

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

February 16, 2005

### MEETING SUMMARY

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

Members Not Present:     Christine Cauffield  
                                  Peter Howard

Staff Present:             Chip Taylor  
                                  Becky Oliver

#### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium**

Bill Little reported that the Consortium and the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) held a joint meeting on February 4. At this meeting the two groups reviewed proposals to convert the existing 15-bed detoxification unit at First Step of Sarasota into a secure 30-bed adult addictions receiving facility for Marchman Act clients and to expand the existing 15-bed VIP Program at the Salvation Army to 45 beds, with more intensive

treatment being provided by First Step to the participants in this 10-week program. Both the Consortium and the CJC voted unanimously to support these proposals.

Bill stated that the next step in the process is to hold a community meeting of all interested parties to discuss other solutions to the homelessness problem in Sarasota County. Chip Taylor explained that the Salvation Army has a large plot of land on Central Avenue and funding for construction of transitional housing. The Salvation Army needs to generate the political support to construct a facility which would fall in place with the need for a transitional housing program. Using the Salvation Army's resources along with some additional capital funding for a transitional housing program from the Community Development Block Grant, this facility should be feasible.

### **Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee**

Sarah Gorman reported that the subcommittee is researching the Governor's proposal to reform Medicaid, with changes anticipated to be made by the budget year beginning July 1, 2006. Members of the subcommittee are volunteering in the following areas:

1. A system to provide direct medical care - James McCloud will take the lead with assistance from Beverly Stockton and Virginia Brockman.
2. A system similar to the one in Duval and Orange counties where a coalition was formed to provide an HMO type of coverage - Sarah will take the lead with assistance from Eva Goodwin, Joyce Solo and Janet Kahn.
3. Other ideas - Kim Kutch will take the lead.

### **Medicaid Reform Update**

Chip Taylor reported that he attended the joint public hearing held by the Senate and House select committees on Medicaid in Tampa on February 11. Lisa Carlton is the chair of the House select committee. Approximately 250 people attended, but only two-thirds of the nearly one hundred registered speakers were allotted time to speak. The

legislators made it clear that the Governor's proposal was not *their* proposal and they were willing to hear what was being said by those who would be affected.

### **School Readiness Coalition Waiver Request**

Bill Little reported that the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County has requested an official waiver of a merger requirement by the state's Office of Early Learning and has requested a letter of support from the Community Alliance. Bill distributed a "talking points" paper that the Coalition prepared summarizing their reasons for the waiver request.

***Elliott Metcalfe moved and Sarah Gorman seconded, motion passed unanimously, to support the Early Learning Coalition's request for an official waiver from a merger requirement by the Office of Early learning, and to remain an independent, single-county coalition.***

### **New Business**

Bill Little announced that the Step Up, Florida! celebration for February was taking place in Sarasota County on February 16 and invited everyone to attend the festivities that were planned.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Executive Committee meeting will be Wednesday, March 16, at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road, Sarasota.