

Community Alliance of Sarasota County

www.sarasotaalliance.net

Developmental Disabilities Work Group

September 9, 2008

Meeting Summary

Members present:

Anne Barrow	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Margie Genter	Goodwill Industries - Manasota
Joann Gepfert	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Sarah Hickey	Sarasota County School Board
Peter Howard	The Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Andrea King	Sarasota County Parks and Recreation Department
Susan Magers	Sarasota County School Board Parent Liaison
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Kameron Partridge	Easter Seals of Southwest Florida
Mary Smith	Family Network on Disabilities
Ryan Stoyles	Community Haven
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Diane Weiner	Manasota Association of Retarded Citizens
Laurel White	Vocational Rehabilitation
Kim Williams	The Florida Center for Child and Family Development
MaryAnn Zyla-Smith	Easter Seals of Southwest Florida

Staff:

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

Welcome and Introductions

Co-chairs Peter Howard and Benny Weaver welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Leadership Continuity

Peter Howard asked members to discuss the leadership continuity within the Developmental Disabilities Work Group by creating leadership positions consisting of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary. Peter recommended that a parent representative would be the best candidate for the Chair position, with an agency volunteering for the Vice-Chair and Secretary positions. Peter pointed out that no one has volunteered for the Chair position, but two members have volunteered for the Vice-Chair position: Ryan Stoyles and Kameron Partridge.

A discussion ensued on the leadership positions, and agreement was reached to drop the Secretary position and include two Vice-Chairs. It was decided to appoint interim

positions until January 2009 for the Chair and two Vice-Chairs. By that time, bylaws should be in place and another election can be held for the three positions. Members appointed the following:

- Chair: Susan Magers
- Vice-Chairs: Kameron Partridge and Ryan Stoyles

Peter Howard moved, Sarah Hickey seconded to appoint the interim positions on the Developmental Disabilities Work Group: Chair – Susan Magers, Vice-Chairs – Kameron Partridge and Ryan Stoyles. The motion passed unanimously.

An additional discussion ensued on appointing a permanent seat on the Community Alliance Steering Committee from the Developmental Disabilities Work Group. It was determined that Peter Howard, Benny Weaver and Sarah Hickey are already on the Steering Committee. Chip Taylor noted that the meetings of the Community Alliance Executive Committee are held on the Wednesday prior to the Community Alliance Steering Committee meetings, at 1:30 p.m. at the Community Foundation. It is customary for the Chair or Vice-Chair of each sub-committee to attend these meetings to give an update on their group. The Community Alliance Steering Committee meetings are held on the third Monday of the month and all members are welcomed to attend.

By-laws Ad Hoc Committee

Pauline Tracy requested members to volunteer for an *ad hoc* committee to create by-laws for the Developmental Disabilities Work Group. Pauline noted that the by-laws for the Community Alliance are available on the website (www.sarasotaalliance.net) for review and to assist in creating the work group's by-laws.

A discussion ensued on the creation of the by-laws and member selection. Chip Taylor noted that Elliott Metcalfe originally drafted the Community Alliance By-laws and would be a good candidate to review the Work Group's draft. The following members volunteered to be on the By-laws *Ad Hoc* Committee:

- Susan Magers
- Kameron Partridge
- Kim Williams
- Ryan Stoyles
- Mary Smith

Priority Reports

Diaper Donations – Peter Howard requested to table this priority to the next meeting.

Aftercare – Joann Gepfert reported that at the last meeting, Susan Magers and Teresa Johnson agreed to complete the aftercare survey. Susan stated that the survey will be prepared through the School Board and then distributed to the families in October. Susan asked the members for input on the appropriate questions for the survey and to limit the number of questions to 5. It was suggested for members to email their

suggestions to Susan by the close of business on September 16. Chip Taylor suggested that the questions be close-ended and offered the use of the County's *Zoomerang Survey* program. Chip explained that the survey could be a two-step process: the screening and analysis process and then a focus group process on the issues that were not previously addressed. The Community Alliance members could be asked to assist in getting the participation of key players to the table. Members agreed that there are additional key players who need to be at the table. It was suggested to invite representatives from YMCA Aftercare, YMCA Coalition, Boys and Girls Club, Girls, Inc., etc. to a future meeting to get their take on the available aftercare programs and what could be done to accommodate developmentally disabled children. Members asked Pauline Tracy to draft a letter to be sent out to the various agencies.

Transportation — Richard Montemagno reported that he was not in attendance at the previous meeting for this group but that the other appointed members are no longer available or moved out of the area. Laurel White and Benny Weaver volunteered to serve on this committee. Benny gave an update on the SCAT issue of implementing an additional fee to the agencies and his concern of a lack of communication. Benny reviewed emails sent between Carl Penxa, Commissioner Shannon Staub, and Jeannine Buzbee. It was explained within these emails that the postponement was until January 2009. The emails further explained that if any agency needed a further extension they should forward an informal letter to Commissioner Shannon Staub to request an extension and to provide the reasons. A carbon copy should be sent to Jim Pelt and Rick Tacy.

A discussion ensued on the SCAT fee to the agencies and that these services are considered "premium" services. Several alternatives were discussed, such as agencies using the regular bus service instead of SCAT Plus or agencies coordinating their own transportation service for clients. Beverly Kent with SCAT had mentioned at the last Community Alliance Executive Committee that they will be making a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners in October. Pauline Tracy will find out the exact time and date and notify members of the work group. Pauline will contact Bill Little to see if a meeting has been set for the agencies and SCAT. Peter asked the newly-appointed Chair and Vice-Chairs to assist Pauline in inviting agencies to this meeting. It was also mentioned that this could be considered as a legislative issue for the Community Alliance to consider as one of their priorities. Susan Magers requested that the issues be placed in bullet point format for the meeting so all agencies are on the same page. Pauline reminded the members that all meetings need to be advertised on the County calendar per the Sunshine Law.

Respite — Mary Smith reported that there was an updated [spreadsheet](#) in the members' packets for review with one additional provider added to the list: McKinnon Care, Inc. This provider is an in-home program for adults and children and accepts Med-waiver or private pay. Mary noted that she will research further into the faith-based expansion program by contacting the local and Orlando offices of Nathaniel's Hope, ministerial associations and various churches in the area. It was mentioned that there are over 200 churches in Manatee County's Ministerial Association and there is a movement in Sarasota County to do the same. Mary asked for volunteers to assist her on this priority.

A discussion ensued on the respite priority including the importance of knowing where all the area programs are located, if the available programs are at capacity, launching an awareness campaign to educate the public, implementing the available beds into the IDEAS system, including adult care, and researching other counties' respite plans. Diane Weiner mentioned that the Manasota ARC provides respite for adults, 18 years of age and older, in their group homes and they do take clients from Sarasota.

Advocacy – Susan Magers stated that there was nothing new to report on advocacy at this time. A discussion ensued on the Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) and the fact that it does not include training on persons with developmental disabilities. Chip Taylor stated that the program could be broadened to include developmental disabilities and asked Susan to contact Pam Meunier, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Policy Coordinator, to discuss the addition of this training. Susan mentioned that Dennis Debbaudt provides training through the Autism Society of Greater Orlando which includes how to work with persons with developmental disabilities. The next scheduled training will be on February 20, 2009. Registration is free by contacting dlorman@asgo.org.

Announcements

Mary Smith announced that the Family Network is pursuing guardianship through the Center for Guardianship Advocacy. There will be a presentation on Friday, September 12 for area agencies. The next step will be to work with lawyers and judges in Sarasota and Manatee counties. The program should be up and running by December 2008.

Andrea King announced that October is National Disability Employment Awareness month and distributed a flyer on a free *Disability Awareness Health and Recreation Expo* on Saturday, October 14. The event is sponsored by the Sarasota County Parks and Recreation Department. Andrea asked members to invite consumers and vendors to the expo at Arlington Park. For further information, contact Carissa at 809-4616.

Next Meeting

A discussion ensued on establishing a set date and time for the monthly meetings. It was agreed to hold the meetings on the Tuesday before the monthly Community Alliance Executive Committee meeting. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 14 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 226. Peter Howard asked members to contact staff with agenda items prior to the next meeting. Members suggested inviting a SCAT representative to the October Developmental Disabilities Work Group meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.