

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY WORK GROUP

MEETING SUMMARY

February 12, 2004

Members Present: Elliott Metcalfe, Chair
Kay Glasser
Janice Mee
Colleen Thayer

Staff Present: Chip Taylor
Pauline Tracy

The tax reform initiative spearheaded by John McKay was discussed. The required amount of signatures was received and we are now waiting for a legal opinion to validate the signatures. A recommendation was made to ask John McKay to a Steering Committee meeting to talk about the issue.

The list of legislative priorities for 2004 was reviewed. Two additional issues were received for review and approval to add to the list. They are:

1. Shifting costs of juvenile services to the counties (devolution). Counties are being asked to pay for juvenile detention services but the state would continue to run the centers.
2. Healthy Start Funding Increase. Only 30% of local need is currently being met. Healthy Start funding is seen as a wise investment in the future health and productivity of citizens.

After a brief discussion, the committee agreed to recommend to the Steering Committee that the two issues be added to the 2004 legislative priorities.

An update on the Kid Care issue was given. SB 2000 includes four major provisions:

- Elimination of the waiting lists and holding open enrollment up to two times a year.
- Elimination of all dental services.

- Elimination of community outreach currently done by the health departments.
- Disenrolling children who are currently on the waiting list but whose parents have access to health care coverage through their employment, regardless of the premium costs.

The committee decided not to prioritize the issues; however, everyone agreed that the tax reform issue would provide the most dramatic impact on local services.

It is important for everyone to be vigilant and continue to bring these legislative priorities to the forefront when meeting with legislators.

The committee asked staff to send a copy of the 2004 legislative priorities to the local legislative delegation once approved by the Steering Committee.