

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

April 14, 2004

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

Staff Present: Chip Taylor
Pauline Tracy

Committee and Work Group Updates

Education and Advocacy Work Group

Bob Carter reported that the work group is recommending that a panel comprised of Major Bert Tanner (Salvation Army), Sandy Baar (Sarasota Coalition for the Homeless) and David English (Continuum of Care Leadership Council) make a presentation at the May Steering Committee meeting about the current homeless situation in Sarasota County. Each speaker will have 5 minutes to present what their organization is doing to address the homeless issue and how they work with each other. An additional 15 minutes will be given after the presentations for questions and discussion.

Marc Lazarus, with Sarasota Memorial Hospital, will make a presentation at the April meeting on their new initiative to provide health coverage for small businesses.

Discussion ensued regarding a future presentation on the role of philanthropy in the changing health and human services field. A decision on this presentation will be made at a later meeting.

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

Sarah Gorman reported that Nancy Shoemaker and Sherri Reynolds have joined the work group. The last meeting was a mini-strategic planning session. Approximately 20% of those children currently enrolled in the KidCare program will be disenrolled due to the recent changes in legislation. The work group's goal is to ensure all children in Sarasota County have access to affordable health care. The estimated number of children who are uninsured was not available. Pauline was asked to contact staff to obtain that data as well as the number of children enrolled in Healthy Kids and KidCare in Sarasota County.

Sarah shared an article published on April 8 in *The Lakeland Ledger* which quoted Rose Naff, Executive Director of the Healthy Kids Corporation. Stewart suggested that the letter to the editor discussed at a previous meeting should still be sent. The letter should outline how the recent legislation will impact Sarasota County and what we need to do to provide affordable, accessible health care for all of the children in the community. Sarah will draft the letter.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

The next meeting of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium is scheduled for Monday, April 19. Bruce Rogers will be at the meeting to facilitate a discussion about the Consortium's vision for the future and identify some short-term steps we need to take to move forward.

Work Group Assignments

A spreadsheet showing which committees and work groups members are assigned to was distributed. There are several members who are not members of any of the committees or work groups. It was agreed that the spreadsheet will be included in the packets on Monday and Stewart will ask everyone to review and confirm the information is correct. Those who are not assigned to a group will be asked to sign up for at least one.

SCOPE Community Studies

The SCOPE Family Violence Task Force initially made several recommendations that the Community Alliance be assigned tasks in their upcoming report. After further discussion at the SCOPE Board meeting, it was decided that the Community Alliance is not the appropriate group to take on those tasks.

Tim Dutton will make a presentation at the May Community Alliance Steering Committee on the proposed studies for next year.

Upcoming Educational Presentations

Marc Lazarus, with Sarasota Memorial Hospital, will make a presentation at the April 19 Steering Committee on the initiative by the hospital to provide more affordable health care coverage to small businesses.

The panel on homelessness will make their presentation at the May meeting.

Christine Cauffield requested that Jerry Thompson be added to the agenda for Monday's meeting to address the County's prioritization of priority outcome areas in its human services policy framework and subsequent reduction in the priority outcome area that funds acute care.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for May 12, at 1:30 p.m., at The Senior Friendship Center, Center for Healthy Aging, second floor conference room.