

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY WORK GROUP

October 7, 2004

Members Present: Bob Carter
 Diana French
 Cheryl Kopmann
 Beverly Stockton

Others Present: Christie Lewis, Nonprofit Resource Center

Staff Present: Pauline Tracy

The work group had a lengthy discussion regarding the future direction of the work group and how they can best serve the Community Alliance. Being able to address issues quickly and serve as a forum for members to learn about issues were seen as strengths of the Alliance. The work group has worked to improve internal communications such as through the website and to provide educational sessions at the Steering Committee meetings. It was felt that the work group should begin to meet on an ad hoc basis to schedule future presentations. Bob Carter will bring this issue up for discussion with the Executive Committee.

Christie Lewis, Executive Director of the Nonprofit Resource Center, attended the meeting to explore whether there are ways both groups could work together to identify the types of educational opportunities needed in the community. The Center provides high quality training sessions and workshops which are open to the public. Future trainings include compassion fatigue and disaster preparedness and planning. The Alliance can provide the Center with emerging topics that would be beneficial to the community. It was agreed that Christie should give a brief overview of the Nonprofit Resource Center to the Steering Committee in November to ensure that all members are familiar with what they offer.

The Medicaid Reform Symposium has been rescheduled for November 22, from 1:30 to 4:00. The organizing committee only had two weeks to advertise and register participants for the earlier session that was cancelled so it was difficult to get the word out. It is anticipated that with more time to advertise the symposium, we will have a better response rate. It appears many people do not realize the impact of the proposed Medicaid Waiver so there needs to be more general education about the subject prior to the symposium. The Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee will be working with the Nonprofit Resource Center to plan and advertise the event.

The work group agreed that it was time to ask Alberto Suarez, Executive Director of Manasota 211, to provide a status report to the Steering Committee on the 211 system. In particular, how well the system worked during the recent hurricanes, has the flow of information improved and what he needs from the Community Alliance. Pauline will contact Alberto about the October meeting.