeting.

Community Alliance of Sarasota County Developmental Disabilities Committee

Meeting Summary August 10, 2010

Announcements

- Susan Richmond announced that the Center for Autism Related Disabilities (CARD) has a free “autism business friendly” initiative where staff will come in, access the business concerns with persons with autism, and then provide appropriate training. Susan will bring the initiative material to the next meeting.
- Susan Magers announced that she will be attending the Planning and Outcome Committee meetings and will report back to the Committee.
- Susan announced that she and Mary Smith are collaborating on a new initiative, “Mom’s Away”. This is a 24 hour retreat for mothers of children with disabilities to learn coping skills to balance their lives. The first retreat will be held at The Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Golf Club in St. Petersburg with two speakers. For further information, go to: www.momsaway.org
- Mary Smith distributed the Family Network on Disabilities newsletter for review.
- Andrea King distributed T-REC flyers with the upcoming events.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Developmental Disabilities Committee will be held on September 14, 2010 at 1:00 in Room 226 at the Health and Human Services Building, 2200 Ringling Boulevard in Sarasota.

Kameron Partridge suggested that staff email several reminders prior to the September 14 meeting in order to have full participation for the “Gaps and Overlaps” discussion.