

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

July 27, 2004

Members Present: Sarah Gorman, Chair
Nancy Shoemaker
Beverly Stockton

Members Absent: Virginia Brockman
Mary Crowley
Gloria DeHaven
Eva Goodwin
Janet Kahn
Lou Anne Koch
Kim Kutch
Debra Kaufman
Sherri Reynolds

Others Present: James McCloud

Staff: Becky Oliver
Chip Taylor

Medicaid Reform Symposium

Chip Taylor gave an overview of the Orlando Medicaid Reform Symposium hosted by Winter Park Health Foundation and suggested that subcommittee members visit the links sent by Pauline Tracy and stated that the presentation by Alan Levine, Secretary for the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is very informative and recommended that subcommittee members review its contents.

Chip explained why the symposium was held and what was learned from the speakers present. Chip noted that there was a waiting list of 300 for the daylong session and there were no question-answer sessions available.

Chip reported that there is an attempt to get a Section 1115 "global waiver" for Medicaid from the federal government approved in the State of Florida. Chip explained that the waiver would change Medicaid from an entitlement program and noted that the Governor can submit a waiver request without legislation. Chip noted, however, that actual implementation of the waiver would need to be approved by the Florida Legislature.

Chip gave an overview of the Medicaid reform and explained some of the reasons a change was initiated, expectations of the reform, and the effect and problems associated with the reform.

Chip reported that he and Pauline Tracy had met with Commissioner Nora Patterson to explain the Medicaid reform proposal and that Commissioner Patterson is the co-chair of the Florida Association of Counties Select Committee on Medicaid Reform.

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

Chip reported that because DCF regions do not coincide with the AHCA regions within the state (specifically Sarasota and Desoto County), meetings will be held to resolve the issue of cooperation between agencies and that it is possible that zones might be created.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that Chip will present the possibility of Medicaid reform to the August 11 meeting of the Community Alliance Executive Committee and that Sarah will present the information currently available at the August 16 Steering Committee. Sarah stated that the three issues of focus 1) Prospects of the Medicaid reduction 2) Loss of substance abuse and behavioral health services and 3) Expectations from Sarasota County will be discussed at the September 20 Steering Committee meeting when more data is available.

Matrix of Categories of Need and Available Resources

Sarah asked Committee members with help in completing the matrix for the August 16 Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting. Chip suggested Sarah contact Mark Lazarus at Sarasota Memorial Hospital for additional data.

Discussion of materials distributed at the June meeting

Chip suggested that Sarah contact Marguerite Rappoport at the Sarasota County Health Department or invite her to the August 24 subcommittee meeting to present the materials distributed at the June meeting and to contact her to see if updated information is available.

Discussion of Possible Actions to Serve The Uninsured:

Sarah Gorman reported that the following items were discussed at prior subcommittee meetings as possible service delivery options for the uninsured. Sarah stated that when the need is established and the options recognized, the costs and fundraising will need to be discussed further.

- New clinic with sliding scale - suggested by Janet Kahn
- Linkage with new South County Community Health Clinic – Chip noted that this will be located in North Port
- Possible expansion of existing Health Department pediatric clinics' mission to include care of uninsured children
- Open a clinic for this purpose (or expand existing clinics) vs. setting up a corporation that will pay premiums for children and link them to providers
- Orange County Primary Care Access Network (PCAN) Model

Other Business:

Chip Taylor distributed the Florida Kidcare Update from July 23, 2004 and reported that the Board of County Commissioners approved a \$264,907 contract with the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation for the county's local match payment of children's health insurance for fiscal year 2004-05.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee is scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, at 3:30 p.m. at the Healthy Start Coalition office, 1750 17th Street, Building M.

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