

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

November 10, 2004

Members Present: Stewart Stearns, Chair
 Ken Alexander
 Kay Glasser
 Sarah Gorman
 Peter Howard
 Bill Little

Members Not Present: Bob Carter
 Christine Cauffield
 Elliott Metcalfe

Others Present: Janet Kahn

Staff Present: Chip Taylor
 Pauline Tracy

Committee and Work Group Updates

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

Sarah Gorman reported that the subcommittee met in conjunction with the Kid Care Advisory Council. Changes to the KidCare program were discussed. A final decision has not yet been made as to whether there will be an open enrollment period in January, although that appears likely at this point.

As a result of the discussion at last month's Steering Committee meeting, the subcommittee began planning the *Caring for Kids* training event for staff who work with parents of children ages 0 through 18. The training sessions are scheduled for Thursday, December 9 at the Community Foundation and Friday, December 10 at a location yet to be determined in the southern part of the county. The topics to be presented include:

- Changes to the Florida KidCare Program
- Resources for families with no health insurance
- Well child health care – what every parent should know

Discussion was held regarding a meeting held with Reps. Donna Clarke and Frank Farkas to discuss legislation that was passed during the last session on employer-provided health care.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

A joint work group of the Stakeholders' Consortium and the Criminal Justice Commission met on October 27. Judge Bennett attended the meeting and addressed the group on concerns regarding the detention of persons with mental health and substance abuse issues in the jail. The work group had a lengthy discussion regarding the current situation and local initiatives that are underway, such as the changes to the Pre-Trial Services Program and the fact that Judge Bennett has personally taken over the task of first appearance hearings. Prior to these changes, the jail population averaged 857. Since the changes, the jail population has dropped to 739, even though bookings into the jail have actually increased by 203 in the last month.

Several topics were suggested for the group to discuss at future meetings. Representatives from ACTS, Inc, which manages the secure Marchman Act adult addictions receiving facility in Hillsborough County, will be invited to the November 16 meeting of the work group to explain how their program operates.

The Stakeholders' Consortium's Planning Committee met on November 2 and reviewed the DCF Strategic Plan template and discussed how the community can provide more meaningful input into the plan during the next cycle. The next update to the DCF plan should be due in approximately six months. The group also discussed ways to develop a community plan which would be broad enough to encompass the full continuum of care, identify and prioritize existing and anticipated future needs and target those services that are financially feasible and will impact client services.

The committee will develop a matrix of substance abuse and mental health services in the community which will include services currently available, their funding streams, the number of clients served and waiting lists, if available. Linda McKinnon offered to provide a matrix of Medicaid funding for both mental health and substance abuse services. Debbie Spellman will send Chip a copy of a matrix developed by the Hillsborough County Children's Mental Health Committee that we may be able to use as a template. Consortium members will be asked to fill in additional information at the December 3 Consortium meeting.

Legislative Delegation Public Hearing Update

Stewart Stearns gave a brief report on the presentation of the Alliance's 2005 legislative priorities which he and Elliott Metcalfe made to the legislative

delegation. They felt there was support from the delegation for all of the issues presented.

It was decided the Alliance should formally send a summary of the legislative issues to the delegation with a note thanking them for the opportunity to present the issues to them.

UPK Legislative Statement

Janet Kahn presented an additional legislative proposal which outlined the key principles that the statewide School Readiness Coalition believes would ensure that quality is not compromised during the implementation of Universal Pre-Kindergarten. Discussion ensued regarding the following seven principles:

- Fully Qualified Teachers
- Sufficient Staff
- Evidence-Based Curriculum
- Full Parent Choice
- Adequate Time
- Governance and Oversight
- Adequate Funding

Bill Little moved, Peter Howard seconded, passed unanimously to recommend adding the UPK legislative issue to the 2005 Community Alliance Legislative Priorities.

The issue will be presented to the Steering Committee on Monday for approval.

Medicaid Reform Symposium

Pauline Tracy provided an update on the Medicaid Reform Symposium scheduled for Monday, November 22, from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. Flyers and agendas will be e-mailed to the Steering Committee again requesting that they forward the information to their colleagues and associates who may have an interest in attending.

Economic Impact of Human Services

Sarah Gorman presented the idea of conducting an economic impact study of human services in Sarasota County similar to the study commissioned by the Sarasota Professional Arts Council. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the first step should be to contact the Economic Development Council to determine if there is a way in which the Alliance can become more involved, perhaps by having a seat on the Arts Council. Kay Glasser was asked to contact the Council to begin a discussion about the opportunities for the Alliance and the Council to begin working closer together.

Funding Catalyst Work Group

In the beginning, the Funding Catalyst Work Group addressed the Revenue Maximization issues which generated a great deal of interest for committee members. Since that time, Revenue Maximization has not been prominent on a statewide basis until recently. There are several opportunities coming up that would allow local communities to draw down additional federal funds.

The committee discussed the declining attendance at the recent Funding Catalyst Work Group meetings and decided that the work group's composition may need to be reviewed to add members. Commissioner Staub was mentioned as a potential member who would be an asset to the work group. The Committee also suggested that the work group meet quarterly instead of monthly.

New Business

The Nominating and Membership Committee had previously made a recommendation to the Executive Committee that certificates should be presented to members who have attended the majority of Alliance meetings since their appointment. After some discussion, it was decided that certificates should also be awarded to Alliance members who have been active in work groups and committees and have gone above and beyond to make the Alliance a success. The issue was tabled until a future meeting. Committee members were asked to think about how to identify those members who should receive special recognition.

Chip Taylor announced that the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Legislative Conference is being held in Sarasota December 1 – 3. FAC has offered Sarasota County an hour and a half time period to present a local initiative. It has been suggested that we present what we have done with the Community Alliance, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium and the Criminal Justice Commission. Stewart Stearns, Bill Little and Judge Bennett will be asked to make the presentation.

Sarah Gorman will remain the Community Alliance's representative on the CHIP Committee. Stewart asked that we receive regular updates on what CHIP has accomplished.

Steering Committee Agenda Items

- Nonprofit Resource Center Presentation
- Committee and Work Group Updates
- Legislative Delegation Public Hearing Update

- Universal Pre-K Legislative Issue
- Medicaid Reform Symposium Update

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