

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

MARCH 10, 2004

Members Present: Stewart Stearns, Chair
Bob Carter
Christine Cauffield
Kay Glasser
Sarah Gorman
Bill Little

Staff Present: Pauline Tracy

Committee and Work Group Updates

Education and Advocacy Work Group

Bob Carter passed out a summary of the Key Issue Survey results grouped into the following general subject areas which received the most mention in the responses:

- Aging and Older Adults
- Child Care/After School Care
- Community
- Coordination and Delivery of Services
- Housing/Homelessness

These are areas that the Community Alliance has not addressed yet. Discussion centered on which areas the Alliance could have some impact.

Both Success by 6 and School Readiness Coalition are focusing on child care and after school care to some degree. The Continuum of Care Leadership Council and the Homeless Coalition of Sarasota are both addressing homelessness, but the committee felt that it may be a good idea to ask both groups and the Salvation Army to lead a discussion at a Steering Committee

meeting on the homeless situation in Sarasota County and what plans are in place to address the issue.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding coordination and delivery of service. The theory that merging organizations automatically improves the delivery of service is not always true. The committee agreed that this discussion topic would be something the Community Alliance should pursue and perhaps hold a seminar involving funders with varying points of view.

The economic impact non-profits have in the community needs to be determined. No one has collected data such as the number of non-profits operating in Sarasota County, the dollars which are brought in, the value of the services that are rendered, the capacity of the non-profit community and the value of volunteers in the human services field. The Alliance could partner with the Chamber of Commerce to conduct the study and USF which could provide an intern to work on collecting the data and compiling the results.

Bob will present this issue for discussion at the Steering Committee meeting on Monday.

Health Care for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

Sarah Gorman reported that the next meeting of the subcommittee is March 23. Now that the KidCare legislation has passed, Sarah and the work group will be analyzing the impact of that bill. Their focus remains to look at all options for health care for children with the goal that all children in Sarasota County will have health care coverage. The subcommittee will be looking at gaps in the system and how to fill those gaps.

Sarah has arranged for Mark Lazarus with Sarasota Memorial Hospital to speak at the April Steering Committee meeting on their new program to provide health care coverage to small businesses.

Discussion centered on who should speaking on behalf of the Community Alliance to the media. A recent news story on Channel 40 included statements made by someone who is not on the Steering Committee but represented the Alliance. It was decided to send letters to the editors of the local newspapers and managers at the television stations to clarify that only the officers of the Community Alliance or their designee are authorized to speak on behalf of the Community Alliance.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders Consortium

Bill Little reported that the Consortium will meet on Monday prior to the Steering Committee. Debbie Spellman, with DCF, will present an overview of the DCF plan and data indicating the amount of substance abuse and mental health funding that is received in Sarasota County as well as the services that are delivered.

The April meeting will be dedicated to determining the vision and mission of the Consortium.

Advertising Seminars, Work Shops and Other Information

Stewart asked the committee if there should be a policy established to determine when e-mails advertising seminars and work shops should be distributed to Alliance members. Staff receive requests occasionally from Alliance members to distribute information via e-mail to everyone on the Alliance mailing lists. It was suggested that a link be established on the website where announcements for seminars, workshops, and professional training opportunities can be posted. There is already a link to training opportunities that can also be used. Another website link could be area fundraisers.

Planning and Outcomes Work Group Chair

Stewart announced that Ken Alexander has agreed to chair the Planning and Outcomes Work Group. He will be invited to attend the Executive Committee meetings although the current bylaws do not allow him to be a member since he and Sarah both represent Health.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the restriction in the bylaws that prohibits two members from the same category from serving on the Executive Committee is still appropriate. One of the reasons that was originally included in the bylaws was that the Executive Committee was much smaller and no one wanted one category to have too much leverage. The Executive Committee is now larger and many people on the Committee actually represent many of the categories and not just the one they are officially assigned to represent.

It was agreed that the issue should be sent back to the Nominating and Membership Committee for discussion and their recommendation on deleting the provision in the bylaws. Perhaps the language should be revised to ensure diversity within the Executive Committee.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April 14, at 1:30 p.m., at The Senior Friendship Center, Center for Healthy Aging, second floor conference room.