

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY
Planning and Outcomes Work Group

June 2, 2006 Meeting Summary

Present: Janice Mee, Human Services Advisory Council
Elmer Berkel, Human Services Advisory Council
Janet Kahn, Early Learning Coalition
Donna Kmetz, Sarasota YMCA
Catherine Clouse, SCOPE
Ken Alexander, Bayside/SMH

Staff Present: Jamie Mahadeo, Sarasota County Human Services

FY 2009 Community Outcome Targets Status Report

The committee reviewed the remaining outcome targets that have not been established in previous meetings. The following highlights their discussion:

In-school and out-of-school suspensions – Discussion ensued regarding the validity of this measure and whether it should continue to be used as a community outcome target. Due to the variation from school to school in how this punishment is used, the validity of the data may be poor when generalizing to the entire population. Since the difference between in-school and out-of-school suspensions rests on the severity of the offense, the committee requested that the spreadsheets be changed to have high school and middle school in-school suspensions on one page and high school and middle school out-of-school suspensions on another page to enhance their ability to compare the numbers. The committee decided to keep this target until staff can determine if this data is available by school.

Youth registered to vote – Discussion ensued regarding the fluctuation of the raw numbers from year-to-year depending on the types and frequencies of elections during any particular year. The committee asked if we could get this data segregated by age and show the percentage of youth of that age that are registered to vote. They decided to keep this target as is pending further discussion by the committee in the near future.

Involvement in community service – Discussion ensued regarding the fact that this only measures the community service handled through the Friendship Volunteer Center. There are many other volunteer opportunities available to youth in the community that are not counted here. The committee decided to keep this target as is pending further discussion by the committee in the near future.

Adult abuse – Discussion ensued regarding the lack of availability of the data from FY 2005 through (potentially) FY 2007. They decided to retain this very important target but suspend the use of this measure until data becomes available.

Child abuse – Discussion ensued regarding the change in data made by the state from reports per 100,000 to reports per 1,000. Since the desired rate has not been reached, the committee decided to change their target from 700 per 100,000 to 7 per 1,000.

Domestic violence – Discussion ensued regarding the fact that this measure could be viewed as either positive (an increase in reporting) or negative (an increase in incidence). The committee decided that this was an important measure and should be part of the set of community outcome targets. They suggested that we use subjective data obtained from the various police and sheriff's departments to assist in determining if we are looking at better reporting or an increase in crime. They asked that James Schulz, Criminal Justice Coordinator, be contacted to make some calls and get input from the law enforcement professionals. The committee agreed to keep the target pending further research into the subject.

School readiness – Discussion ensued regarding the fact that the test from which the data is obtained will not be used after 2005. They anticipate that the test will be replaced in the fall of 2006, however, it will be two years before we will be able to get data for comparison purposes. Additionally, depending on the success of the test, it may change again the next year. They agreed to delete this measure from the set of targets.

DIBELS – Janet Kahn, Early Learning Coalition, lead the discussion of this new measure to replace the school readiness measure until such time as another test is conducted and comparable data is available. Beyond that time, DIBELS can be used in conjunction with the new school readiness data as a measure of early literacy. The committee agreed and set the target to increase by 1% per year.

Next Meeting

The next POWG meeting is scheduled for July 7 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 2063 at the Health and Human Services Building, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota.