

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

September 28, 2004

Members Present: Sarah Gorman, Chair
James McCloud
Joyce Solo

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

Staff: Pauline Tracy

Medicaid Reform Symposium

The Medicaid Reform Symposium has been postponed until late October or early November. Hopefully we will be able to plan a date and time when Commissioner Nora Patterson, who is the co-chair of the Florida Association of Counties' Committee on Medicaid Reform, can participate. Peter Howard is also a key person to have on the panel since his agency provides services to many children who are Medicaid eligible. Christie Lewis with the Nonprofit Resource Center is working on rescheduling the symposium and will notify everyone at that time.

Review of Matrix

Sarah Gorman will complete the matrix and send it out to the committee members for comment. She has been working with Gary Hickerson from Sarasota Memorial Hospital, to collect data regarding private health insurance coverage, but the actual numbers are not readily available. However, they have been able to use generally accepted percentages used in the insurance industry to calculate the number of children who are covered by private health insurance. Based on the total number of children in Sarasota County (54,000 according to the U.S. Census) and the data collected thus far, it is

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

estimated that there are approximately 5,800 children in the county without access to affordable health care. This figure includes non-citizens.

There are two gaps that have been identified through this process:

1. The availability of affordable and accessible health care for children.
2. The knowledge and understanding parents have regarding well child health care for their children.

The Community Alliance may want to publish a list of health resources that are currently available that can be distributed to parents.

Report to Alliance for October 18th

Discussion ensued as to whether the Community Alliance Steering Committee is expecting this subcommittee to make recommendations or to just report on the information collected. It was agreed that Sarah would present the information gathered over the last year to the Steering Committee with a few ideas on ways to provide more accessible health coverage. There were a number of innovative ideas that were discussed during the July meeting that can be shared during the October 18th meeting.

Next Steps

Everyone agreed that Sarasota County is considered to be a leader in innovative approaches to human service issues and can actually achieve the goal of ensuring all children in the county have access to affordable, basic health care. Experts from the Community Alliance and outside of the Alliance need to come together to work on what specifically can be done to fill in the gaps which have been identified. Suggestions included Chip Taylor, someone from AHEC, health department staff, funders and others who understand the issue and can brainstorm innovative solutions. Sarah will bring this up for discussion at the Executive Committee meeting.

Sarah will revise the draft report to the Community Alliance (including the matrix) and send to Pauline to distribute to the subcommittee members.

Pauline will contact members who have not attended several meetings to confirm their continued interest in the subcommittee.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, at 3:30 p.m. at the Healthy Start office, 1750 17th Street, Building M.

The November meeting will be held the fifth Tuesday of the month (November 30) due to the Thanksgiving holiday week.

There will be no December meeting.