

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

October 13, 2004

Members Present: Stewart Stearns, Chair
 Ken Alexander
 Bob Carter
 Kay Glasser
 Sarah Gorman
 Peter Howard
 Bill Little
 Jessica Petro (for Christine Cauffield)

Members Not Present: Elliott Metcalfe

Others Present: Bill Broughton

Staff Present: Chip Taylor
 Pauline Tracy

Committee and Work Group Updates

Legislative Advocacy Committee

Chip Taylor presented the 5 issues approved by the Legislative Advocacy Committee as the 2005 Community Alliance Legislative Proposals. They are:

1. Medicaid Reform Section 1115 Super Waiver
2. Continuation funding for the Mothers and Infants Program
3. Mobile Crisis Response Unit funding
4. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Diagnostic and Treatment Center
5. Foster Parent Automobile Insurance Pilot Project

Each proposal was discussed in detail. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium approved a motion to support the legislative proposals at their October 11 meeting.

Peter Howard moved, Bob Carter seconded, motion passed unanimously, to broaden the language in the Medicaid Reform proposal and to remove the reference to the prenatal care coverage.

Peter Howard moved, Bob Carter seconded, motion passed unanimously, to accept the Legislative Advocacy Committee's recommendations, with the approved changes to the Medicaid Reform proposal, and present the proposals to the Steering Committee on October 18.

The Legislative Advocacy Committee also recommended that the Community Alliance present the proposals to the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners who will meet on October 26 to choose the County's 2005 legislative priorities. It is hoped that the Board of County Commissioners will endorse the 5 legislative proposals and hopefully select some to include in their own list of proposals.

The local legislative delegation will hold a public hearing on November 4. Stewart and Elliott will make a 5 minute presentation to the delegation on the Alliance's legislative proposals.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Bill Little gave a report on the October 11 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium meeting. The Consortium met in conjunction with members of the Criminal Justice Commission. Judge Bennett spoke to the group about the necessity for the two groups to work together to address issues such as the number of detainees who are in need of mental health and/or substance abuse treatment services. A subcommittee of the two groups was formed and will meet on October 27.

The Consortium approved the following mission statement:

Develop and implement a strategic plan for the community which will improve and enhance the delivery of substance abuse and mental health services for citizens of Sarasota County.

The following vision statement was also approved:

Sarasota County is a community where:

- *State-of-the-art mental health and substance abuse services are provided to consumers in an integrated system that helps assure efficient use of resources and optimal outcomes for those consumers.*

- *Funders, providers and consumers work collaboratively to address the needs of the community.*

One of the lessons learned during the recent hurricane recovery efforts was that there is a need for crisis intervention for up to a year after a disaster for those directly impacted and for the staff who assisted during the recovery efforts. Mental health and substance abuse specialists report that they have seen problems just begin to surface for some. The committee discussed the need for a post-disaster mental health and substance abuse plan and the need for a committee to be formed to address this issue.

The Consortium also discussed several options the committee has for developing a community mental health plan. The Planning Subcommittee met several times to discuss a community plan and to review the DCF Regional plan. The DCF plan provides a good start and a format or template that can be used as a foundation. It was decided that since a lot of background work has already been done, we should proceed to plan development rather than looking at the process.

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

Sarah Gorman distributed the draft report prepared by the subcommittee that will be presented to the Steering Committee on October 18. The subcommittee has been researching the information over the past year. Based on the information gathered, it is estimated that there are at least 7,000 children in Sarasota County without any health insurance coverage. This represents about 13% of the approximately 54,000 children under the age of 19 who reside in Sarasota County and includes residents, both citizens and non-citizens.

Recommendations include:

1. A *Caring for Kids* training should be conducted for staff of local agencies on how to educate parents about access to existing healthcare options.
2. Explore innovative solutions for providing health care services to children with no health insurance.
3. Expand the work group to include public and private pediatric health care providers and insurance industry representatives.

The work group has identified several funding sources. If the above recommendations are implemented, the subcommittee believes the Community Alliance would be in a better position to apply for seed money for an innovative project within the next year.

Education and Advocacy Work Group

Bob Carter gave an update of the Education and Advocacy Work Group meeting on October 7. Alberto Suarez and Roy McBean will provide an update on the 2-1-1 system and how the system responded during the recent hurricanes.

Christie Lewis, Executive Director of the Nonprofit Resource Center, attended the work group meeting to explore whether there are ways both groups could work together to identify the types of educational opportunities needed in the community. Christie will make a presentation at the November Alliance meeting on the Nonprofit Resource Center and what it has to offer to the community.

The work group discussed their future direction and how they can best serve the Community Alliance. It was felt that the work group should begin to meet on an ad hoc basis to schedule future presentations.

Medicaid Reform Symposium

The Symposium has been rescheduled to November 22 from 1:30 to 5:00 at the Community Foundation. It is hoped that with more time to advertise the symposium, we will have a better response rate. It appears many people do not realize the impact of the proposed Medicaid Waiver so there needs to be more general education about the subject prior to the symposium. The Steering Committee members need to understand the issue better and distribute the material about the Symposium throughout their networks. It was suggested that an article in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune outlining the potential effect Medicaid reform could have on the community would help raise awareness and advertise the symposium. Neighboring counties should also be invited to attend to make this a more regional event.

The Health Care for Uninsured Children Subcommittee will be working with the Nonprofit Resource Center to plan and advertise the event.

Steering Committee Agenda Items

- Update on the 2-1-1 system
- Earned Income Tax Credit Workshop
- Medicaid Reform Symposium Update
- Legislative Priorities for 2005
- Committee and Work Group Updates

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for October 13, at 1:30 p.m., at The Senior Friendship Center, Center for Healthy Aging, second floor conference room.