

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

February 18, 2004

Members Present: Stewart Stearns
 Bob Carter
 Jerry Thompson (for Christine Cauffield)
 Kay Glasser
 Sarah Gorman
 Peter Howard

Members Absent: Lee Johnson
 Bill Little
 Elliott Metcalfe

Others Present: Karen Bogues
 Tim Dutton
 Chip Taylor
 Jake Thomas
 Pauline Tracy

Positive Youth Development

Karen Bogues asked for assistance from the Community Alliance in tapping into federal funds for prevention services that are available but unattainable since Florida is not one of the states currently deemed "qualified" to receive these funds. Only 13 of the 50 states are considered qualified. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Karen would conduct some research regarding the specific type of funding available, which states are currently receiving these funds and what needs to be done to qualify Florida. Once that information is available the Alliance members can contact those who may be able to help secure those dollars.

Nominating and Membership Committee

Pauline Tracy gave the report of the Nominating and Membership Committee for Brett Rees. The committee made the following recommendations to fill the vacant seats:

- Community Representative – Council of Neighborhood Associations
- Community Planning – Kay Glasser
- Homeless Persons – Continuum of Care Leadership Council
- Housing - Office of Housing and Community Development
- Mental Health – Mental Health Community Centers

We are still waiting on appointments for the STAR seat and the seat held by the Vocational Interagency Council.

The NAACP has appointed Dr. Richard Coccaro to fill that seat and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice has appointed Kirsten Fulkerson.

Stewart Stearns reported that he had heard from the City of Sarasota that the meeting time and date of the Steering Committee conflicts with their City Council meetings. A suggestion was made that perhaps the City of Sarasota could appoint someone from their Citizen's Planning Board. Stewart will follow up.

None of the other municipalities have responded to the letter sent to them to appoint someone to the Alliance.

Health Care for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

Sarah Gorman reported that most meetings of the subcommittee are not being attended by Alliance members. The group does not appear to be able to remain focused on the subcommittee's main objective which is to ensure that all children in Sarasota County have health coverage. There is some overlap with the Legislative Advocacy Committee on the issue of KidCare. Since the position of the Alliance is to consider this a top legislative priority, the subcommittee will continue to support and work with the Legislative Advocacy Committee. The other group that needs to become more active and engaged in the Healthy Kids issue is the KidCare Advisory Committee which has not scheduled its next meeting although SB2000 is a very hot topic right now. This committee's role is to advocate on behalf of the KidCare program.

The subcommittee will need to remain focused on its objective by identifying the gaps in health care coverage for children at the local level and help develop ways to fill those gaps.

The subcommittee will also need to work in a more formalized meeting structure by creating ground rules and expectations of the meetings. Some members do not appear to understand the role of the chairperson and the agenda.

SB2000 was discussed. The bill as currently written will:

- Eliminate the waiting lists and allow families to sign up during two enrollment periods annually (although two enrollment periods are not mandatory).
- Eliminate outreach currently being done by the county public health units.
- Require families who have access to child care through their employer, regardless of the cost, to disenroll from the program.
- Make dental coverage “permissive” rather than mandatory.

We need to propose alternatives to the Legislature to counteract the above four components of the bill. The group agreed this was another example of devolution which the counties are struggling with. This will be discussed further at the Steering Committee meeting on Monday.

Education and Advocacy Work Group

The Key Issues Survey results were distributed to the Committee. The top two issues mentioned on the survey were Homelessness and Affordable Housing. The work group will discuss the survey results at their meeting on Monday.

Scheduling of Alliance meetings

Three committees and work groups have scheduled their meetings the same date as the Steering Committee to make it easier for members to attend all the meetings. Although this may be beneficial to some Alliance members, it is becoming increasingly difficult for staff to coordinate and cover all the meetings. In addition, the Alliance meeting schedule was initially set up so that all committees and work groups were to report to the Executive Committee prior to reporting to the Steering Committee. Having a meeting after the Executive Committee and before the Steering Committee defeats the original intent.

Bob Carter agreed to reschedule the Education and Advocacy Work Group meeting to another day and time.

Planning and Outcomes Work Group

Chip Taylor gave the report of the Planning and Outcomes Work Group for Bill Little. Members of the work group have been meeting jointly with members of the County’s Human Services Advisory Council and SCOPE staff in a series of meetings since late December to develop additional community outcome targets to supplement those approved for FY 2007 by the Steering Committee in mid-December. New outcome targets and benchmarks have been developed from the data derived from the “Communities That Care Youth Survey” which was conducted with 9th and 11th graders in Sarasota County high schools in January,

2003. The new targets and benchmarks are in the areas of substance abuse and positive youth development.

Stewart requested that the proposed new targets and benchmarks and the supporting analysis be sent to members of the Steering Committee in advance of next Monday's meeting so members will have an opportunity to digest it prior to the meeting.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be Wednesday, March 10, at 1:30 p.m, at the Senior Friendship Center's Center for Healthy Aging.