

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

August 10, 2005

Members Present: Bob Carter
Christine Cauffield
Kay Glasser
Sarah Gorman
Elliott Metcalfe

Members Not Present: Ken Alexander
Peter Howard
Bill Little
Stewart Stearns

Staff Present: Jeanne Hodiain
Chip Taylor
Pauline Tracy

Committee and Work Group Updates

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children (HCUC) Subcommittee

Sarah Gorman reported that the HCUC has been working on the November 10 Community Forum, *Community Solutions to the Challenge of the Uninsured*. The goals for the event are as follows:

- Participants will understand local data and forecasts
- Participants will review promising practices at a community level
- Participants will leave with a sense of optimism that community solutions can be effective and a plan for next steps.

Four presenters have been contacted and most have committed to attend the forum. Committee members are securing funding for the event and a \$10 fee will be charged to cover lunch. Key community members will be personally invited to attend by a committee member and the number of participants will be limited to 100. Packets of information will be mailed three weeks before the event and participants will be asked to read the packets prior to the forum to ensure a productive session.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium (SAMHSC)

Chip Taylor reported that the Transportation Exception Plan (TEP) was approved by the Board of County Commissioners and has been submitted to DCF in Tallahassee for their approval. The plan will allow children who are Baker Acted in the southern part of the county to be transported to the Coastal CSU instead of the Charlotte County CSU, which may technically be the closest receiving facility.

The VIP Committee is meeting once a week to work out the relationship among the five agencies that make up the management team: Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, First Step of Sarasota, Salvation Army, Jewish Family and Children Services and Jobs, Etc. First Step will be the fiscal agent.

There has been some progress on the transitional housing issue. The City of Sarasota Commission will be approached to conduct a half-day workshop on transitional housing. There have also been some preliminary discussions about using the property the County currently owns on Laurel Street in conjunction with plans by a developer to build office space as well as 33 to 39 affordable housing units.

The Consortium's Planning Committee will be meeting on August 16 to review the inventory of resources and to conduct a gaps analysis. The Acute Care Task Force will meet on August 17 and the Consortium will meet on August 19.

The SAMHSA grant award should be announced sometime in August. We understand that Sarasota made the latest cut and we have a very strong application.

Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC)

Jeanne Hodiain provided an overview of the committee's activities. Strike teams have been established for elder care, mental health and substance abuse, and children and families. A volunteer task force has also been established and has been very active recruiting volunteers through the faith-based community. Strike teams and the task force are all working on establishing resource teams which will address specific issues.

Chip stated that Sarah Gorman has agreed to be the leader for the Mental Health Strike Team. One of the committee's next steps will be to see what type of disaster planning our neighboring counties have done so we can try to coordinate our efforts during the recovery phase.

Planning and Outcomes Work Group (POWG)

Chip Taylor reported that the POWG met last week to discuss the *Communities That Care* High School Survey results. The latest data received from Channing Bete used a revised formula for the national norm and therefore skewed the comparison data from the previous survey. After reviewing the data using the previous norm and the current norm, the group decided to use the data using the current national norm. The work group will meet again on September 2 to look at those areas that are not moving in the right direction, even though the local data may be comparable to the national norm.

Steering Committee *Homeless Persons* Representative

Since the recent morphing of the Continuum of Care Leadership Council into the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness (SPEH), and the dissolution of the Homeless Coalition of Sarasota County, one of the two existing Steering Committee seats designated for representatives of the homeless has not been filled. Discussion ensued regarding whether to assign the vacant seat to a different category, since there are no other homeless-related organizations in Sarasota County. Suggestions included Friendship Volunteer Center and CONA, although CONA had indicated in the past that they were unable to find a member who was interested in filling the seat. Dr. Glasser offered to contact the CONA leadership to encourage them to participate in the Community Alliance. The suggestion was made to move Salvation Army from “Housing” to “Homeless Persons” and then try to fill the “Housing” vacancy. This issue will be discussed further at the Steering Committee meeting on Monday.

New Business

Staff were asked if the Steering Committee membership listing (red/black list) could be alphabetized within the categories. Staff will make that change.

Clarification was made that although the Alliance does not operate as a Community Alliance as outlined in F.S. 20.19, the group has chosen to continue to operate in the “sunshine” and to follow the Sunshine Laws in regards to advertising meetings.

Next Meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on September 14, at 1:30 p.m., at The Community Foundation.