

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

Health Care for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

January 25, 2005

Members Present: Sarah Gorman, Chair
Virginia Brockman
Eva Goodwin
Kim Kutch
James McCloud
Joyce Solo
Beverly Stockton

Members Absent:
Mary Crowley
Gloria DeHaven
Janet Kahn
Debra Kaufman
Lou Anne Koch
Sherri Reynolds
Nancy Shoemaker

Staff: Pauline Tracy

KidCare Enrollment

Virginia Brockman provided handouts and gave an update on KidCare enrollment. Over 2,000 enrollees have been dropped off the rolls over the last 2 months due to the revised enrollment procedures.

Current enrollment ends on January 30 and applications can be hand delivered, faxed or sent by mail; however, at this late date standard mail delivery is not recommended. Applicants may send their application by overnight mail as long as it is received by January 29. Both DCF and the Health Department will accept applications, which will be date stamped, and faxed to Tallahassee. Others on the work group stated their offices would also be available to fax applications if needed. Statewide, over 65,000 applications have been received. It has been estimated that in order to fill all 72,000 available slots, 100,000 applications will need to be submitted. The Healthy Kids Corporation will verify that applicants are not eligible for any other type of health insurance as of January 30.

Virginia will be at the Children's Fair at the Salvation Army on January 29 to distribute and help complete applications, and answer question. Virginia will prepare a summary of the community's efforts to publicize the Healthy Kids program in Sarasota County which will

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be shared with the Steering Committee at their next meeting on February 21. She will also check with Jennifer Lloyd-Smith to see if we can access the same system the Healthy Kids Corporation uses to verify whether applicants are already enrolled in another health insurance program. The aggregate data may be helpful in confirming the number of children in Sarasota County without health insurance coverage.

The Health Department's PIO has been unsuccessful in her efforts to get the Sarasota Herald Tribune to run another story on KidCare. It was suggested that Virginia contact Sheryl Greene with Channel 7. She has shown an interest in human service issues in the past and may be interested in running a KidCare story.

Medicaid Reform

Sarah Gorman gave an overview of what is known about the Governor's proposal to reform Medicaid. The good news is that any changes to Medicaid are not anticipated to be made earlier than the budget year beginning July 1, 2006. This will give the community time to carefully review changes and implement steps to fill in the gaps. The following three subgroups were formed and members were asked to volunteer to research each area:

1. A system to provide direct medical care.
2. A system similar to the one in Duval and Orange counties where a coalition was formed to provide an HMO type of coverage.
3. Other ideas.

James McCloud will take the lead on #1 with assistance from Beverly Stockton and Virginia Brockman.

Sarah will take the lead on # 2 with assistance from Eva Goodwin, Joyce Solo and Janet Kahn.

Kim Kutch will take the lead on # 3.

Next Meeting

The fourth Tuesday of the month appears to be a conflict for several members of the subcommittee. It was decided to hold the monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month, at 3:30 p.m., at the Healthy Start Office. It was agreed not to meet in February but to use the time for the groups to meet and gather information.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 8.

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