

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

April 27, 2004

Members Present: Gloria DeHaven
Kim Kutch
Nancy Shoemaker
Beverly Stockton

Members Absent: Virginia Brockman
Mary Crowley
Eva Goodwin
Sarah Gorman
Janet Kahn
Debra Kaufman
Sherri Reynolds

Staff: Pauline Tracy

Welcome and Introductions

Nancy Shoemaker chaired the meeting in the absence of Sarah Gorman. Introductions were made.

Updates

Nancy Shoemaker contacted Karen Eber-Davis who suggested approaching The Community Foundation and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice for a grant. Discussion ensued regarding the need to first approach the Executive Committee with this idea for their approval. Sarah Gorman will be asked to raise the issue at the May 12 Executive Committee meeting.

Nancy also confirmed that Sarasota Memorial Hospital's Emergency Room still assigns patients on a specialty rotation. She felt that they might be open to discussion of a different type of rotation in which they would have more input and control.

Nancy also shared an article she found in *Reader's Digest* regarding physicians who are beginning to provide group sessions for patients with the same or similar conditions.

Group sessions prove to be more cost effective for patients as well as doctors and provide patients with social support and more time with the doctor.

Although Sarah Gorman was unable to make the meeting, she provided lists of All Children's Hospital pediatric specialists, pediatric sub-specialists, and pediatricians and family practice physicians serving children in Sarasota County.

Draft Matrix of Categories of Need and Available Resources

Gloria DeHaven reported there were 52 plans available on www.ehealthinsurance.com. She provided a chart indicating the cost of health insurance premiums with the four least expensive health insurance companies for a family of 2 and a family of 6.

It was agreed that more information needs to be gathered to determine the current need and available resources. We need to construct a matrix which looks at all available resources. Kim Kutch will gather information regarding eligibility requirements for all of the different Medicaid programs. Gloria DeHaven agreed to gather more information for the matrix and to find out more about the WATCH program.

(Subsequent to this meeting, a matrix which begins to lay out the various kinds of health care children need and the options that are available was sent to the subcommittee. Members were asked to begin completing the matrix and to bring the form to the May meeting for discussion.)

According to information Pauline Tracy received from Virginia Brockman, the Healthy Kids Program Office anticipates between 20% and 30% of the children currently enrolled in the Kid Care program will be disenrolled due to the recent changes in legislation. In addition, it is estimated that approximately 1,441 children in Sarasota County do not have health insurance.

Mark Lazarus made a presentation at the April 19 Community Alliance Steering Committee regarding Sarasota Memorial Hospital's Uninsured Small Group Limited Benefit Health Plan. Pauline will obtain a copy of his presentation and forward to the subcommittee members.

Discussion ensued regarding how groups which are interested in pooling together their resources to obtain more affordable health insurance would be able to accomplish that. Beverly Stockton agreed to conduct some research into the issue.

Assignments

- All – Provide input on the matrix form regarding needs and resources of children's health care options.
- Gloria DeHaven – Research WATCH program
- Kim Kutch – Provide eligibility information on the different Medicaid programs.
- Beverly Stockton – Research pooling resources to obtain affordable health coverage.
- Pauline Tracy- provide copies of Mark Lazarus' presentation to subcommittee members.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, at 3:30 p.m. at the Healthy Start office, 1750 17th Street, Building M.