

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY
HEALTHCARE FOR UNINSURED CHILDREN SUBCOMMITTEE**

**AND THE
KIDCARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**October 26, 2004
3:00 PM
Human Services Center, 1750 17th Street**

Members Present:

Elaine Allen-Emrich
Edna Apostol
Virginia Brockman
Sylvia Browning
Becky Clapp
Sheila Day
Cherie Diefenbach
Kristie Fraught
Kay Glasser
Joan Gnirke
Dr. Norman Goldstein
Sarah Gorman

Norma Grearter
Kim Kutch
Christie Lewis
James McCloud
Susan Ross
Joyce Solo
Beverly Stockton
Diane Stokas
S. Van Wormer
Allison Walker
Teri Weber

Staff Present:

Jamie Mahadeo
Chip Taylor

Rik Jimison

KidCare Program Changes for FY04-05

Virginia Brockman provided the committees some background on the KidCare program and distributed packets of information summarizing the recent changes in the three KidCare Programs. She reminded the group that there is no longer a waiting list for Healthy Kids. Also, there will only be two enrollment windows: January and September, and then only if there are funds available to serve more children.

In September, the Governor announced changes in the Florida KidCare Program that will be helpful to families. Healthy Kids will allow families who have a child who was in the KidCare Title XIX system at any point in the past to call in for reinstatements (to be put back on) without submitting a new application. This is

for children who were once covered by KidCare or who had been in the system but not activated (not actually covered by the program). If a child once had KidCare coverage and was cancelled, or had applied but did not complete the process and now wishes to reenroll (be put back on), they may be eligible if they still meet the eligibility requirements for the program.

Children who lost their Medicaid coverage after March 12, 2004 because they were over-income will be allowed to apply for another KidCare Program without waiting for an open enrollment period.

With a generous donation from Blue Cross Blue / Shield of Florida, the Healthy Kids Corporation has established a program called Project Pathfinder where individuals are hired to go door-to-door to assist people in filling out their Florida KidCare renewal applications. It is doubtful, however, that Sarasota County will receive any benefit from this program.

Virginia highlighted the fact that the non-Title XXI enrollment figures are on a downward spiral. This trend will continue until there are no non-Title XXI children left on the program.

There will be a meeting of the remaining KidCare Coordinators around the state in Tampa with Rose Naff at the end of November. They will find out at that meeting when the next open enrollment period will begin. It is not known yet whether applications will be made available to the counties. It is possible that agencies and individuals will have to print the application directly from the website if no paper applications are provided. Additionally, assuming that open enrollment starts January 1; there may be as few as 500 spots available state-wide for new children to enroll in the KidCare Program. Sarasota County agencies need to be prepared to work with their families prior to open enrollment so families will be ready to apply and access the available slots.

Medicaid Reform Symposium

The Symposium has been rescheduled (from September 29th) and will be held on Monday, November 22, 2004 from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road. There will be two keynote speakers, one from AHCA and Joan Alker from Georgetown University. There will also be a local panel representing health and human service agencies and county government who will discuss the impact of Medicaid reform on the target population. Any agency that serves Medicaid recipients should attend to see what impact this reform may have on them.

To register, go to www.suncoastnonprofit.org or call 551-0706. RSVPs must be received by Friday, November 19, 2004. There will be four symposiums around the state. It is important to be in attendance to provide input on the reform process.

Report to the Steering Committee

The committee's task was to find out the number of children in the county who do not have health insurance coverage. Based on best estimates, there are about 7,000 children from birth to age eighteen who have no coverage at all. This represents about 13% of the children in the county.

A major concern is that children without health coverage do not receive well-child care. This results in the inability of parents to access the information they need to raise a healthy child.

Caring for Kids Training Event

The Steering Committee has recommended that agency staff who have contact with these parents be trained to educate parents on how to access health care coverage, obtain health care information and educate parents on the importance of well-child visits. It has been suggested that:

- a training be scheduled on December 9th or 10th,
- there be two trainings, one north and one south,
- handouts/pamphlets be provided in Spanish,
- agencies provide any suggestions for the content of the training to Virginia or Sarah,
- hold the training from 11:00 to 1:00 and provide lunch.

The Community Alliance is seeking innovative solutions to how the parents of children who are without health insurance can receive information and assistance. They are seeking funding opportunities to support some of these solutions. There will be a work group meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 3:30 to 5:00 in the Healthy Start Office in the Human Services Center. The last meeting of the year will be held on November 30th due to the holidays. Meetings will resume in January.

Next Meeting

The next HCUC Subcommittee meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m., November 30, 2004 at 1750 17th Street in the Healthy Start Program Office.