

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY
Planning and Outcomes Work Group

May 5, 2006 Meeting Summary

Present: Karen Bogues, Community Alliance
Janice Mee, Human Services Advisory Council
Elmer Berkel, Human Services Advisory Council
Sarah Gorman, Healthy Start
Janet Kahn, Early Learning Coalition
Dr. Kay Glasser, Human Services Advisory Council
Mike McHugh, Sarasota County School Board
Donna Kmetz, Sarasota YMCA
Catherine Clouse, SCOPE
Sherri Reynolds, Sarasota County School Board

Staff Present: Jamie Mahadeo, Sarasota County Human Services
Chip Taylor, Sarasota County Human Services

New Educational Targets

For the benefit of Mike McHugh, representative of the Superintendent of Sarasota County Schools, Chip Taylor introduced the purposes and goals of the Community Alliance, the Planning and Outcomes Work Group, and the Human Services Advisory Council as pertains to the work of the School Board and the goals of the Superintendent. Chip went over the measures adopted by the County that are affected by the School Board. Chip also reviewed the Superintendent's "Our Commitment to Citizens" white paper and indicated the County's interest in partnering with the School Board to impact at least four of them. Specifically:

2. The total graduation rate will increase from last year's 78% to 86%.
3. 25% more minority students will graduate from high school.
4. The number of minority students in honors and Advanced Placement classes will increase by 50%.
10. The number of habitual truants will be cut in half.

The committee decided to change the high school graduation rate target for 2009 from 85% to 86% in concert with the Superintendent's goals. Discussion ensued regarding the establishment of Community Alliance goals for high school graduation by race and ethnicity.

The committee decided to change the target for habitual truants from 90% to 91% to coincide with the Superintendent's goal to cut the percentage of habitual truants (18%) in half (9%).

Discussion ensued regarding the potential types of positive youth development targets (e.g. “no child left behind” legislation) that could be used considering the available data.

School Readiness Measures

Chip introduced Donna Kmetz and Janet Kahn, who attended today’s meeting to assist the committee in identifying early childhood measures. Janet advised the group that the school readiness measure it is using has been administered for the last 3 years: 2002 – 2005. In 2006, due to changes in legislation, a new measurement tool will be in use. This means that one will not be able to compare the data to previous years. Discussion ensued regarding how the tests are administered (objectivity and qualifications of administrator) and the resulting impact on the data.

Janet introduced the DIBELS test that is a measure of early literacy. She agreed to bring more information on DIBELS to the next POWG meeting.

Gold Seal

Discussion ensued regarding the status of the Gold Seal measure. Donna Kmetz distributed additional information to the committee. The committee agreed that Gold Seal status should not be the definitive measure of quality childcare. There also need to be several measures that show progress toward the goal of attaining Gold Seal status.

Next Meeting

The committee agreed to change the meeting time from 2:00 to 3:00 for the foreseeable future. The next POWG meeting is scheduled for June 2 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 2063 at the Health and Human Services Building, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota.