

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

June 15, 2005

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

Members Not Present: Christine Cauffield

Staff Present: Kathleen Hall
 Chip Taylor
 Pauline Tracy

Committee and Work Group Updates

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children (HCUC) Subcommittee

Pauline Tracy stated that the Healthy Start Coalition is applying for a grant from the University of Vermont that will help identify children 0 to 5 years of age without health insurance and link them and their parents with well-child health care. They have requested the Community Alliance write a letter of support.

Elliott Metcalfe moved, Bob Carter seconded, passed unanimously, that the Community Alliance send a letter of support for the Healthy Start Coalition's grant application to the University of Vermont.

The HCUC and the CHIP Committee have begun planning a community forum on health initiatives which will focus on all ages. The forum has been tentatively scheduled for the week of November 7. Multiple sponsors will be sought to fund the event including the expense of bringing in three to four speakers to make presentations on their local initiatives. Sarah Gorman stated that if they are successful in receiving the University of Vermont grant, some of those dollars can also be used to sponsor the event.

Planning and Outcomes Work Group (POWG)

The POWG met to discuss the December 2004 *Communities that Care* survey results for high school students. Chip Taylor found a data problem when comparing the previous survey results to the latest report. It appears that the survey completed in 2002 was compared to a national database from the late 1990s, while the 2004 survey was compared to more recent national data for 2000-2002. Based on the new information, it appears the high school data for Sarasota County was actually better in 2002 than was previously reported. Chip recently received additional information from the Chenning-Bete which will make it easier to compare results from the two surveys. Another meeting of the POWG is scheduled on July 15 to discuss the survey data.

It was suggested that the positive data be shared with the community in some way.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium (SAMHSC)

The Sarasota Board of County Commissioners recently approved staff's request to submit the SAMHSA grant for the early childhood mental health project. We should know the results of the application in September.

A presentation to the BCC to request funding for the Community Residential Alternatives Program initiative is scheduled for June 29 at 2:00 p.m.

Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC)

Over 300 clergy from Sarasota County have been invited to a breakfast on July 6 at The Community Foundation to discuss how they and their congregations can become more involved in disaster-related volunteer efforts. Invitations will be mailed out on June 20.

The CDPC is in the process of developing a plan to coordinate all emergency response activities for health and human services this year. The Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 responsibilities previously applied only to health and medical services, however, human services has now been added. It is believed that Sarasota County is the only county to include human services in this way. Future plans include involving the community more by reaching out to businesses and service organizations and including them in the process.

The Russians Are Coming!

A delegation of Russian citizens is coming to Sarasota the week of July 18 to learn more about how we provide human services. Chip and his staff have met

with the local coordinator for the program to discuss possible options for them while they are here. It was suggested that the Russians attend the July 18 Community Alliance meeting and either observe a meeting in progress or participate in the meeting. After some discussion, the Executive Committee decided it would be more beneficial if the Russian delegation was invited to join the Steering Committee for their meeting on July 18 and focus the agenda on a mutual learning experience for both groups. This idea will be proposed to the Steering Committee on June 20.

Satisfaction Surveys

Pauline Tracy distributed a summary of the satisfaction surveys completed by the Community Alliance. Overall, the responses were positive about both the Alliance and staff support. There were several comments regarding areas where the Alliance may want to focus on in the future including setting community priorities, revenue maximization, Medicare and community education.

Location of Future Meetings

At the last Steering Committee meeting, the subject of moving the monthly meetings to a more central location was brought up by the Nominating and Membership Committee. Staff were asked to check on two sites: the Fruitville Library and Twin Lakes. Neither was available on the third Monday of each month. Other suggestions for meeting locations from the Executive Committee included Hospice, Sarasota Square Mall, and PGT on Laurel Road. Staff will check with these locations to see if they are available for meetings.

Rotating the meetings in different locations was also discussed. Most members felt that this always causes some confusion with members.

New Business

An article in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune regarding the County's proposed reduction in millage was discussed. Staff will make a presentation to the BCC on June 29 regarding how different millage rates will affect funding for human services. It is anticipated the County's Grants-in-Aid program will continue to grow by 5% annually. There was concern expressed by some Executive Committee members that there is an unmet need in human services with the current millage and perhaps a reduction at this time would not be beneficial to the community. It was suggested that a discussion should take place between HSAC and the Community Alliance regarding the future direction of how human services, including infrastructure, should be funded. The Board of County Commissioners has been very supportive of human services, but it is a challenge to balance the growing revenue base with all the needs of Sarasota County. Some committee members felt the community as a whole can afford to fund

human services more and we need to talk about outcomes and solutions along with the unmet need.

Next Meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting will be Wednesday, July 13 at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road, Sarasota.