

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

April 13, 2005

Members Present: Stewart Stearns, Chair
 Ken Alexander
 Bob Carter
 Kay Glasser
 Sarah Gorman
 Bill Little
 Elliott Metcalfe
 Jerry Thompson (for Christine Cauffield)

Members Not Present: Peter Howard

Staff Present: Chip Taylor
 Pauline Tracy

Appointment of New Chair of the Nominating and Membership Committee

Stewart Stearns announced that Brett Rees has stepped down as chair of the Nominating and Membership Committee. Stewart has asked Sherri Reynolds to serve as chair of that committee and she has accepted.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children (HCUC) Subcommittee

Sarah Gorman reported that the HCUC met on April 12 and made a recommendation to ask the Community Alliance to host a community forum to discuss community initiatives which offer accessible, affordable health coverage. Whether the target should include all residents or just children needs to be discussed further. The subcommittee felt it was time to expand the group and add expertise to look at what would work best in Sarasota County. Community partners and leaders need to come together to address the issue through a community forum similar to the Medicaid Reform Symposium. Speakers from successful communities (such as Orange County, Duval County, and Santa Clara, California) could be invited to present on the models they have developed to provide health care options for their residents. If the forum is planned well

enough in advance, a marketing strategy could be put into place that would spark the interest of the business community, parents, the school system and funders. The response to the event would then indicate the level of interest of the community in making the investments needed to solve the problem.

Sarah also attended the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) Oversight Committee recently. At an earlier HCUC meeting, it was suggested that the HCUC subcommittee join forces with the CHIP members to address the lack of accessible, affordable health coverage. One of the goals discussed at the Oversight Committee was to develop a safety net for the uninsured and underinsured; however, it did not appear that this was a goal the committee wanted to embrace at this time.

Bill Little and Bob Carter, who also attended the CHIP meeting, believe that the option is still available and that the wording of the goal needs to be clarified to avoid any misunderstanding. Leslie Clarke, CHIP Project Coordinator, is scheduled to be at the Steering Committee on April 18 to provide an overview of the program. A discussion can be held at that time to encourage a partnership between the two groups to co-sponsor a community forum. Ken Alexander recommended involving Diane Tenet with the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*. She is developing a health-focused magazine and may be interested in helping to generate interest in the subject and to possibly co-sponsor the event.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium (SAMHSC)

Bill Little gave a summary of the SAMHSC meetings held over the past month. The Consortium continues to work on developing the three phases of the Community Residential Alternatives Program, with general agreement now reached on the first two phases. Phase 3, to expand transitional housing opportunities, involves working with business leaders and residents in the Rosemary District, the City of Sarasota, the Salvation Army and Sarasota County and is a little more complicated. Options are being explored for several pieces of property where transitional housing could be located. Discussions will continue with the stakeholders to work out the details.

Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC)

The last CDPC meeting was held at the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) so that committee members could see it first-hand and receive an overview. Plans for the auxiliary EOC to be located at the Sarasota County Health Department are underway. Once the entire building is hardened, it will withstand 130 m.p.h. winds.

The next meeting on April 15 will focus on structure. Some agencies have stated they would like for the auxiliary EOC at the Health Department to be open pre-event to receive EOC briefings and for planning purposes. It may also be

necessary for a few core staff to remain in the EOC during the event. Issues such as maintaining communications during a storm also need to be worked out.

Legislative Updates

The Legislative Committee was unable to meet due to conflicting schedules of the committee members. There have not been any substantive bills passed yet, so a more thorough discussion of the legislative issues should probably occur at the May Steering Committee meeting.

There are several Medicaid bills pending. One of the Senate bills requires legislative approval of any Medicaid Waiver application prior to submission to Washington.

There is also a bill which would have USF study the Crisis Intervention Training classes now being conducted around the state. Jerry Thompson reported that the DCF Secretary has stated she will not support any member projects, so the Mobile Crisis Team project is still pending.

Behavioral Health Awareness Training (BHAT)

Pauline Tracy stated that only 20 people have registered for the May 16 BHAT session. A reminder will be given to the participants at the April 15 CDPC meeting and at the April 18 Steering Committee meeting. Christie Lewis has also offered to open the session up to all non-profits. There may be some confusion as to who should attend so Christie will be asked to clarify that at the meetings.

Satisfaction Surveys

Staff have received only 17 completed satisfaction surveys back from Alliance members, which is not enough for a representative sample. So far, the responses have been positive and some suggestions have been made to improve the process. Pauline will bring the issue up again at the Steering Committee meeting.

New Business

The ESS Modernization Plan that is currently underway was briefly discussed. The committee agreed that they would like to have a presentation by DCF staff at the June meeting on the plan and how it would affect Sarasota County.

Next Meeting

The BHAT session will take the place of the May Steering Committee meeting; however, Steering Committee business that needs to be addressed will be

discussed during the lunch hour of the training session. The BHAT session is scheduled from 8:00 to 4:30 at the Community Foundation.