

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

October 12, 2005

Members Present: Bob Carter
Kay Glasser
Sarah Gorman
Peter Howard
Elliott Metcalfe
Stewart Stearns
Jerry Thompson
Alex Young

Members Not Present: Ken Alexander
Bill Little

Staff Present: Chip Taylor
Pauline Tracy

SAMHSA Update

An update on the recent SAMHSA Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership Project award was provided by Chip Taylor. It was agreed that an overview should be provided at the Steering Committee on October 17 and all the partners will be asked to discuss their role in the project.

Committee and Work Group Updates:

Nominating and Membership Committee

Vicky Taylor, Venice City Council, has been appointed to fill the seat vacated by Jim Myers. Discussion ensued regarding the vacant Homeless seat. It was agreed that the recommendation will be made to the Steering Committee that the Salvation Army be moved to the vacant Homeless seat. This will create a vacancy in the Housing section, which can then be filled by either the Community Housing Trust or the Sarasota Housing Authority. This will be discussed further at the Steering Committee meeting.

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children (HCUC) Subcommittee

Sarah Gorman stated that only 20 individuals have registered for the November 10 Health Forum at the Community Foundation. The four presenters have confirmed their attendance and will provide an overview of their community's health initiative. Sponsors have been secured to help underwrite the cost of the forum and attendees have been asked to pay a minimal fee to cover the cost of the lunch. The Committee will send out a reminder on Friday.

Based on the response received from the forum, a discussion will need to take place as to whether it is necessary for the HCUC to continue meeting. The CHIP already has a network in place that perhaps the HCUC members can become involved in to continue addressing this issue. Forum participants will be asked to commit to continue the discussion so the momentum is not lost.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium (SAMHSC)

The Consortium and its various committees met at least 9 times last month. They continue to be a very active committee. The Planning Committee is on schedule to develop a plan by January to coincide with the DCF Regional Plan.

Phase II of the Community Alternative Residential Treatment Initiative (VIP program) was implemented last week. There are 15 participants in the program at this time and it is anticipated that the success rate for this group will be higher than the 75% initially projected. There is a contract pending with First Step to run the Marchman Act Facility. The contract with FMHI for the evaluation component is also pending. Phase III is progressing as well with all parties actively working together to ensure transitional housing becomes a reality.

Legislative Advocacy Committee

Elliott Metcalfe reviewed the following six legislative priorities which were approved by the Legislative Advocacy Committee:

- Medicaid Reform Initiatives
- Support State Funding of a Complete, Community-Based Array of Comprehensive and Quality Services for Senior Recipients
- Foster Family Care Rate Increase
- Support SB 0156 for Statewide Expansion of 2-1-1
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Equity Hold Harmless for the Community Based Care Organizations

After some minor changes to the wording on several of the priorities, the Executive Committee approved the Committee's recommendation to present the

above six issues to the Steering Committee on Monday as the Community Alliance's legislative priorities for 2006.

Katrina Assistance Center Update

Pauline Tracy provided an update on the Katrina Assistance Center. Case management has been provided to over 80 families who relocated to the Sarasota County area. Many community partners including the Friendship Volunteer Center, the American Red Cross, All Faiths Food Bank, the Salvation Army, DCF, Jobs Etc., the Community Foundation and several faith-based organizations provided much-needed resources including volunteers. County staff were utilized to provide the majority of the case management. Based on the decrease in the number of families coming in for assistance recently, the County will close the center at the end of this week. Displaced persons needing assistance will be referred to 2-1-1 for assistance.

One of the reasons this center came together so quickly and effectively was due to the work of the CDPC over the past year. All the partners were ready and willing to assist the case managers with resources for the displaced persons. Without the relationships which were already in place, it would have been a much more difficult task.

Next Meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on November 16, at 1:30 p.m., at The Community Foundation.