

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH
STAKEHOLDERS' CONSORTIUM**

ACUTE CARE SYSTEM TASK FORCE

May 30, 2006

Members Present:

Alan Skavroneck	Ambitrans
Priscilla Kemp	Venice Regional Medical Center
Ken Alexander	Bayside Center for Behavioral Health
Sgt. Charles Kenniff	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Brian Ryals	First Step of Sarasota
Marlene Minzey	First Step of Sarasota
Elaine Charyn	First Step of Sarasota
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Jeffrey Watts	Department of Children and Families
Bill Tracy	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office

Staff Present:

Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pam Meunier	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Manatee Glens Trip

The trip to Manatee Glens Hospital has been scheduled for June 12. Pam asked that anyone who wants to attend please advise her in order to give Manatee Glens an estimate of the number of people participating in the visit. (This trip was cancelled due to the hurricane and tornado warning that day. This trip will be re-scheduled)

Census Discussion/Problem Solving

Ken Alexander discussed the need for a consistent method of reporting the census (when to report, where to report, etc.). Jeffrey Watts discussed the efforts made by Pinellas and Hillsborough County acute care providers to standardize census reporting. The Hillsborough County providers agreed to report the census at midnight, yet Jeff stated that this report could be made at any time of day as long as everyone is in agreement.

Jeff advised the group of the number of CSU beds in the following counties:

- Hillsborough – 76 adult and 14 children beds for a 1.1 million population
- Pinellas – 75 adult and 20 children beds for a 950,000 population
- Sarasota – 20 adult and 10 children beds for a 360,000 population

The Florida Administrative Code (FAC) states that there should be one CSU bed for a population of 10,000. Jeff indicated that the legislature does not take this as a mandate for funding, yet Pinellas County elected to appeal to the legislature, resulting in 15 more beds for that community. Generally, all counties are suffering from a shortage of needed CSU beds. Most of the Hillsborough and Pinellas beds are funded by DCF and are reserved for indigent clients, according to Jeff.

Ken pointed out that those who are unable to be admitted into the CSU usually end up at the emergency rooms for indigent treatment. Only about one third of these people actually receive in-patient treatment at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. Discussion ensued regarding the impact of mobile crisis units in this and other counties. Several counties have been able to get federal grants to support mobile crisis units and expand mental health evaluation in jail receiving centers according to Sgt. Charles Kenniff. He said he would like to see a jail diversion program in this community, similar to Hillsborough County

At this point a discussion began regarding the Family Emergency Treatment Center (FETC) and the Mobile Crisis Unit for Sarasota County that are operated by Coastal Behavioral Healthcare (CBH). There appeared to be confusion about the function of this service and the hours of operation. A representative from CBH was not in attendance for questions or clarification of the services provided. The group agreed that it would be helpful and informative to have a FETC/Mobile Crisis Unit presentation at the next meeting of this committee. Pam agreed to contact CBH to arrange this.

Jeff agreed to forward to Pam the template Hillsborough uses for in-patient census with the caveat that they utilize two central intake sites in that community. If the Sarasota County acute care providers agreed to a similar system, once gathered, this data could be centralized for everyone to access. This data could also be analyzed to determine trends, delays in transport, and a variety of other variables. Several committee members pointed out the need for all of the providers to be at the table in order for a system like this to work. Pam agreed to contact those who are no longer coming to the meetings to encourage them to participate in the work of this committee.

The next meeting will be held jointly with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium, July 18 at 9:00 a.m. at the Health Department.