

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

Health Care for Uninsured Children (HCUC) Subcommittee

April 12, 2005

Members Present: Sarah Gorman, Chair
Virginia Brockman
Eva Goodwin
Janet Kahn
Kim Kutch
Nancy Shoemaker
Joyce Solo
Beverly Stockton

Members Absent: Leslie Clarke
Mary Crowley
Gloria DeHaven
Debra Kaufman
Lou Anne Koch
Sherri Reynolds

Staff: Pauline Tracy

Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) Oversight Committee Update

Sarah Gorman had attended the recent CHIP Leadership Council and provided an update. At an earlier HCUC meeting, it had been suggested that the subcommittee join forces with the CHIP project to address the lack of accessible, affordable health coverage. One of the goals discussed at the Leadership Council was to develop a safety net for the uninsured and underinsured; however, it did not appear that this was a goal the CHIP group wanted to embrace in this form at this time.

Next Steps & Recommendation

The HCUC members discussed at length their next steps. Through their research, the committee has found several communities which have successfully addressed the issue of the uninsured and underinsured. The committee agreed that it was time to expand their group and add the expertise to look at what would work best in Sarasota County. This could be accomplished in several different ways. One way was to suggest this topic as a SCOPE study topic next year. Another option was to ask community partners and leaders to come together to address the issue. It was decided to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee and the Steering Committee that the second option be considered at this time. A community forum, similar to the Medicaid

Subcommittee Goal: 100% of children in Sarasota County have access to affordable, basic health care.

Symposium held in November 2004, could be held which would bring in speakers from the successful communities (Orange County, Duval County, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Santa Clara, California) to describe what they have done to extend health care coverage (in some cases, to all children; in others, to all residents). If the forum is planned well in advance, the event can be marketed through media coverage of the issues, addresses to the Chambers of Commerce, and involvement of the Human Resources Association. Other strategies, designed to spark the interest of the business community, parents, the school system, health care providers and funders, could be developed. The response to the event would then indicate both the level of interest and the potential for investment by the community to solve the problem.

The suggestion was made that we should also make the best practices forum a regional event and invite surrounding counties to attend.

Kid Care

Virginia Brockman gave an update on the KidCare program. The number of children enrolled in KidCare continues to drop (4,078 in March compared to 3,928 in April) but the number of children eligible for Medicaid has increased. There were no Sarasota County children added as a result of open enrollment in January.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Health Care for Uninsured Children Subcommittee will be Tuesday, May 10, at 3:30 p.m., at the Healthy Start Office.