

Community Alliance of Sarasota County

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Developmental Disabilities Work Group

November 10, 2008

Meeting Summary

Members present:

Carol Burmeister	Community Member – Special Ed Professional
Sue Firestone	Senior Friendship Centers
Irania Graterol	Goodwill Industries - Manasota
Deborah Hobson	Family Network on Disabilities (for Mary Smith)
Theresa Johnson	Parent
Andrea King	Sarasota County Parks and Recreation Department
Susan Magers	Sarasota County School Board Parent Liaison
Kameron Partridge	Easter Seals
Ryan Stoyles	Community Haven
William Tracy	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office (for Richard Montemagno)
Diane Weiner	Mansota ARC

Staff:

Kathleen Marie Hall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Susan Magers welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Old Business

Bylaws Committee Report

Ryan Stoyles reported that a draft of the [By-laws](#) was in the members' packets for review. Ryan explained that the committee used the Community Alliance By-laws as a starting point and made revisions according to the Developmental Disabilities Work Group's needs. It was recommended to change the group's name from Developmental Disabilities Work Group to the Developmental Disabilities Committee. Other recommendations were:

- To create a mission statement.
- To add the work group's existing developmental disabilities definition.
- To initiate an "inclusive" membership policy.
- To allow members to serve unlimited two-year terms.
- To elect officers to serve a one-year term with a 3-year limit on the number of terms.

A discussion ensued on the by-laws regarding membership and who else should be at the table (such as Human Service Advisory Council, United Cerebral Palsy, Suncoast

Center for Independent Living, Senior Friendship Centers, and SCAT). Teresa Johnson pointed out that there was a grammatical error in the document on Page 2 under Article IV, where it states, "...different stages of their life;" this should read "...different stages of his/her life." It was suggested to email the revised by-laws to the work group members for their review prior to the next meeting.

SCAT discussion

Chip Taylor announced that the next SCAT discussion will be held on Monday, November 17, to discuss the strategies to move forward on the policy change. Paula Dumas (HSAC Vice-Chair) will facilitate the meeting. Chip noted that SCAT recently sent a letter to the Board of County Commissioners requesting a postponement of the implementation of the policy change until October, 2009. Chip requested members to forward any additional information on expected impacts to Kathleen Hall for Monday's meeting. Susan Magers asked Chip to keep the work group informed on the outcome of the letter.

18 to 30 Age Group Discussion

Susan Magers reported that there was a handout in the members' packets for review on the 18 to 30 age group. Susan explained that there is a great concern for the developmental disabilities students that will be transitioning from the school district to community agencies. Many of these students are still on waiting lists. The reality is that these individuals will not receive the needed services and will end up at home. Somehow, the data needs to be gathered into one database in order to identify how large the scope of the problem is. Susan asked members for their input.

A discussion ensued on obtaining numbers from the Med-Waiver, the waiting lists, Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), and the School Board; centralizing the information, identifying the gaps, educating the community, expanding training, and implementing *Tapestry*. Susan requested members to email the following information to staff:

- How many developmental disabilities students are ready to exit the school system in the next two years?
- How many developmental disabled persons have exited the school system in the last five years?
- Where are these persons now?

Ryan Stoyles asked Kathleen to forward an email to Diane Weiner and Keith Kitchens to request their agencies' information regarding this age group.

Priority Updates

- Aftercare – Susan Magers reported that the [Aftercare survey](#) has been activated and will run through November 30. A flyer is being sent out to 43,000 parents through the ESE elementary and middle school teachers along with Oak Park. Deborah Hobson noted that through a recent *1,000 Ideas* Conference she discovered that there is state funding available to train counselors of special needs children in aftercare. Diane Weiner noted that the nonprofit organization "[R'Club](#)" in Pinellas County would be a good resource. This organization

provides quality childcare for special needs children through extended learning programs in both exceptional student education centers in Pinellas County.

- Advocacy – Teresa Johnson requested that this report be tabled until the next meeting. Andrea King announced that there was a very positive and well written article, "[Autistic teen fulfills dream to play anthem](#)" in the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*.
- Respite – Deborah Hobson reported that the Family Network on Disabilities is at capacity (10 families) and there is no additional funding available at this time. The organization has applied for several grants. A waiting list has been created and they will continue to take applications.

Kameron Partridge reported that Easter Seals is 100% grant and community funded for respite care. Their current requests are with case management and emergency-based needs and they are not at capacity at this time. Easter Seals staffs 13 employees to handle respite services in 4-hour increments a week (according to their availability) with the possibility of up to 16 hours a month. Other respite programs consist of a once-a-month drop-off program for outside community activities and a sleep-over once every 6 months.

Ryan Stoyles reported that Community Haven has one available respite bed in their *Community Living Program* but it is contingent on APD's approval since they are licensed group homes through APD.

- Diapers – Members suggested deleting this priority from the priority list and adding Transportation.

Ryan Stoyles moved, Teresa Johnson seconded to delete the Diaper Priority from the Developmental Disabilities Work Group's priority list. The motion passed unanimously.

Ryan Stoyles moved, Deborah Hobson seconded to add Transportation to the Developmental Disabilities Work Group's priority list. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Announcements

Kameron Partridge announced that she was contacted by a family in Parrish which will be leaving the area and has a wheelchair-accessible home for sale. Kameron noted that she would send Kathleen the information to email out to the work group.

Andrea King announced that she recently went to a presentation by "[Project Lifesaver](#)". This program is sponsored by the Sarasota Police Department. It provides enhanced support and assistance to the families of individuals suffering from Alzheimer's Disease as well as families with children with developmental disabilities. Andrea suggested inviting "Project Lifesaver" to make a presentation to the Developmental Disabilities Work Group. Susan asked Andrea to arrange the presentation for a future meeting and to contact staff with the confirmed date.

Diane Weiner announced that Kristine Wallace is the new Director of Programs and Services at United Cerebral Palsy and should be added to the distribution list.

Sue Firestone noted that Senior Friendship Centers offered to be utilize the center as an access point for families to qualify for the Med-Waiver. The center also has a variety of venders who provide incontinence supplies to clients and often donate these supplies. Sue offered to store such supplies at the center as a resource for the area.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, December 8 at Health and Human Services in Room 226.

Susan Magers adjourned the meeting at 2:14 p.m.