

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 16, 2005 MEETING SUMMARY

Members Present:

Kay Glasser
Sarah Gorman

Elliott Metcalfe
Stewart Stearns

Members Not Present:

Ken Alexander
Bob Carter
Christine Cauffield

Peter Howard
Bill Little

Guests:

Jeanne Hodaian

Staff Present:

Becky Oliver

Chip Taylor

COMMITTEE AND WORK GROUP UPDATES

Disaster Preparedness Committee

Jeanne Hodaian reported that the Community Disaster Preparedness Committee held its first meeting and has scheduled the next meeting for April 1 in the County's Emergency Operating Center (EOC). EOC staff will present an overview of how the operation functions to committee members. Coordinating efforts between agencies which have plans and the County's master plan will be ongoing.

Mental Health Training (University of Miami)

Jeanne Hodaian reported that Dr. James Shultz, from the University Miami's Department of Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness Center (DEEP) will make a presentation at the Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting on March 21 to describe their behavioral health curriculum in disaster response and how DEEP could be of assistance in meeting the behavioral health training needs of agencies in the community. The dates of May 16, June 6, and June 7 are available for training and will be proposed for discussion at the Steering Committee. One of these dates will be used exclusively for training health department employees.

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee (HCUC)

Sarah Gorman reported that the subcommittee has some overlap with the activities of the CHIP project. The HCUC would be interested in participating with the CHIP in its community information-gathering process for helping not just children, but all citizens who are without health coverage.

The four potential options that the subcommittee is focusing on for options to health coverage for children are:

- Expanded clinic options through existing providers that would ensure free or low-cost health care, provide sovereign immunity to volunteer providers, and make the locations more community-based.
- Incorporate as a non-profit entity to become the health care provider for citizens (this would become universal health care for Sarasota County, known as a “Social HMO”). Funding would come from contributions from philanthropic groups.
- Education of health issues for consumers.
- Health Savings Accounts that allow for tax-free income to be made available to families in conjunction with a high-deductible, low-premium policy and incentives for engaging in healthy behaviors.

Chip Taylor stated that Leslie Clarke, CHIP coordinator, will present an overview of the CHIP project at the May 16 Steering Committee meeting.

Sarah made available an article by Dr. Donald Borewick from the *New York Times* on the need for health care from an economist’s point of view. Chip suggested that Sarah share this with the Alliance members during the presentation by CHIP at the May 16 Steering Committee meeting.

Elliott Metcalfe suggested that Sarah contact Mickey Presha of Manatee Rural Health Services for ideas on helping the uninsured with health care.

Community Alliance Satisfaction Survey

Chip reported that the final survey was e-mailed to members and Pauline will need time to reaffirm the purpose and importance of receiving feedback from members. Stewart requested a form that allows the data to be entered into the spreadsheet, as the current form is not “user friendly”. Chip agreed to have a revised survey form available for distribution by Monday.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders’ Consortium

Chip reported that the Criminal Justice Commission met on March 10 and received an update on the expansion of the Salvation Army’s VIP project.

The next meeting of the Consortium is March 24 at 3:00 p.m. at the Health Department. A presentation on the VIP expansion proposal will be given for the Consortium's approval.

The transitional housing project for persons exiting the VIP program is still a work in progress. Meetings are scheduled with community leaders next week.

The next Criminal Justice Commission meeting is scheduled for April 6.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Policy Coordinator position has been filled by Michael Theall. Michael comes with outstanding credentials that will help him in his new role. Michael will attend the Consortium meeting on March 24, but will not officially start work until March 28.

Chip announced that C.I.T. training begins a new class next month.

New Business

Chip requested that Elliott Metcalfe, chair of the Legislative Committee, schedule a committee meeting prior to the April 18 Steering Committee meeting, as the majority of that meeting will be to focus on legislative issues.

Chip reported that Human Services Advisory Council recently presented the Policy Framework changes to the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners. Chip noted that during the presentation he requested a letter of support from the Commission for the request by the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County for a waiver from a merger requirement. The Commissioners adopted a resolution and a letter similar to that adopted by the Community Alliance will be sent to Tallahassee.

Steering Committee Agenda Items

- Community Alliance Satisfaction Survey
- Committee and Work Group Updates
- Community Disaster Preparedness Committee
- Disaster Preparedness/Mental Health Training Opportunities

Next Meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 13, at 1:30 p.m. at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road, Sarasota.