

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

March 23, 2004

Members Present: Sarah Gorman, Chair
Virginia Brockman
Gloria DeHaven
Sherri Reynolds
Nancy Shoemaker
Beverly Stockton

Members Absent: Mary Crowley
Janet Kahn
Debra Kaufman

Staff: Pauline Tracy

Meeting Ground Rules

Sarah presented and discussed the following meeting ground rules:

1. Role of the agenda
2. Role of the Chair
3. Listen
4. Speak when recognized
5. Focus on task of group

Update on Legislative Action

Senate Bill 2000 passed the Florida Legislature on March 11. Highlights of the bill were briefly discussed. Families will begin verifying their income and availability of health coverage from their employers at each 6-month redetermination. There will be two open enrollments (January and September) if funding is available. Virginia Brockman reported that there is a bill pending that, if passed, will remove all state funding for the non-Title XXI children which means those children would be disenrolled from the Healthy Kids program.

Local Impact Analysis

Virginia reported that it has been estimated that 20% of the children currently enrolled in the Title XXI and non-Title XXI programs will no longer be eligible due to the changes made in SB 2000. Since there is no longer a waiting list, the number of non-Title XXI children who are enrolled will continue to decline as they become ineligible due to income, availability or health insurance through their employer or for non-compliance. It is unclear at this time whether the State of Florida will allow counties to continue to fund non-Title XXI children next year. In the past Sarasota County has provided an additional \$200,000 to fund 148 non-Title XXI children.

Recommendation of a Goal

The subcommittee agreed to the following goal:

100% of children in Sarasota County have health coverage. Health coverage is defined as access to affordable, basic health care.

Steps to Achieve the Goal

1. Determine what resources are currently available.
2. Determine where the gaps are.
3. Create solutions.

Sarah reported that Dr. John Agwunobi, Secretary of the Department of Health, attended a Healthy Start meeting last week and advised that the trend in health care delivery is toward prevention services. In response to a question, he indicated that there could be an office set up within AHCA to provide assistance to local communities needing technical assistance to develop creative models of more broadly-based health coverage. Government should not be considered as the only source of health coverage for populations in need.

Development of an Action Plan

The following were listed in a brainstorming session preliminary to development of a list of desired services for children:

- Prevention
- Well child care
- Treatment for common childhood illnesses and accidents
- Mental health

- Substance abuse
- Dental services
- Chronic diseases (asthma, juvenile diabetes)
- Catastrophic situations (cancer, brain injuries)
- Birth defects (NICA)
- Coverage for immigrants

Desired activities from a system of health coverage for children would include:

1. Educate parents about options.
2. Educate staff who enroll families.
3. Establish a clearinghouse for enrollment.
4. Establish a dispute resolution process to determine who is responsible for costs.
5. Establish a fund to provide a bridge payment to families until payment from the responsible party is received.
6. Encourage providers to donate care on an equitable basis, with all sharing in *pro bono* work.
7. Group well child visits. In addition to saving costs, this would provide good networking and communication opportunities for parents. Physician groups could use the group visits to market other services.

Identification of Resources

Current Inventory:

- KidCare
- Sarasota Memorial Hospital initiative for small businesses
- Private insurance through employers
- SSI

- Neurological Injury Compensation Act (NICA)
- Medicaid
- Private insurance purchased by individuals
- Private philanthropy (Shriners Hospital, Lions Club, faith-based organizations)
- Categorical assistance (UCP, Epilepsy, MDA)
- Local mental health and substance abuse agencies)
- DJJ facilities
- Other?

Additional resources needed:

In order to develop a comprehensive plan for providing health coverage to 100% of the children in Sarasota County, resources beyond the scope of this subcommittee are needed. What should be the next step?

- Research and apply for a planning grant to support committee's goal (Kaiser Family Foundation, Blue Foundation, Gerber Foundation, Proctor and Gamble, Children's Forum, religious organizations).
- Ask volunteers to research proposals (Karen Eber-Davis).
- Review evaluation of Santa Clara, California initiative.

Pending Issues

- Are all foster care children covered by Medicaid or are there other sources of health care coverage for them?
- How many pediatricians are there in Sarasota County?
- How many pediatric specialists are there in Sarasota County?
- How many family practitioners are there in Sarasota County?

Other

Sarah distributed a copy of a motion approved at the March 15 Steering Committee meeting designating the three officers, or their designees, as the official spokespersons for the Community Alliance.

Members were reminded that all meeting summaries are now posted on the website for the Community Alliance (sarasotaalliance.net).

It was noted that many of the organizations represented on the Community Alliance employ lobbyists who could all work together to help address the Alliance's legislative priorities. The suggestion was made to ask the Legislative Committee to compile a list of lobbyists representing the Alliance members.

Assignments

1. Nancy Shoemaker – provide a copy of the recent article on medical group visits and contact Karen Eber-Davis about the possibility of researching planning grant proposals.
2. Sarah Gorman – Compile a list of doctors in Sarasota County who serve the pediatric population (pediatricians, pediatric specialists, and family practices).
3. Gloria DeHaven – Prepare a grid showing available resources.
4. Virginia Brockman – Refine statement of local impact.

Next Meeting

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