

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

FUNDING CATALYST WORK GROUP

MEETING SUMMARY

January 26, 2004

Members Present: Peter Howard, Chair
Hal Headley
Lee Johnson
Katie Knight
Janice Mee
Jessica Petro
Sherri Reynolds
Alex Young

Staff Present: Chip Taylor
Pauline Tracy

Title IV-e Medicaid

Peter Howard stated he has been looking into whether or not Sarasota County has been maximizing match opportunities and drawing down all the Medicaid possible. PCS conducted a study of the YMCA several years ago and found that they were doing an above average job of drawing down Medicaid dollars.

He then started looking into how well the School Board was maximizing revenue. He met with Mike McHugh and determined they were also doing a very good job at drawing down federal dollars. Mike will attend the Steering Committee meeting to give brief report.

Another area that we need to look into is whether or not we are maximizing day care revenues.

Hal Headley reported that for the adult population, we were drawing down 45% federal dollars and 55% state dollars through the Medicaid Waiver program. There may be opportunities to draw down more funding if local governments and quasi-governmental agencies begin utilizing their funds as match.

The group agreed that it was important to:

1. Draw down as much federal dollars as possible.
2. Encourage local and quasi-governmental agencies to use their funding as match.
3. Encourage state agencies such as DCF and AHCA to make item # 2 happen.

No one had seen or heard anything about the report that is due to the Legislature in January 2004 regarding the process that has been made by state agencies to make # 2 above happen.

It was agreed that by July, we need to identify what funds are available for matching, what is currently being used and what is being left on the table.

TANF is another area that needs to be researched to determine if there are additional revenue maximization resources available. Substance abuse and mental health are areas that need to be explored. It is vital that state agencies become more involved in the process.

Generating and Maximizing Revenue Conference

Lee Johnson reported on a recent conference he attended at which many of the southern states were present. He found out that Hillsborough County uses Title IV-e match through their children's services council (The Children's Board) to provide services to at-risk children. This frees up dollars that can be used for subsidized day care.

The State of Florida is negotiating with the federal government to develop a waiver pilot to use Title IV-e for in-home services. It has traditionally been used for out-of-home care.

It was suggested that Janet Kahn, Executive Director of the School Readiness Coalition, be invited to next month's meeting.

Sarasota County and the United Way have already compiled a list of existing funding that could be used as match.

The group agreed that we should also look at foundation dollars to determine what they currently fund that can be used as match.

The next meeting of the Funding Catalyst Work Group will be February 23, 12:00, at the Landings, blue awnings, room 219.