

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

May 12, 2004

Members Present: Stewart Stearns, Chair
 Ken Alexander
 Kay Glasser
 Sarah Gorman
 Peter Howard
 Bill Little
 Elliott Metcalfe

Members Not Present: Bob Carter
 Christine Cauffield

Staff Present: Chip Taylor
 Pauline Tracy

Committee and Work Group Updates

Education and Advocacy Work Group

A panel discussion on the homeless issue in Sarasota County will be presented at the May 17 Steering Committee meeting. Tom Treend (YMCA), David English (Continuum of Care Leadership Council), Major Bert Tanner (Salvation Army), and Sandy Baar (Sarasota County Coalition for the Homeless) will participate in the panel discussion. Each has been asked to briefly describe what the role of their organization is in addressing the homeless issue and how their organizations work together.

SCOPE has also been asked to present the proposed study topic issues that are being considered for next year. Jake Thomas will be making the presentation at Monday's meeting.

Several other topics were discussed for presentations at future meetings. The work group prioritized the list and agreed to recommend that updates be given on the 211 system by Alberto Suarez and Sarasota County's Human Services Policy Framework by the Human Services Advisory Council.

Possible presentations on a living wage and after school activities for middle school students were discussed at length. The work group decided that they need to conduct more research on both of these subjects before deciding whether or not to recommend them for future presentations.

Funding Catalyst Work Group

The work group is looking at how well we are maximizing human services revenues in the county. Peter Howard has collected information regarding the different funding streams that he will discuss with the work group at their meeting on Monday. We need to look at funding allocations as a community and see where there are gaps in services.

Peter reported that the legislation that passed that capitates Medicaid HMO's for behavioral health services; however, child welfare services was carved out with the understanding that providers would have one year to realize a 9% reduction in costs. A statewide committee will be formed to look at sustainable funding for child welfare.

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

The subcommittee is working on a matrix that will depict the various categories of need and options for health coverage. Members of the subcommittee have been asked to start filling in the matrix in preparation for a discussion at their next meeting.

The group is also looking at how to make affordable care more attractive to health care providers. One example mentioned was group well child care visits where the medical provider can provide the same type of service to a group of patients at the same time. This is already being offered in other parts of the country. Although Medicaid would not currently allow reimbursement this type of group service, discussion was held as to the possibility of changing Medicaid policy so that it would.

The subcommittee would also like to apply for a small planning grant to assist in gathering data. Since the Community Alliance cannot apply for grants, another agency could act as the fiscal agent and apply on behalf of the subcommittee.

Sarah Gorman reported that due to a recent decision by the First District Court of Appeals, if a newborn tests positive at birth for substance abuse there is no longer any type of court intervention if there are no other factors present to suggest abuse or neglect. At the next Foster Care Stakeholders' Advisory Group meeting, DCF's Regional Legal Counsel has been asked to make a presentation on the issue. This may also need to be a topic of discussion at a future Steering Committee meeting. The Legislative Committee should discuss this issue and possibly recommend legislation to make it mandatory to treat a substance

exposed newborn as an abuse/neglect situation regardless of whether there are other indicators present.

A letter to the Editor has been delivered to the Sarasota Herald-Tribune regarding the changes to the KidCare program as a result of SB 2000 and the work that is being done by the subcommittee. A copy of the letter was distributed to the committee.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

The next meeting of the Consortium will be Monday, May 17. The agenda includes discussion of a mission and vision statement for the group. The purpose of the Consortium is to be the strategic planning body for the substance abuse and mental health system in Sarasota County and to be a forum for discussion around critical issues such as the south county Baker Act transportation issue that Dr. Jerry Ross presented at the Steering Committee last month.

Legislative Update

Chip Taylor provided an update on each of the 2004 Legislative Priorities:

1. *Tax Reform* - Tax reform was not addressed during the session and is still a pending issue. The Community Alliance may now wish to take a formal position supporting the proposed constitutional amendment.
2. *Devolution/Unfunded Mandates* - The DJJ cost shift to the counties passed. The impact to Sarasota County will be \$1.1 million.
3. *Elimination of KidCare Program Waiting Lists* - Legislation passed which removed children who were on the waiting list as of March 12; however, the KidCare program no longer keeps a waiting list of applicants for the program. There will be two open enrollments per year if funds are available. The next open enrollment will be held in the Spring of 2005 as the decision has already been made that funds are not available for the September 2004 open enrollment.
4. *Replacement/Restoration of Funding for Substance Abuse Services* - A total of \$17.5 million (\$8.5 million to support the criminal justice system and drug courts and \$9 million as a lump sum) in nonrecurring funds have been replaced with a significant amount of recurring state general revenue. In addition, \$5,027,099 in recurring general revenue was provided for Adult Substance Abuse Prevention, Evaluation and Treatment Service.

5. *Additional Funding for Crisis Stabilization Unit Beds* - No additional funding was received.
6. *Increased Funding for the Community Care for the Elderly Program* - No additional funding was received.
7. *Cost Shift for Operation of Juvenile Detention Centers* - The DJJ cost shift to the counties passed. The impact to Sarasota County will be \$1.1 million.
8. *Increased Funding for the Healthy Start Program* - No additional funding was received.
9. *Continuation Funding for Mothers and Infants Program* - First Step of Sarasota will receive \$500,000 to fund the Mothers and Infants Program.
10. SB 700 passed which capitates the Medicaid HMOs for behavioral health services which will divert a significant amount of resources out of the publicly funded behavioral health service system.

Other Items

Kay Glasser shared a document she prepared which shows linkages in the human services sector among the Community Alliance, HSAC and the Community Action Agency Board. Executive Committee members were asked to read the document and be prepared to discuss at next month's meeting.

Kay asked that before we remove the Longboat Key representative's seat on the Steering Committee, that she be allowed to contact them to encourage their participation. The Executive Committee agreed.

Steering Committee Agenda Items

- Revision of the Bylaws
- Work Group Updates
- Legislative Update
- SCOPE Presentation
- Panel Discussion on the Homeless
- 211 Update

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for June 16, at 1:30 p.m., at The Senior Friendship Center, Center for Healthy Aging, second floor conference room.