

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

November 16, 2005

Members Present: Ken Alexander
Bob Carter
Kay Glasser
Peter Howard
Bill Little
Elliott Metcalfe
Lester Rice (for Christine Cauffield)
Stewart Stearns

Members Not Present: Sarah Gorman

Staff Present: Chip Taylor
Pauline Tracy

Linkages to the Criminal Justice Commission

Chip Taylor stated the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) has worked closely as partners with the Community Alliance in the past on issues such as the SAMHSA grant and the CART initiative. The Committee felt it was time for the CJC to make a presentation to the Community Alliance Steering Committee regarding their current initiatives and to begin having an ongoing conversation between the two groups. It was decided to ask Judge Bennett and Dave Bullock to attend the January Community Alliance meeting and make a presentation similar to the one made at the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference.

Committee and Work Group Updates:

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children (HCUC) Subcommittee

Members' impressions of the *Community Solutions to the Challenge of the Uninsured* forum held on November 10 were very positive. Sarah Gorman will be at the Steering Committee meeting and able to present the data that was collected from the forum.

Legislative Advocacy Committee

Elliott Metcalfe presented the Community Alliance's 2006 legislative priorities to the legislative delegation on November 3. The time allowed to speak was brief, however, the legislators did ask a lot of questions about the Medicaid Waiver initiative that Bill Little was able to respond to.

An extensive discussion followed regarding how to redirect the Nursing Home and Hospital match dollars the County now pays (over \$1.2 million annually) from AHCA and into a local initiative to prevent institutionalization. Sarasota County could implement a pilot. It is too late for this issue to be included as a member project, but it is possible members of the local delegation would be interested in sponsoring specific proviso language to make it happen.

There is a planning group looking at this issue already through the United Way. Funding received from the James Trust funds a position at Senior Friendship Center to determine what the community can do to prevent nursing home placements. The Executive Committee will ask the planning group to look at this issue and bring it back to the Committee for further discussion.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Consortium

Bill Little reported on the progress of the three phases:

- Phase I--The contract between Sarasota County and First Step has been executed. First Step is currently searching for a building contractor to undertake the renovations.
- Phase II—The first VIP group is set to graduate on December 8 and it is anticipated all 15 will successfully complete the 10-week program. A second group has just recently started the program and the third group is being formed.
- Phase III—The Office of Housing and Community Development has issued an RFP in the amount of \$750,000 to develop transitional housing. First Step has an additional \$250,000 that could be applied for the same purpose. Judge Bennett, Bill Little and Cheri Coryea met with the Sarasota City Council recently to discuss the need for transitional housing in the community. Similar discussions with the city commissions of Venice and North Port will be held in the near future.

Agenda for the November 21 Steering Committee Meeting

The Committee agreed to have the Grassroots Leadership Initiative presentation at the November 21 Steering Committee, along with the committee and work group reports.

Next Meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on January 18, at 1:30 p.m., at The Community Foundation.