

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

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

ACUTE CARE SYSTEM TASK FORCE

March 21, 2006

Members Present:

Ken Alexander
Richard Montemagno
Paul Sutton

Marlene Minzey
Heather Sniffen

Staff Present:

Chip Taylor
Pam Meunier

Rik Jimison

Baker Act Transportation

Rik Jimison updated the committee on the current status of the Baker Act Transportation contract. He advised the group that the current proposal from Grant Medical Transportation is \$3 per loaded mile and \$100 per trip. This cost falls within traditionally budgeted constraints. Grant Medical has made diligent efforts to bill other payors (particularly Medicare) making the County the payor of last resort. This has reduced significantly the cost of the program, allowing an increase in cost per trip to have little impact on the overall budget. The quality of service is continually good. However, we need to do what we can to limit very short trips that are the most costly.

With regard to Marchman Act transports, the officer picking up the individual will transport to the Addictions Receiving Facility (ARF) unless there is a medical issue that requires hospital treatment. In that case, the County would pick up the transport of that client from the hospital to the ARF. Currently, if the officer brings the client to the hospital, the officer is called back to the hospital to transport that client to jail.

The letter from Ann Voorhees was discussed. Her contention was that the Department of Children and Families expects law enforcement officers to transport all Baker Acts unless there is an obvious medical condition in evidence requiring medical treatment. Her comment was that DCF is unable to endorse what Sarasota County is doing by transporting Baker Acts through a contracted service. It does not appear from her letter that we are breaking the law.

CIT Training

Chip updated the committee on the status of CIT training and advised that James Schulz will be staffing that committee until the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Policy Coordinator is replaced. The decision was made to hold the CIT Training Class, even if the Sheriff's Office decides not to participate or has reduced participation due to a lack of prior notice that overtime funding is available. It is possible that the next CIT training will be delayed from May to June to allow certain changes to be made to the program to improve its quality and therefore improve attendance.

Coordination of Baker and Marchman Acts

There is some issue as to whether the committee has had a chance to comment on the draft decision trees prepared by Rik Jimison. The committee decided to send the documents out again for comment to ensure that input from everyone is received. Discussion ensued regarding how the process currently works versus how it should work. Chip advised the group that the ARF would be open by July 31, 2006. Ken Alexander agreed that he would take the responsibility to have the hospital call the private contractor if the local police or Sheriff's Office cannot transport.

The next meeting of the Acute Care Task Force is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. April 25, 2006 in the Health and Human Services Business Center, Auditorium.