

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

November 15, 2006

Members Present: Kay Glasser
Peter Howard
Bill Little
Elliott Metcalfe
Sherri Reynolds
Stewart Stearns
Alex Young

Members Not Present: Ken Alexander
Bob Carter
Jerry Thompson

Staff Present: Kathleen Marie Hall
Chip Taylor

Committee and Work Group Updates

Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disaster (Sarasota COAD)

In lieu of a meeting, the Sarasota COAD conducted a simple but effective mock drill at the Health and Human Services Operation Center with interactions between various departments and communicating through cell phones and radios. Staff will develop an analysis on the drill and report back to the committee.

Some of the key issues to address from the drill will be the need for additional coordination within the system, easy-to-use manuals (desk instructions and communication systems) and making sure that emergency generators are in place during a disaster. It was also mentioned that there was a need for mental health professionals to be stationed at the centers along with a need to institute alternative transportation when roads are blocked for individuals requiring medical attention or medications, discovering ways to handle large quantities of donations, and creating an alternative for Hospice when individuals are dying and the mortuaries are closed down. It was noted that connections have been established with the local morgue and medical examiner's office since the drill.

The members had a discussion on inviting the press to future functions and placing articles in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune under the editorial/comment section after such events. It was decided that Alex Young should write the articles and Chip Taylor would review them. Bill Little stated that he would contact Tom Tryon, Editorial Columnist for the Herald Tribune by email regarding such articles.

Planning and Outcomes Work Group (POWG)

The Planning and Outcomes Work Group met on November 3 to review the survey data and to complete the final recommendations to the outcome targets for Fiscal Year 2010. Ken Alexander will present the recommendations to the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) on Friday, November 17; to the Community Alliance on December 4; and then shortly thereafter to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

The next Sarasota County High School “Communities That Care” Survey will be completed by mid-December.

Legislative Advocacy Committee

The committee held a conference call on Monday, November 13 to approve the 2007 Legislative Proposals including: Medicaid Reform Initiative, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Initiative, Florida 2-1-1 Network, Voluntary Prekindergarten Program Implementation, Affordable Housing, Additional Funding for HIPPO Program, and Foster Parent Automobile Insurance Pilot Project.

The one proposal that was excluded from the above listing was the prostitution issue dealing with a third offense, which carries a Third Degree Felony charge with no alternative for the judge except to place the defendant in jail. According to the proposal there would be a change in the language that would allow the judge discretion to authorize the offender to participate and successfully complete a drug court program as a condition of their probation. Chip Taylor asked Elliott Metcalfe for a copy of the language changes to review. Elliott stated that this is a complex and controversial issue and will affect a fair number of people needing treatment if this proposal is approved by the legislation. The members agreed that the prostitution issue should be included in Stewart Stearn’s 3-minute speech during the Sarasota County Legislation Delegation session on November 16.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders’ Consortium (SAMHSC)

The Consortium discussed the handout in the members’ packets. Bill Little stated that this overview is a more effective way of communicating and reviewing the updates on the committees at the meetings. Some of the highlights from the handout:

- Acute Care System Task Force – Representatives from the Addictions Receiving Facility (ARF), Sarasota County Jail, Ambitrans, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, and Sarasota Memorial Hospital have been meeting on a regular basis to address concerns/issues.
- CART Initiative - Phase 1 – 99% of the involuntary participants admitted to the ARF have successfully completed the medically-supervised detoxification, with 26 (14%) referred to the VIP-ER Program and 66 (35%) referred to outpatient treatment programs within the community.
- VIP-ER Program - Phase 2 – On October 24, the Board of County Commissioners approved an additional \$241,556 for service enhancements to the VIP-ER Program, which will allow more intensive vocational/employment services and after-care case management for the graduates to address relapse prevention, sustained employment, family reunification and other outcomes. PMT is discussing the

addition of a fourth class at The Salvation Army (currently, there are two treatment classes with a full waiting list of 15 participants, along with another waiting list to get into the waiting list class).

- Transitional Housing Committee (THC) - Phase 3 – THC has been working on a proposal to adopt the “Sober Housing” model used in Manatee and Charlotte counties as an alternative to the purchased housing model. The committee has focused on three types of funding for this model, including start-up costs up to \$10,000 per house; a management fee based on \$1,600 per bed per house; and rental vouchers during the transition. This proposal has been endorsed by Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and the Stakeholders’ Consortium and will be taken to the Board of County Commissioners in January. It was mentioned that Charlotte County has purchased 20 of the FEMA trailers at a cost of \$500 a piece and will be selling them to families that are still dislocated from the hurricane. This may be another alternative for transitional housing but there would be an issue of buying land to place them on.
- CIT Committee – The October CIT class was held at the SCTI Police Academy with the largest attendance thus far. An announcement was made at the graduation that a salary incentive was now in place for officers who attend the CIT training. At present, there are approximately 192 officers trained and the next class will be in March 2007.
- Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership – Interviews will be held in mid-December for the Project Director position. The Partnership is currently serving 8 families and by the end of next year will be serving 80 families.

Strategic Planning Update

Shelly Robertson will facilitate the Strategic Planning Retreat on January 22 from 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

2006 Survey on Zoomerang

The Executive Committee discussed the electronic survey that will be distributed by email to the Community Alliance members after the December 4 Steering Committee meeting. The purpose of the survey is to assist the committee in prioritizing the structure of the Strategic Planning Retreat by discovering what was meaningful, what the accomplishments have been, where the Community Alliance is at the present time, and where it should go in the future. It was pointed out by several members that the survey needs to be as easy as possible to receive a greater participation. The consensus of the members was to send out an email with the link to the survey and a summary of the history of the Community Alliance. It was also suggested to include the issues that have been completed (in bullet format) as a tool to assist the members in completing the survey.

New Business

The agenda for the December 4 Steering Committee meeting was established.

Bill Little announced that he has attended several meetings regarding the CSI Health Initiative that was created to look at health insurance options. Bill suggested bringing this initiative to the retreat in an effort to move the agenda along and for the Community Alliance to support this initiative.

Leadership Succession

The members discussed the leadership succession, as the 2-year terms expire at the end of December. The original plan was to have the Strategic Planning Retreat in the fall, setting the direction, and electing the new leadership. The members decided that this discussion will be readdressed after the January 22 retreat.

Next Meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on January 10, at 1:30 p.m., at the Community Foundation.

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.