

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

August 11, 2004

Members Present: Stewart Stearns, Chair
Bob Carter
Christine Cauffield
Kay Glasser
Sarah Gorman

Members Not Present: Ken Alexander
Peter Howard
Bill Little
Elliott Metcalfe

Others Present: Marylee Bussard
Dr. Jerry Osterweil

Staff Present: James Schulz
Chip Taylor
Pauline Tracy

Committee and Work Group Updates

Nominating and Membership Committee

Pauline Tracy reported on the August 10 Nominating and Membership Committee meeting. Three appointments have been made since the last meeting of the Committee:

- Shannon Staub, Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
- P. J. Brooks, Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
- Colleen Reardon, Sarasota County Coalition for the Homeless

The following pending appointments were discussed:

1. *City of Long Boat Key*- The committee asked staff to prepare a letter for Stewart's signature confirming the City of Long Boat Key's decision not to participate in the Alliance.
2. *City of Sarasota*-Sarah Gorman stated she would speak to Mayor Martin at a meeting in the near future to discuss their appointment.
3. *Council of Neighborhood Associations*- Pauline contacted Casey Pilon who provided her with contact information for the Southwest Florida Homeowners Association (Englewood area) and the South Venice Homeowners Association. The committee felt these two organizations did not represent a significant population of the county and suggested staff contact Michele Milian with the City Coalition of Neighborhoods Association for potential candidates.

The committee passed a motion to appoint Mr. Luis Baron, publisher of *Siete Diez* and *la Guia del Golfo*, to the vacant Business/Economic Development seat on the Steering Committee.

The attendance report was reviewed. The committee agreed that staff should prepare a letter for Stewart's signature to Sheriff Balkwill regarding attendance at the Steering Committee meetings.

Chip Taylor suggested that the attendance log be reviewed since the inception of the Alliance and for the last 12 months and that certificates be presented to those who have exemplary attendance.

The committee agreed that a recommendation should be made to the Steering Committee to discontinue the use of the proxy form. Members who wish to send a designee to the Steering Committee meetings will need to notify staff. This change will need to be reflected in the Alliance's by-laws.

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

Sarah reported that the subcommittee met and is continuing its work on the matrix of available health coverage for children. She has contacted Marc Lazarus with Sarasota Memorial Hospital who agreed to send her information regarding uncompensated care at SMH and data for the 6 major private insurance carriers. She plans to have the matrix completed in time for the Steering Committee meeting.

Planning and Outcomes Work Group

The Planning and Outcomes Work Group met and discussed the existing positive youth development indicators and targets. The results from the Communities That Care Middle School Survey are still not available. The committee hopes to have the results by the next meeting, which will provide the group with more data to develop additional outcome targets.

Sarah Gorman and Shelly Rence, Healthy Start Program Administrator for the Health Department, reported that agencies are seeing an increased number of mothers and babies testing positive at birth for prohibited substances. The 1st District Court of Appeals has determined that substance exposure does not in and of itself constitute child abuse or neglect. This limits the amount of intervention services that can be provided to the mother and substance exposed child. There is a statewide group working on changing the statutory language to eliminate the roadblocks preventing mothers and babies from receiving the care they need. Prior to this court decision, the health department received good cooperation from substance abusing mothers in obtaining needed treatment for themselves and their infants.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Chip stated the full Consortium meeting originally scheduled for Monday, August 19 was cancelled; however, the Planning Committee will meet on that same day at 10:30 a.m. The 3 agenda items for the Planning Committee are:

1. How the Consortium can be more involved in the DCF regional planning process to make the plan more community-based.
2. What is our strategy to develop a community plan.
3. Substance exposed newborn issue.

Impact of Amendment to F.S. 20.19 on Community Alliance

Chip Taylor gave an overview of the amendment to F.S. 20.19 which was passed during the last legislative session, however, staff were unaware of the amendment until recently. The amendment states "A member of the community alliance, other than a member specified in paragraph (d), may not receive payment for contractual services from the department or a community-based care lead agency." Based on this change, many of the existing members of the Steering Committee would not be eligible to serve on the Alliance since they receive funds directly from DCF or from the Sarasota YMCA, which is the lead agency.

Discussion ensued and the group agreed that this Community Alliance has never been an alliance as envisioned by F.S. 20.19 in that Sarasota County served as the pilot for community based care and did not need to provide the oversight of that system that other community alliances do. The Committee will recommend to the Steering Committee that all references to F.S. 20.19 should be removed from any documents regarding the Community Alliance of Sarasota County so that the group may continue to retain it's current structure and membership.

Community Alliance Member Satisfaction Survey

As part of Sarasota County's Continuous Quality Improvement System, staff requested that a customer satisfaction survey be distributed to Steering Committee members. At the request of the Executive Committee, questions were added to measure members' satisfaction with the Community Alliance in general. A draft survey instrument was distributed and discussed. Committee members made several suggestions that will be included in the survey and reviewed again at the September meeting of the Executive Committee.

SCOPE Family Violence Report-Role of Community Alliance in Implementation

Marylee Bussard and Dr. Jerry Osterweil provided an update on SCOPE's Family Violence report implementation. The Community Alliance can provide a forum for leadership to come together to address the issues in the report. It was agreed that SCOPE should make a presentation to the Steering Committee in September to see who would be interested in participating in groups to implement the recommendations.

Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver

Chip Taylor provided an overview of the proposed Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver and how it could affect Sarasota County. It was agreed that the Community Alliance should look into holding a local Medicaid Reform Symposium in order to share information about the waiver and to provide input to the Agency for Health Care Administration.

Sarah stated there is a statewide group (Babies in the Sunshine) which has organized and is addressing the issue.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for September 15, at 1:30 p.m., at The Senior Friendship Center, Center for Healthy Aging, second floor conference room.