

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR 2010

Issue Title: Act creating the "Point-of-Purchase Messaging About Alcohol and Pregnancy"

Submitted by: The Florida Center for Child and Family Development

1. Please indicate which is the most appropriate category for this issue:

- Appropriation issue**, and/or a **new budget issue** for the 2010 Session.
- Legislative initiative issue.** (Requesting a bill or amendment(s) to a statute.)
- Policy or program issue.** (Requesting support or opposition for a bill or amendment which is or may be proposed by another entity during the next session.)

2. Please describe your legislative proposal. If applicable, please cite which statute(s) the proposal affects.

An act relating to the sale of alcoholic beverages; creating s. 562.063, F.S.; requiring certain warning signs to be displayed in specific ways on the premises of alcoholic beverage vendors and manufacturers. Sign to read: *WARNING: DRINKING ANY BEVERAGES DURING PREGNANCY WHICH CONTAIN ALCOHOL CAN CAUSE SERIOUS LIFE-LONG BIRTH DEFECTS, INCLUDING FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME.*

3. Describe the specific problem or challenge that will be addressed by this legislative proposal. Be specific about the impact on Sarasota County. Quantify any fiscal impact, if possible. (Reasonable estimates are fine.)

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are the leading known cause of mental retardation in the United States and, according to the 1996 Report to Congress by the Institute of Medicine, of all the substances of abuse, including heroin, cocaine, and marijuana, alcohol produces by far the most serious neurobehavioral effects in the fetus resulting in permanent disorders of memory function, impulse control, and judgment. The estimated annual cost to the state as a result of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders including the costs to the juvenile justice system and the costs

related to special education is \$432,045,575. Sarasota has an increasing number of babies born with pre-natal exposure to substances, including alcohol. Minimal or no fiscal impact.

4. Identify the interested parties and whether they would likely support or oppose your proposal. For instance, are other Sarasota County agencies affected? Are counties, regional agencies, professional associations, interest groups, and/or state agencies affected?

Supported locally by Healthy Start Coalition, First Step, and other community agencies. Supported at state level by Dept. of Health, March of Dimes, FASD State Inter-agency Action Group. Incorporated in Florida's 2009 Drug Control Strategy, endorsed by Gov. Crist. Opposition has been from the Restaurant Assoc. and the liquor industry. ABT will need to provide signs and monitoring.

5. Why should this be a priority of the Community Alliance?

With the increasing number of babies born in our county with pre-natal exposure to substances, this is a huge concern for our community, both economically and socially. These babies are at risk for developmental delay, foster care placement, special education services, serious health issues, and poor outcomes.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR 2010

Issue Title: Continued Funding of the Family Emergency Treatment Center and Compass Center

Submitted by: Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

1. Please indicate which is the most appropriate category for this issue:

- Appropriation issue**, and/or a **new budget issue** for the 2010 Session.
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2. Please describe your legislative proposal. If applicable, please cite which statute(s) the proposal affects.

NOTE: This is not a line item Appropriation issue. This is to advocate for program funding within the Department of Children and Families agency budget for the following programs:

- Family Emergency Treatment Center - a walk-in clinic for immediate behavioral healthcare
- Compass Center - residential treatment for adolescents with substance abuse problems and co-occurring mental health issues

3. Describe the specific problem or challenge that will be addressed by this legislative proposal. Be specific about the impact on Sarasota County. Quantify any fiscal impact, if possible. (Reasonable estimates are fine.)

In Fiscal Year 2008-09, the Family Emergency Treatment Center treated 1,481 clients in Sarasota County. The Compass Center treated 75 adolescents during the same period. If these programs are not funded these numbers of individuals will go without behavioral healthcare.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT - COMPASS CENTER

TYPE OF EFFECT		MULTIPLIER*	ECONOMIC IMPACT
Number of Employees	18	2.1031	37.86
Wages and Salaries Direct Effect	\$ 722,000	2.0642	\$1,490,352
Secondary Expenditures Indirect Effect	\$ 402,000		\$ 402,000
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT	\$1,124,000		\$1,892,352

September 29, 2009

***Multiplier Effect**

A multiplier is a numerical factor that captures the compounded value of a direct outlay of or benefit produced by an industry on the economy as it is re-spent within that economy.

An employment multiplier measures the total number of jobs that can be supported by a direct outlay.

An output multiplier measures the contribution (impact) of a direct outlay on the overall economy.

A personal earnings multiplier measures the total personal earnings (wages and salaries) generated within the jurisdiction as a result of a direct outlay and the jobs it supports.

* Source: The Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

4. Identify the interested parties and whether they would likely support or oppose your proposal. For instance, are other Sarasota County agencies affected? Are counties, regional agencies, professional associations, interest groups, and/or state agencies affected?

Interested parties that would support this proposal include the State of Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA), Florida Council for Community Mental Health (FCCMH.)

5. Why should this be a priority of the Community Alliance?

Maintaining the Family Emergency Treatment Center and the Compass Center Residential Adolescent Treatment Center should be a Legislative priority of the Community Alliance of Sarasota because access to quality behavioral healthcare for citizens of all ages is vital to the health and wellbeing of the entire community and for public safety issues as well.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR 2010

Issue Title: Mothers & Infants Program

Submitted by: First Step of Sarasota, Inc.

1. Please indicate which is the most appropriate category for this issue:

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2. Please describe your legislative proposal. If applicable, please cite which statute(s) the proposal affects.

We request the Department of Children and Families, the Governor's Office and the Florida Legislature to assign the highest priority to this project and fund it again as a recurring program.

3. Describe the specific problem or challenge that will be addressed by this legislative proposal. Be specific about the impact on Sarasota County. Quantify any fiscal impact, if possible. (Reasonable estimates are fine.)

The Mothers & Infants program admits pregnant, substance abusing women early enough in their pregnancy to ensure that they are clean and sober prior to giving birth, and the babies are delivered substance free. This program helps limit the need for extraordinary neo-natal intensive care, developmental services and medical assistance for babies exposed in-utero to alcohol or drugs. Ninety percent of the women are referred to the program by the judicial system as an alternative to incarceration for crimes related to the substance abuse. Since 1995, more than 225 babies have been delivered substance free, saving an estimated \$6 million in tax-payer dollars for uninsured neo-natal care. Loss of this program will result in more women abusing substances while pregnant and giving birth to substance exposed newborns.

4. Identify the interested parties and whether they would likely support or oppose your proposal. For instance, are other Sarasota County agencies affected? Are counties, regional agencies, professional associations, interest groups, and/or state agencies affected?

This program enjoys support from State and local entities including social service agencies, area hospitals, as well as the correctional and judicial systems. Collaborative agencies include the Florida Center for Child and Family Development, Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center, Women's Resource Center, Sarasota County Health Department, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Sarasota County School Board, Literacy Council, Healthy Start, Healthy Families, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, University of South Florida, Goodwill Industries, JOBS etc., Forty Carrots and the YMCA.

5. Why should this be a priority of the Community Alliance?

The Mothers & Infants program is the only program of its kind in Sarasota County. The program is so unique that in 2003, it received a Best Practice Award in the treatment category from the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA). The program positively impacts infant mortality, low birth weight, pre-natal care and the child welfare system. Mothers & Infants ensures that mothers begin living a life of recovery, finish their education, locate adequate child care and housing, find employment and eventually complete a smooth transition back to the community. The benefits of a strong, well-funded Mothers & Infants program ripple across Sarasota County as it lessens the burden on public and private agencies that provide human services, healthcare and education. While all of these are critical, the real measure of the program's importance to the community can be found in the healthy lives of the babies served.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR 2010

Issue Title: Prevention and Diversionary Programs for Delinquent Youth

Submitted by: Sarasota County Juvenile Justice Council

1. Please indicate which is the most appropriate category for this issue:

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2. Please describe your legislative proposal. If applicable, please cite which statute(s) the proposal affects.

For the past two years state prevention and diversionary dollars through DJJ for delinquent and at risk youth have diminished, and last year there were none available to the Sarasota community. This proposal requests that prevention and diversionary dollars be reinstated to the Sarasota Community to meet the needs of at-risk youth.

3. Describe the specific problem or challenge that will be addressed by this legislative proposal. Be specific about the impact on Sarasota County. Quantify any fiscal impact, if possible. (Reasonable estimates are fine.)

The Communities that Care Youth Survey 2007 report stated that Sarasota County high school students recorded the highest prevalence of alcohol use (66.1%) in the State of Florida. The Department of Juvenile Justice noted that delinquency referrals received from Sarasota County youth have increased yearly. The 2006-2007 Sarasota Juvenile arrest record indicates that there were 1,334 youth arrested. The Sarasota County Prevention Policy Board has identified three risk factors that are prevalent for these youth. 1) low neighborhood attachment 2) negative attitudes toward school 3) antisocial behavior/ early onset of alcohol and

other drug use. As youth attitudes shift towards acceptance of self-defeating behaviors, the results are higher rates of drug problems, delinquency and violence.

4. Identify the interested parties and whether they would likely support or oppose your proposal. For instance, are other Sarasota County agencies affected? Are counties, regional agencies, professional associations, interest groups, and/or state agencies affected?

Agencies dealing with at-risk youth as well as local law enforcement agencies and the State Attorneys Office would support this proposal.

5. Why should this be a priority of the Community Alliance?

Improving the opportunities for youth in this community is a priority as well as reducing crime. It is a priority to assure that our youth develop into healthy, productive citizens.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR 2010

Issue Title: Refund Anticipation Loans

Submitted by: United Way of Sarasota County

1. Please indicate which is the most appropriate category for this issue:

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2. Please describe your legislative proposal. If applicable, please cite which statute(s) the proposal affects.

Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs) are short-term loans secured by taxpayers' expected federal income tax refunds. Instead of waiting to receive them, RAL customers borrow against all or part of their expected tax refunds. RALS are mostly marketed to low income taxpayers. Annual percentage rates (APRs) on RALs vary widely, ranging from about 50 percent to nearly 1,300 percent.

3. Describe the specific problem or challenge that will be addressed by this legislative proposal. Be specific about the impact on Sarasota County. Quantify any fiscal impact, if possible. (Reasonable estimates are fine.)

Proposed legislation would protect consumers who utilize RALs by instituting complaint processes, outlining duties to consumers, providing for private rights of action, criminalizing fraudulent activity, and requiring posting of fee schedules and disclosures.

4. Identify the interested parties and whether they would likely support or oppose your proposal. For instance, are other Sarasota County agencies affected? Are counties, regional agencies, professional associations, interest groups, and/or state agencies affected?

Banks providing RALs are all based out of state. Payday loan organizations and major RAL lenders will oppose. Florida's United Ways, the Florida Prosperity Partnership, Florida Legal Services and others will support. The proposed legislation does not affect state agencies. It is intended only to protect low-income consumers, many of whom are served by nonprofits and governmental agencies in the Sarasota area.

5. Why should this be a priority of the Community Alliance?

Many hard-working people served by the Community Alliance fall prey to RAL lenders and end up paying exorbitant and unconscionable interest rates with money that would be better spent supporting their families.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR 2010

Issue Title: Title IV-E Foster Care Waiver

Submitted by: Sarasota Family YMCA/Safe Children Coalition

1. Please indicate which is the most appropriate category for this issue:

- Appropriation issue**, and/or a **new budget issue** for the 2010 Session.
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2. Please describe your legislative proposal. If applicable, please cite which statute(s) the proposal affects.

The Sarasota Family YMCA and the Community Alliance strongly supports the continuation of the current policy which allows Florida flexibility in its use of federal child safety and permanency funds and maintenance of the funding level needed to do so.

3. Describe the specific problem or challenge that will be addressed by this legislative proposal. Be specific about the impact on Sarasota County. Quantify any fiscal impact, if possible. (Reasonable estimates are fine.)

The Title IV-E waiver has allowed the Safe Children Coalition to put money into prevention and diversion services and helped reduce the number of children in the dependency system.

4. Identify the interested parties and whether they would likely support or oppose your proposal. For instance, are other Sarasota County agencies affected? Are counties, regional agencies, professional associations, interest groups, and/or state agencies affected?

Changing that policy or cutting funding, thereby risking the possibility of being unable to meet our maintenance of effort, would bring more children into the

system, be harmful to children and families, and cause cost increases to County and State government.

5. Why should this be a priority of the Community Alliance?

It is fiscally prudent to continue a program that is successfully reducing the number of children in the child welfare system. It is good for the families and children of Sarasota County that children are raised in their own homes and it is beneficial to the community at large as well as government that this trend continues.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR 2010

Issue Title: Utilization of Community Based Care Unspent Funds

Submitted by Sarasota Family YMCA/Safe Children Coalition

1. Please indicate which is the most appropriate category for this issue:

- Appropriation issue**, and/or a **new budget issue** for the 2010 Session.
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2. Please describe your legislative proposal. If applicable, please cite which statute(s) the proposal affects.

We request continuation in budget policy of the practice allowing community based care lead agencies to carry forward and utilize unspent funds in the next fiscal year. DCF set up this mechanism and the Legislature approved the language for a period of three years in 2006 (HB 5011). FL Chapter 2006-30, page 6, section 2 (9). The language was scheduled to sunset June 30th, 2009 and the legislature passed similar language in the implementing bill (SB 2602). This time the language was allowed for only one year.

3. Describe the specific problem or challenge that will be addressed by this legislative proposal. Be specific about the impact on Sarasota County. Quantify any fiscal impact, if possible. (Reasonable estimates are fine.)

This will allow the Sarasota Family YMCA as the Community Based Care (CBC) Lead Agency the ability to roll over between 2 weeks and 4 weeks operating capital to use for emergencies such as an increase in children or an unmet need. This is sound fiscal policy.

4. Identify the interested parties and whether they would likely support or oppose your proposal. For instance, are other Sarasota County

agencies affected? Are counties, regional agencies, professional associations, interest groups, and/or state agencies affected?

The Sarasota Family YMCA contracts with a number of community agencies which support this proposal. DCF originated the policy and continues to support it as well

5. Why should this be a priority of the Community Alliance?

Many of the agencies the Sarasota Family YMCA contracts with or purchases services from or works in conjunction with are members of the Community Alliance.