

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

June 22, 2004

Members Present: Sarah Gorman, Chair
Eva Goodwin
Janet Kahn
Lou Anne Koch
Kim Kutch
Nancy Shoemaker
Beverly Stockton

Members Absent: Virginia Brockman
Mary Crowley
Gloria DeHaven
Debra Kaufman
Sherri Reynolds

Others Present: Cheryl Lemunyon
James McCloud

Staff: Becky Oliver
Chip Taylor

Matrix of Categories of Need and Available Resources

Sarah stated that the matrix chart should have a PI-8 after PI-7 and she had made that change to her copy.

Sarah reported that she had requested data for the PI 1-8, SMH uncompensated care, and Sarasota County uncompensated care categories and that it should be forthcoming. Sarah noted that information not received might have to be obtained through newsletters which require a paid subscription.

Subcommittee members decided to give a progress report at the July 19 Steering Committee meeting and to present the data at the August 16 Steering Committee meeting.

Sarah reported that currently there are 17-18,000 children covered under KidCare, while 32,000 still need health coverage.

Sarah noted that Mark Lazarus and Robert Blinch-Edwards were contacted for information to complete the matrix.

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

Cheryl Lemunyon reported that obtaining Medicaid for children is currently a one-page application. Discussion ensued regarding the difficulty in understanding the eligibility requirements for Medicaid, Healthy Kids, and CMS.

Sarah recommended that the three-part report to be given to the Steering Committee consist of the following:

1. Informing parents -- Healthy Kids has lost its outreach program
2. Raising private funds -- Does the community want to help?
3. Channeling the response -- what is the vehicle?

It was suggested that the matrix title be changed to “Options for Financial Health Care Coverage” to stimulate provider interest.

Beverly Stockton reminded members that the original task given to them by the Steering Committee was to gather facts that define how many children in Sarasota County are without health coverage.

Chip Taylor reported that the Board of County Commissioners will continue to fund non-Title XXI children with the \$200,000 and has asked staff to research how to better utilize these funds in future years. Chip noted that defining how many children don't have medical coverage should be identified and brought to the Board of County Commissioners for review. Chip stated that inviting those who could offer solutions, such as providers (both profit and non-profit) and funders, could be the next step. Chip stated that the mission for this committee is to define the problem from the research gathered. Chip suggested that the three steps of the process be:

1. Provide the information that shows the community what the need is
2. Advocate for something to be done about it
3. Discuss potential solutions

Sarah asked that the “Available Estimates of Uninsured and or Eligible Children under 19 – Florida from February 7, 2002”, the “Statewide Children’s Health Insurance Survey” and “The Uninsured Issue” information that was distributed by County staff be reviewed by subcommittee members before the July 27 meeting.

Chip Taylor noted that the information distributed was received from Marguerite Rappoport at the Sarasota County Health Department and suggested Sarah contact her for more current information.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee is scheduled for Tuesday, July 27, at 3:30 p.m. at the Healthy Start Coalition office, 1750 17th Street, Building M.