

**COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Community Foundation of Sarasota, 2635 Fruitville Road**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**May 14, 2008**

Members Present: Elliott Metcalfe, Chair  
Ken Alexander  
Karen Bogues  
Bob Carter  
Kay Glasser  
Peter Howard  
Bill Little  
Tom Pfaff  
Stewart Stearns  
Jerry Thompson

Guests Present: Dave Beesley  
Virginia Donovan  
Marsha Hosack  
Marcia Monroe  
Jeffrey Watts

Staff Present: Nancy DeLoach  
Kathleen Marie Hall  
Charles Taylor

Elliott Metcalfe welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chip Taylor reminded members that the next Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting will be on Monday, May 19 at the Emergency Operations Center, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sixth Floor, Sarasota.

**Community Information Exchange/Tapestry Update**

Chip Taylor gave an update on the Community Information Exchange/Tapestry. The first year funding has been approved for the Tapestry project and will go before the Board of County Commissioners on May 19. The next step will be to complete the State and County contract requirements and to discuss adding a mental health module to the system. 2-1-1 is in the process of switching their information to the web-based module and will go live on September 1. In the next two months, there will be a meeting with the agencies comprising the Sarasota

COAD to identify the common data that will be shared and to sign protocols. Dr. John Petrilla at the USF-Florida Mental Health Institute will be invited to this meeting to discuss HIPAA and other requirements.

### **Human Service Advisory Council Sub-System Workshops**

Nancy DeLoach explained that over the past few months the County's Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) went through a series of facilitated meetings to discuss the Contracted Human Services (CHS) funding process and improvements to the system. It was recognized that many of the CHS-funded programs are part of a sub-system within the community's overall human services system. Over the next few months, the HSAC will begin a series of mini-workshops on the aging, mental health and substance abuse, criminal justice, and health sub-systems. Nancy noted that each presentation will be system focused rather than on a specific program or agency. There will be 4 - 5 presenters on each topic with two topics at each session. The first session will be on May 30 covering the topics of health and aging services. On August 8, the mental health and substance abuse and criminal justice systems will present. Chip noted that through these workshops the HSAC members will develop a better understanding of how the programs they consider fit into larger systems and this will enable them to make smarter decisions on the allocation of funds. Nancy asked the Executive Committee members if there were other systems, materials, or appropriate presenters that should be included in the workshops.

Bob Carter requested to present on June 28. Jerry Thompson suggested the need for consistency on the structure of the presentations. Chip stated that staff will create a framework for the presentations on how the sub-systems feed into the larger system. At the same time, agencies should discuss the sub-systems in order to identify where the imbalances are within the system. It was noted that part of the criteria should be that the CHS programs should be part of the system.

### **Committee and Work Group Updates**

#### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium**

Bill Little reported that there was a [handout](#) in the members' packets for review. The next meeting of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium will be on Friday, May 16. The Transitional Housing Committee will reconvene on Tuesday, May 20 to discuss the available beds and the program flow in connecting with the housing providers. Drew Clayton, a former member of the HSAC, has agreed to chair this committee.

#### **Sarasota COAD**

Stewart Stearns reported that at the May 5 meeting the committee reviewed a tabletop fire exercise in North Port presented by the EOC. This exercise assisted in identifying where the gaps are in services.

## **Economic Self-Sufficiency Strategic Planning Work Group**

Tom Pfaff reported on the “Financial Assistance” sub-group, one of three groups within the Economic Self-Sufficiency Strategic Planning Work Group. Richard Martin chairs the “Fundraising” subgroup and Steve Queior chairs the “Foreclosure Prevention and Loss Mitigation” subgroup. Tom distributed a handout and explained that his subgroup is in the discovery phase of identifying what systems are in place and what it will cost to grow those systems if additional funding were available. Tom presented a scenario where agencies such as Jewish Family and Childrens Services, Catholic Charities, and The Salvation Army were provided with additional funding for financial emergency assistance services and identified what the agencies would need in terms of case management infrastructure to be able to efficiently and effectively distribute the funding. It also showed how much of the funding would actually go to the families in need.

A discussion ensued on financial assistance within the county, outcomes within a 90-day period, what occurred after Hurricane Katrina, the dysfunctional systems already in place, and the need to create a new system. Tom noted that the subgroup’s research will show how an individual can get access to existing funding as well as additional funding, what it will take, and what the impact will be. Members stated that a centralized center should be in place in order to run an efficient process and minimize the cost.

## **Update on 2008 Legislative Session Results**

### **Department of Juvenile Justice**

Ginny Donovan reported that the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice will take an overall \$73.4 million decrease in funding (11.4% decrease), with a \$75.2 million decrease in General Revenue (16.4%) offset by \$1.8 million in Trust funding. The specific reductions include:

- \$3.7 million in statewide detention positions (72 positions)
- \$2.2 million reduction in day treatment services
- \$392,579 reduction in JAC funding
- \$2.9 million reduction in low-risk beds (84 beds)
- \$5.6 million reduction in moderate-risk beds (160 beds)
- \$15.1 million reduction in high-risk beds (308 beds)
- \$1.9 million reduction in CINS/FINS
- \$200,000 reduction to PACE
- \$660,705 reduction in Probation and Residential Services (11 positions)
- The CINS/FINS and PACE reductions will be offset by funds shifted from the Grants and Donations Trust Fund.

### **Department of Children and Families**

Jeff Watts reported that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is attempting to mitigate cuts from federal funding and have reduced 22.7% of the

Adult Substance Abuse TANF funding in order to keep cash subsidies flowing from the federal level. Other reductions will be in state mental hospital staffing and in forensic beds. The Department is in the process of privatizing management of their mental health and substance abuse services at the most efficient cost possible. A public meeting will be held on June 2 in Tampa regarding the SunCoast Region (includes Sarasota, Pasco, Manatee, Pinellas, Desoto and Hillsborough counties) and will be the first region to go to bid. The RFP will be for a \$100 million contract per year (5% allotted for administrative funding). Not-for-profit 501-C3s will be the only eligible entities to bid. Once this contract is in place, DCF will have two main functions: oversight of the managing entity and planning and development of the system. Jeff stated that the actual budget reductions will not be known until July 1. It was suggested that Jeff forward the information to the Community Alliance when it becomes available.

A discussion ensued on the efficiency gained by privatizing the Department, the need to protect the service system, moving toward a co-occurring approach for mental health and substance abuse services, service providers being a member of the network, using the model as an example to influence collectively for the future, and the reality of state hospitals.

### **Aging Services**

Bob Carter reported that aging services will have an overall 5% reduction. Currently, in-home services have a waiting list of 400+ persons, with the anticipation of taking on no new clients. Bob explained that the reason for the high waiting list is due to many older adults not being able to sell their homes in order to move into an assisted living facility and are therefore not functioning well.

### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services**

Dave Beesley reported that the majority of the proposed budget cuts for substance abuse services provided by First Step were restored, including the Department of Corrections funding (unsure how it will be distributed) and DCF funding for the Mothers and Infants Program, which still took a \$50,000 cut. Ominously, all funding was switched from the recurring to the non-recurring category. The TANF funding was approved for the local child welfare services support wraparound. There will be layoffs in the outpatient program and 10 beds may be cut (20% of beds). Dave stated that as the economy continues to deteriorate, the demand for services will spike and all agencies will need to make adjustments.

### **Pre-School Services**

Peter Howard reported that there will be layoffs occurring with the overall 6-7% budget cut including:

- \$100,000 reduction in prevention services
- \$75,000 reduction in the Fetal Alcohol Program
- \$117,000 in Healthy Families services

Peter stated that The Florida Center will be closing down the 0 – 3 year old classrooms and the waiting lists will increase. The only children who will receive services will be severely-ill children with disabilities. Peter noted that a Fetal Alcohol clinic will open in Miami which will assist in funneling back some infrastructure funding in order to maintain their current services. Peter pointed out that the Early Learning Coalition received an 8% increase in services.

### **Health Department**

Bill Little reported that the Health Department will see an \$800,000 budget reduction, with the largest impact in clinic funding and Medicaid cost-based reimbursements. Bill stated that the Department has made adjustments in making the clinics more efficient, increasing the number of clients seen, raising eligibility from 200% to 300% of poverty level, and bringing in others to share the cost. The Department has become more efficient by making a change in the billing process to assist in mitigating some of the impacts. Bill noted that Senator Lisa Carlton has gone above and beyond to assist the Health Department in the cost-based reimbursement issue.

### **Office of the Public Defender**

Elliott Metcalfe reported that the Public Defender's budget has been reduced to \$6.5 million; 14 vacant positions will not be filled and they have not hired new staff in a year and a half. Elliott noted that he has heard that the revenues coming in will still not meet the current budget and the Legislature is talking about having a special session in January 2009. Marsha Hosack reported that revenues are down but Governor Crist has been given the flexibility to use \$1.7 billion in reserves if necessary to make ends meet.

### **New Business**

None

***The next Community Alliance Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 11 at 1:30 pm at the Community Foundation.***