

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

FUNDING CATALYST WORK GROUP

MEETING SUMMARY

March 15, 2004

Members Present: Peter Howard, Chair
Janet Kahn
Katie Knight
Janice Mee
Stewart Stearns
Alex Young

Staff Present: Pauline Tracy

School Readiness Coalition

The County already allocates \$344,523 from the Grant-in-Aid program as match to draw down federal dollars through the Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program. The program was originally intended for private businesses to use but many county governments were able to take advantage of the matching opportunity in the past due to the availability of funds. Janet Kahn stated the CCEP program wants to refocus their efforts to get private businesses' participation but she did not think it would affect Sarasota County's current allocation since we are still a relatively small contributor. We may be able to draw down more depending on the Human Services Advisory Council's (HSAC) recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. Janet was asked to look at counties similar to Sarasota County to see how they have drawn down federal dollars. Are we receiving our fair share? The work group would like to discuss the equity issue at the May meeting.

It is possible we can start a discussion with the Chambers of Commerce and others, including the United Ways, regarding increasing the amount of match the community draws down. We need to tell the story of families who are caught in the gap of not being eligible for subsidized day care but still unable to afford to pay for quality day care out of pocket.

Discussion followed regarding the need to look at each day care provider individually to see if it would be beneficial to them to participate in the CCEP program. They need to determine how many children receive scholarships, how many are eligible for the program, and whether or not they are already using their dollars as federal match.

Success by Six and the School Readiness Coalition are already planning to approach the business community regarding the CCEP program.

Matching Directly With the State of Florida

Peter Howard stated he attended an Alliance for Children and Families conference recently and found out that states such as Wisconsin take funding from United Ways, counties and others and send the money directly to lead agencies from the state. He suggested the Florida Association of Counties and the County Commissions would probably support this process as it takes them out of the middle. The local agencies would have to submit to a federal audit and would need a more sophisticated infrastructure in place.

It may be time to have a discussion with the community about bringing in a company such as Maximus to look at Sarasota County to see where our opportunities are for maximizing revenues. It is clear that the State of Florida is not tapping into all of the funding that is available. The issue will be discussed at the Steering Committee and if they agree, Peter will contact Devon Hardy with Maximus, to see what can be done and for what price.

Ted Grainger has also completed a comparison of several states and their revenue maximization efforts. Katie Knight and Alex Young will contact Ted for additional information.

Other Business

The report from DCF and AHCA regarding their efforts to support revenue maximization efforts that was due to the Legislature in January 2004 has not yet been completed. The two agencies understood that the report was not due until the end of FY 2004 (June 30).

Due to the April Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholder's Consortium meeting being extended, the Funding Catalyst Work Group will not meet in April.

The next meeting of the Funding Catalyst Work Group will be May 17, 12:00, at the Landings, brown awnings.