

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Community Foundation of Sarasota, 2635 Fruitville Road

MEETING SUMMARY

February 18, 2009

Members Present: Sherri Reynolds, Chair
Bob Carter
Rose Chapman
Kay Glasser
Janet Kahn
Susan Magers
Tom Pfaff
Stewart Stearns
Captain Paul Sutton
Alex Young

Members Absent: Bill Little
Janice Mee
Steve Quieor
Jerry Thompson

Staff Present: Chip Taylor
Pauline Tracy

Sherri Reynolds welcomed everyone.

United Way Children's Emergency Response Fund

Alex Young made a presentation on the United Way's Children's Emergency Response Fund which is a program to benefit children and their families to address critical immediate needs. The program helps prevent homelessness for families and children through the Salvation Army, Child Protection Center, Children First, and Jewish Family and Children's Services.

Viable Futures

Jack Levine joined the group via conference call and invited everyone to visit the website at www.viablefutures.org. A full presentation is scheduled for February 26 at the Community Foundation. Sarasota was selected as one of the first sites to learn about Viable Futures.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Children and Families Work Group

Rose Chapman reported that she and PJ Brooks met with Jamie Mahadeo to discuss the future of the Children and Families Work Group. There are several other work groups or committees looking at issues affecting youth in the community so their recommendation was that there was not a need for the Children and Families Work Group to continue to meet. Karen Bogues is leading a "Brainstorming for Youth" group which will discuss the need to coordinate the direction of youth services in the community. It was decided to wait to see the results of this group before deciding whether or not to dissolve the Children and Families Work Group.

Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD)

Pauline Tracy reported that an ICS 100 refresher training was given to the COAD members at their last meeting. The new COAD website was debuted (www.sarasotacoad.org) and members were asked to provide feedback on what type of information would be useful to them on the website. All of the Strike Teams have been meeting to firm up their plans. A draft mission statement was distributed at the COAD meeting and will be refined before the next meeting. The Volunteer and Donations Strike Team is planning a training for the faith-based organizations at the EOC in May. The training will focus on how these organizations can become more involved in disaster preparedness and response. For those organizations already registered to help, they will be asked to confirm their commitment. The annual Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) training is being planned for June to train volunteers and VRC liaisons.

Susan Magers asked about the possibility of establishing a Developmental Disabilities Strike Team. This is a population that the COAD has always wanted to reach out to. Susan offered to bring it up for discussion at the next Developmental Disabilities Committee meeting to determine their interest.

Developmental Disabilities Committee

Susan Magers reported that the Developmental Disabilities Committee has continued to work with SCAT to resolve the SCAT Premium fare issue reported in previous meetings. Another issue the Committee has been addressing is the 18 to 30 year old population. No agency seems to be able to identify how many persons with disabilities in this age range are not accessing services. Kameron Partridge approached USF about using graduate students or interns to help the Committee determine the number in the community but they were unable to assist. She will approach the University of Florida with the same request.

Marketing Work Group

Pauline Tracy reported that the Marketing Work Group met but was not clear on their objectives. Some members thought the work group's main objective was to provide general information to the public about the Community Alliance while others thought the objective was to put a face on the impact the budget reductions are having in the community and to try to change public policy. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the first objective should be to determine the impact the economy was having on human services. Once this is determined, the information should move to the Legislative Advocacy Committee which can take it to the next step. The name of the work group will be changed to the Impact Work Group which should help clarify their purpose. Pauline will send out a Zoomerang survey to the Community Alliance members to determine what the magnitude of the loss of dollars and programs really is in the community.

Legislative Advocacy Committee

Sherri Reynolds announced that she has appointed Janice Mee as the chair for the Legislative Advocacy Committee. The committee will meet soon to determine what actions can be taken during the 2009 regular session and to plan for 2010. The suggestion was made to invite the legislative delegation to a Community Alliance meeting to discuss priorities and to share with them how the budget reductions have affected their constituents.

Community Calendar

Pauline shared with the Committee the Community Calendar function through the Tapestry software system. All of the County meetings (including those of the Alliance, CJC and the Partnership) are listed and available to view at <http://suncoast.communityos.org>. Other agencies interested in listing their meetings, trainings and etc. can receive a brief training from Jon McKenzie. This feature is part of the licensing package the County has purchased.

New Business

A discussion ensued regarding the format of the Executive Committee meetings. It was suggested that standing committee reports should only be given at the Steering Committee meetings unless there is an issue the Committee Chair would like to receive direction on from the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee meetings should be more strategic in nature. The suggestion was made to review the number of meetings held. Perhaps some can be combined or held less often than monthly.

Next Meeting: The next Community Alliance Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11 at 1:30 p.m. at the Community Foundation of Sarasota.