

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Community Foundation of Sarasota, 2635 Fruitville Road

### MEETING SUMMARY

May 13, 2009

Members Present: Ken Alexander  
Karen Bogues  
Bob Carter  
Kay Glasser  
Janet Kahn  
Bill Little  
Janice Mee  
Tom Pfaff  
Steve Queior  
Paul Sutton

Members Absent: Sherri Reynolds  
Stewart Stearns  
Jerry Thompson

Staff Present: Kathleen Marie Hall  
Pam Meunier  
Chip Taylor

Steve Queior welcomed everyone and reviewed the member packet information.

### **Legislative Issues**

Steve Queior asked members to comment on legislative updates or issues:

- Senate Bill 2330 relating to corporations passed to allow teenagers 15 and up to serve on nonprofit boards. It took five years to get this bill passed.
- Senate Bill 360 relating to growth management is currently being reviewed by Governor Crist but could be vetoed due to the controversy.
- Senate Bill 462 relating to Prescription Drug Validation passed. Florida will become the 39<sup>th</sup> state in the United States to adopt this bill. It took seven years to get this bill passed.
- The Property Tax System: Business Homestead Exemption was decreased to 5% a year and 3% for homeowners. This will make it more parallel with the non-homesteaded properties.

- The Senate refused to hear the bill on the controversial oil drilling.
- State funding was extended for one year for baseball.
- Aging Services: statewide there will be a \$500,000 cut in Home Care for the Elderly (HCE) and a \$1 million cut in Community Care for the Elderly (CCE), but the aging advocates are lobbying the Governor to veto these cuts.
- Senate Bill 2570 relating to Early Learning died but will be brought back during the next session. The early learning program state budget was cut \$27 million, but stimulus dollars will replace this funding along with other additional dollars for childcare.
- The Sarasota County School System broadly passed local referendum but has experienced major cuts; these cuts will fall back on the district.
- There will be an increase in university tuition; scholarship funding is dwindling which may prevent many from receiving a college education.

Ken Alexander mentioned that he received several legislative summaries and will forward them to Pauline as a reference. It was noted that there was a copy of the Florida Office of Economic Recovery's [summary report](#) for review in the members' packets.

### **Budget Reduction Survey Follow Up**

Steve Queior reported that there were no additional agencies that responded to the survey but several sent in updates (Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., Community Youth Development, Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, and the Sarasota Family YMCA). There have been no updates on the programs that were saved at the end of the session.

Judi Bell from the Nonprofit Resource Center (NRC) reported that there were two handouts in the members' packets for review: the [NRC's list of questions](#) and a completed [Request for Assistance](#) form. Judi explained that the NRC's understanding was that the Community Alliance would like the center to complete an analysis on the survey results, to identify the patterns and themes, to identify several "human-interest stories" for the public to hear, and to write an executive summary.

Chip Taylor stated that only one-third of the agencies have completed the survey. There may be a need for members to contact the agencies in order to ensure that the information is complete and accurate.

A discussion ensued on the survey results, including reporter Zac Anderson's upcoming story on the survey results, the duplication of efforts, the themes, and the need for more agency input. Other discussions were on the paradigm shift in funding, being more proactive, the value of creating a forum with state legislators, creating incentives, and identifying further productive uses for the survey.

Judi stated that once the narrative summary is completed she will request feedback from the Community Alliance. Capt. Paul Sutton suggested including the CART Initiative in the summary and volunteered to write it. It was also suggested to request the agencies to forward the survey to their constituents. Members agreed to set a deadline of May 29 for the completion of the survey. Judi will begin working on the results on June 7.

### **Brainstorming for Youth Update**

Karen Bogues gave an update on the recent Brainstorming for Youth meeting. Participants at both meetings indicated that there is need to continue this significant conversation. It was suggested at the last meeting to create a statement for change in order to educate and motivate others to get involved in addressing this issue. The group generated a long list of vision statements for young people to experience by 2025. A statement will be identified from the list and then will be taken into the community for feedback. A discussion ensued on the North Port funding for youth, the difference in infrastructure between North Port and Sarasota, the challenges in North Port with the cultural differences, and the incorrect rumor that youth numbers were dropping in Sarasota County.

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

#### **Developmental Disabilities Committee**

Kathleen Hall reported that at the May 12 Developmental Disabilities Committee meeting there were discussions on filling vacant seats, electing officers, finalizing their legislative statement, creating a brochure and resource directory, and the next steps for the agency transportation issue. Pam Meunier mentioned that the members recently assisted with incorporating a section on Autism into the Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) curriculum.

#### **Legislative Advocacy Committee**

Janice Mee reported that there was a [preliminary summary](#) on the legislative session in the members' packets for review. The members discussed the idea of holding a "Legislative Forum" with the local delegation in the fall. This forum could include a narrative that weaves together the stories and themes on how Sarasota County and the Community Alliance are unique. It was suggested to contact the local delegation to set a date for the event.

The next steps would be to identify a location (such as the Glasser/Schoenbaum Center), the time of the event (luncheon or afternoon event), and the creation of an agenda with the topics and issues for discussion. Members suggested that this would be a good way to educate the legislators and the public on the positive accomplishments of the Community Alliance, to present their priorities, to advocate for the agencies, to identify the gaps, and then present creative solutions for the community. Members felt that the Community Alliance could also be a resource to

the legislative delegation in making better decisions for the community. It was suggested to present this idea to the Steering Committee for approval.

### **Nominating and Membership Committee**

Janet Kahn reported that there was a [report](#) in the members' packets for review. The Committee's category recommendations were as follows:

- Funders: add The United Way (combine the two United Ways into one).
- United Ways: delete this category and add under "Funders"
- Housing: delete Office of Housing and Community Development and add the Sarasota Housing Authority (Bill Russell) and Habitat for Humanity (Steve Queior to contact Judy Wilcox)
- Business/Economic Development: delete the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
- Community Planning and Resources: add the Nonprofit Resource Center
- Community Representative: Steve will check with Trevor Harvey to see if he is interested in representing NAACP. Other representative suggestions were Lori Benton Reed and Drew Jones.
- STAR Representative: continue to keep this category for available students

A discussion ensued on the categories including other possibilities for NAACP, creating a seat for judges, adding the Patterson Foundation under Funders, filling the Juvenile Justice Council seat, moving the three seats under Local Government to the Criminal Justice category as law enforcement seats, and then recruiting three administration representatives for the Local Government category. The other discussion was on who needs to be on the Steering Committee vs. who could be a guest speaker or on a task force instead of creating the permanent expansion of the committee.

Janet pointed out that the preliminary recommendations will go before the Steering Committee on May 18 and then staff will email the bylaw changes to the members for review and comment. Chip Taylor reminded the members that the recommendations will need to be sent to the members within 14 days of the June 15 meeting in order to request approval of the recommendations.

### **Planning and Outcomes Committee**

Karen Bagues reported that the Planning and Outcomes Committee met and addressed areas that were lacking community outcome targets and finalized the recommendations for FY 2012. The Community Alliance has approved the community outcome targets and is awaiting approval from the Human Service Advisory Council. Karen asked the members to review the Committee's [revised work plan](#) in the members' packets. This revised plan is a powerful statement with greater impact than the Alliance has had in the past. It was suggested to have a clean copy to handout at the May 18 Steering Committee meeting. Janice Mee

suggested that the handout be updated to state: “Community Alliance” instead of Alliance. Members agreed.

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

Bill Little reported that there was a [summary report](#) in the members’ packets for review. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 15 at the Sarasota County Health and Human Services building.

### **FRAN Update**

Tom Pfaff asked the committee to consider giving a FRAN update at the next Steering Committee meeting. Chip Taylor stated that either Bob Stuckey or Nancy DeLoach could give this update.

### **New Business/Announcements**

Judi Bell announced that on May 12 the Young Professionals Group (YPG) and the Leadership Sarasota County had a “Community Connections” event with 57 attendees. Seven local charitable organizations presented projects that could be completed in 8 to 10 hours, working with a team. Volunteers were assigned to the various projects (social marketing, rearranging space, etc.). YPG will have a similar event in the near future.

***The next Community Alliance Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10 at 1:30 pm at the Community Foundation.***