

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Community Foundation of Sarasota, 2635 Fruitville Road

MEETING SUMMARY

January 21, 2009

Members Present: Sherri Reynolds, Chair
Ken Alexander
Karen Bogues
Bob Carter
Larry Egers
Kay Glasser
Janet Kahn
Bill Little
Susan Magers
Janice Mee
Tom Pfaff
Stewart Stearns
Jerry Thompson

Members Absent: Steve Quieor

Staff Present: Chip Taylor
Pauline Tracy

Sherri Reynolds welcomed everyone.

Nominating and Membership Committee Chair

Sherri Reynolds announced that she has appointed Janet Kahn to chair the Nominating and Membership Committee.

Draft Revisions to the Bylaws

The draft revisions to the bylaws were emailed to members two weeks prior to the next Steering Committee meeting. Sherri Reynolds, Elliott Metcalfe, Chip Taylor and Pauline Tracy reviewed the existing Community Alliance Bylaws and made recommendations for several revisions which included adding the Stakeholders' Consortium, the COAD and the Developmental Disabilities

Committee as standing committees. Karen Bogues asked whether the Planning and Outcomes Workgroup should be added as a standing committee as well.

Additional changes discussed included:

- Adding a seat to the local foundations in the *Funders* category to include Sarah Pappas, CEO of the Selby Foundation (Article V.B.);
- Combining both paragraphs under *Vacancies* (Article VB.2.);
- Changing the language in the first sentence of the first paragraph regarding the number of committee members under the *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium, Developmental Disabilities Committee, and Community Organizations Active in Disasters* (Article VII.D., E. and F.) to read "shall be comprised of no fewer than 7 members".

These changes will be discussed at the January 26 Steering Committee meeting. A vote to accept these changes will need to be taken at the February 23 meeting so that adequate notice is given according to the bylaws.

Several suggestions were made for additional groups who could be contacted to fill vacancies. The Nominating and Membership Committee will meet in the next month to review the vacancies.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Developmental Disabilities Work Group

Susan Magers reported that the Developmental Disabilities Work Group approved their bylaws last month and is now working on several issues.

- The Developmental Disabilities Executive Committee has continued to work with SCAT staff to resolve the transportation issues reported earlier. Ryan Stoyles and Chip Taylor are leading a work group to address how to develop a model based on agencies which have found ways to provide some transportation to their clients without relying totally on SCAT. Once the model is developed, the plan is to share this model with other agencies which are using SCAT services and not providing the majority of their own transportation. A second work group, led by Susan Magers and Beverly Kent, has been formed to meet with the Medicaid Waiver Support Coordinators to discuss how they are meeting the transportation needs of their clients. This group will look at systems capacity building.
- The Committee is currently researching the location and needs of the 18 to 30 year old developmentally disabled population. Currently, only 200 individuals in that age group are reported to be utilizing services in the community; however, there are many more who are either not receiving

services at all or are receiving some type of non-traditional service. The Committee plans to engage one of the local universities to determine their interest in assisting in researching the needs of this group.

- The Committee is also studying the utilization of after care services of school-aged children with disabilities. A survey was sent to parents to determine whether their children are currently in an after care program and, if not, the reasons why they are not in a program. The Committee is currently analyzing the results of the survey and should have some feedback by next month's meeting.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Bill Little referred everyone to the [Consortium's report](#) in their meeting packet. Bill highlighted the budget reduction amounts reported by DCF at the last Acute Care System Task Force. Jerry Thompson stated that the reductions in adult services will impact Coastal Behavioral Healthcare by approximately \$100,000. Although this is a reduction that the agency will be able to absorb, the multiple budget cuts all of the agencies have taken over the years are taking a toll on direct services. Most agencies are at the point of having to cut into their infrastructure.

Planning and Outcomes Work Group (POWG)

Karen Bogues reported that the POWG continues to meet to clarify information before sending their recommendations for new outcomes and targets to the HSAC, the Board of County Commissioners and the Community Alliance. On February 6, there will be a workshop on Positive Youth Development outcomes that everyone is invited to attend.

Karen reported that on February 24 there will be a "Brainstorming for Youth" meeting which will bring together people with different perspectives to discuss how a community plan could be developed which includes goals and outcomes for our youth.

Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD)

Stewart Stearns reported that the COAD did not meet in January but several members of the Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) contributed towards the development of long term recovery intake forms. The draft set of forms look very good and the LTRC will meet following the Steering Committee on Monday to review and make changes.

Legislative Budget Reductions

Discussion ensued regarding the recent legislative budget reductions and the anticipated reductions by the Legislature during the regular session. A [summary](#) of the FY 2008-09 House and Senate budget reductions for Health and Human Services and the Department of Corrections was distributed. The focus of the Community Alliance should be on what critical services the community will lose due to budget cuts in the regular session. There are cumulative and cascading effects which influence many more than those specific agencies which will receive the budget reductions. There was a concern expressed about the Special Projects which may be cut. It was agreed that the Community Alliance needs to speak with one voice in advocating for their priorities.

The effects on direct services need to be communicated to the general public. Community agencies have endured budget cuts and continued to provide services; however, they are now at the point of having to delete some services altogether and/or reduce their infrastructure. Eliminating jobs and services is not beneficial to the local economy. It is not yet known how the Federal Stimulus funds will affect the community or when they will be received. The suggestion was made to establish a community outreach committee to get the information about how services are impacted out to the public.

Pauline will ask Steering Committee members to bring information they may have regarding budget reduction impacts on direct services to the meeting on Monday. In addition, information such as the unemployment rate, foreclosure rate, and school attendance needs to be shared. It was mentioned that the non-profit community is a major industry in the community but is not recognized as such by the public.

New Business

Tom Pfaff reported that he, Rose Chapman and Richard Martin have met with the Board of County Commissioners individually to discuss next steps to provide case management through the Foreclosure Recovery Assistance Network (FRAN). They also met with Susan Scott and staff in a separate meeting to discuss the issue but nothing further has occurred. He suggested a forum with bankers, realtors and social service providers to discuss the issue further. Bill Little stated that he has had additional conversations with Susan Scott and a meeting has been scheduled with staff to discuss next steps.

Next Meeting: The next Community Alliance Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 18 at 1:30 p.m. at the Health and Human Services Building, 2200 Ringling Blvd., Room 226—Note change of location.