

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sarasota Health and Human Services, 2200 Ringling Blvd

MEETING SUMMARY

November 12, 2009

Members Present: Ken Alexander
Bob Carter
Rose Chapman
Kay Glasser
Janet Kahn
Bill Little
Janice Mee
Sherri Reynolds
Jerry Thompson

Members Absent: Tom Pfaff
Steve Quieor
Stewart Stearns

Staff Present: Pauline Tracy

Sherri Reynolds welcomed everyone.

Community-Wide Senior Needs Assessment

Rose Chapman reported that there has never been a comprehensive needs assessment for seniors in Sarasota to determine what currently exists and where the gaps are. There have been a few assessments that have been completed but they were not comprehensive. When applying for grants, funders typically ask for needs assessment information. Bob stated that the needs of seniors have not changed much over the past few years but resources have decreased and the demand for services has increased. She and Bob Carter both stated that it is time for both a needs assessment and an asset inventory and thought that the Community Alliance would be the appropriate group to take the lead. They asked the Committee to consider forming a workgroup under the umbrella of the Community Alliance to develop the instrument and carry out the assessment.

Rose offered to contact other communities which have completed a comprehensive needs assessment and asset inventory. Bob offered to contact the Area Agency on Aging to see what they may already have. Bill Little

suggested that Rose and Bob meet with Kari Ellingstad who is currently working on the third CHIP Health survey. If the CHIP survey instrument has not been finalized yet, perhaps she would agree to add additional questions about seniors. There may also be questions already included in the CHIP instrument that can be used for the senior needs assessment. The last survey was mailed to 5,000 citizens and had a good return rate. Pauline will schedule a meeting with Kari, Rose and Bob.

The Steering Committee will be asked to endorse this initiative at Monday's meeting and members will be asked to volunteer to be on the needs assessment work group. Bob stated he saw this as a short-term project—2 to 3 months.

Meeting with the Sarasota Legislative Delegation

Janice Mee reported that the Community Alliance's legislative priorities have been submitted to Representative Holders' office for placement on the December 3 Sarasota Legislative Delegation's public hearing. Sherri Reynolds will make the presentation. In addition, a [letter](#) has been mailed to Representative Holder indicating that Caroline Zucker will contact his office in the next couple of weeks to schedule a meeting of the local delegation and the Community Alliance. The Alliance is interested in having a dialogue with the delegation around what affect the next session will have on health and human services. At the meeting, the Alliance hopes to familiarize the delegation with the resources available to them through the Alliance.

December 21 Steering Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee agreed to cancel the December 21 Steering Committee meeting.

USF Sarasota School of Social Work

Rose Chapman reported that USF Sarasota-Manatee has become a separate entity from USF Tampa. Dr. Guilford, Chancellor of the USF Sarasota-Manatee, has announced that this campus will no longer offer the BSW or MSW programs. Students interested in these programs and want to attend USF will have to travel to Tampa. Concern was expressed by the Committee that the 600+ social service agencies in Sarasota and Manatee counties have come to rely on the social work students as interns and employees. There are currently 13 part-time MSW students, 13 full-time MSW students and 30 full-time BSW students enrolled. During these economic times there is an increased need for trained social workers. The Committee agreed to place this item on the Steering Committee agenda and ask the members to send letters individually and as an Alliance to Dr. Guilford supporting the need for the BSW and MSW programs at the Sarasota-Manatee campus.

November 16 Steering Committee Agenda

- VISTA and AmeriCorps Recognition Ceremony—Dennis Stover
- Community-wide Seniors Needs Assessment—Rose Chapman and Bob Carter
- Meetings with the Sarasota Legislative Delegation—Janice Mee and Caroline Zucker
- Standing Committee Reports
- New Business
 - USF Sarasota School of Social Work
 - Cancellation of the December 21 Steering Committee meeting.

Next Meeting: The next Community Alliance Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16 at 1:30 p.m. at the Community Foundation of Sarasota.