

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

## **Acute Care Task Force Meeting Minutes**

**August 17, 2005**

### **Committee Members Present:**

Ken Alexander	Bayside Center for Behavioral Health
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Cathy Emmett	Senior Friendship Centers
Major Kevin Gooding	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Sally Graham	SCOPE
Curt Lavarello	SCOSA
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Captain Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Marlene Minzey	First Step of Sarasota
Bob Piper	First Step of Sarasota
Sgt. George Scott	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Heather Sniffen	DCF—SunCoast Region
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Health Care
J.W. Triplett	North Port Police Department
Ann Voorhees	DCF—SunCoast Region

### **Staff Present:**

Rik Jimison	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Michael Theall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

The meeting was called to order and began with introductions of the participants.

### **Marchman Act Receiving Facility and Expanded VIP Program Update**

Dave Beesley reported that the VIP Governance Committee has been meeting on a regular basis and progress has been made toward gearing up the program by October 1.

One concern is the construction and timeline for opening the Marchman Act Receiving Facility. The architect has been engaged in the project and they are beginning the process of designing the changes that will need to be made to the facility. One challenge that First Step will be facing will be the need to keep the existing detoxification unit operational while the renovation is taking place.

The timeline for submitting applications and approvals to DCF has been established and the program appears to be on track for opening in January if construction proceeds as planned. Elaine Charyn has been selected as the director and brings a wealth of experience to the program. They do not have a candidate that has expressed interest in the position of medical director at this time.

The referral mechanisms, entry into the program and working with the court system will still need to be worked out, but they are aware of the needs and are working toward solving those issues prior to opening. There will be problems that will need to be worked out, but at this time things appear to be on schedule. There was a question as to whether there might be opposition within the neighborhood and Dave reported that it doesn't appear to be an issue at this time, but they will be aware of the potential of those issues as they proceed.

### **Transportation Update**

Chip Taylor reported that the Transportation Exception Plan (TEP) was approved by DCF in Tallahassee this past week and will be implemented soon. This will allow law enforcement to transport all adolescent Baker Acts to the Sarasota CSU. Many other counties such as Hillsborough, Pinellas and Manatee already have a TEP like this in place.

Previously, Baker Acts in North Port and Englewood had to be transported to the nearest receiving facility, which is in Charlotte County. The problem with this is that Charlotte County does not receive any funding for these patients. Once in place, this will provide a greater continuum of care for adolescents since Charlotte County does not have a designated adolescent unit.

The new procedure allows police to triage the Baker Act case on the telephone with the CSU so that they can advise the officer of bed availability and the transport can happen accordingly. Officer Triplett of the North Port Police Department reported that adolescents were always taken to Sarasota until a few years ago. Chip Taylor added that if the case is triaged prior to transport, then the officer will not have to stay at the facility long and so they will not be off the street for an extended period of time.

Rik Jimison reported on the status of the secondary transportation contract with Grant Medical Transportation for Baker and Marchman Acts. He reported that there is a 3 month extension on the contract and right now new bid specifications are being developed. There are other providers in the area and they will have the opportunity to bid on a new contract that will include both Marchman and Baker Acts. Rik also provided his phone number in case members had any questions. Rik can be contacted at 941-861-2564.

## **Mobile Crisis Intervention and Expanded Hours of the FETC**

Jerry Thompson reported on the expansion of the hours of the Family Emergency Treatment Center (FETC) and the development of a mobile crisis team. The FETC located at Bahia Vista and Tuttle will expand its hours to Saturday and Sunday and will operate from noon to 5 p.m. They will also have on-call staff available to respond to emergencies on the weekend when the FETC is not open. He further reported that they have been meeting with law enforcement regarding the protocol for utilization. The proposed date for the expanded hours of operation will be September 1, 2005.

Law enforcement agencies will be given laminated cards with instructions on how to contact the mobile crisis team. The range of coverage will be the entire county. The mobile crisis team will have one person on call at all times on the weekend.

The use of this team will be for instances where officers need assistance in determining the need for a Baker Act. If there is a clear need for a Baker Act the officers should proceed as normal, but if they are unsure they should call the mobile crisis unit. The officers will still need to do most of the transports, but there may be occasions when the mobile crisis team may de-escalate a situation rather than have a Baker Act instituted.

## **The Current Status of Acute Care System in Sarasota County**

With the addition of the Marchman Act Receiving Facility, the mobile crisis team, and the expanded CIT training, the face of acute care services in the county has begun to change. This has prompted individuals from the Stakeholders' Consortium to express the need for greater dialogue on how all of these services work together. Four issues were developed to begin this dialogue with the goal of greater coordination with law enforcement, appropriate utilization of services, routing of patients to the appropriate public, private or Marchman facility and better resources so we use Mental Health Court and Drug Court more effectively.

The issues were broken down as follows:

1. Coordination of Baker/Marchman Acts
  - Appropriate identification and routing of persons with co-occurring disorders
  - Appropriate utilization of Bayside vs. the CSU
  - Reduction of "red tape" and better decision making for law enforcement through the use of the mobile crisis team
2. The use of the emergency room vs. the role of the receiving facility
  - -Issues of medical clearance

3. Violence and safety issues
  - Jail
  - CSU
  
4. Jail Psychiatry
  
5. Limited bed capacity
  - Using assessments appropriately
  - Rescinding Baker Acts
  
6. Secondary Transportation issues
  - Grant Medical Transportation
  
7. Education
  - Combined interagency training
  - Expansion of the CIT
  - Public information
  
8. Development of Baker/Marchman Act guidebook
  - Courts
  - Law enforcement
  - Social services
  - Probation
  
9. County Issues
  - Boundaries
  - North Port, Englewood, Venice issues

With the aforementioned issues discussed it was reported that a worksheet will be developed and distributed so that work can begin on addressing these issues.

***The next meeting of the Acute Care Task Force will be on August 31, at 9:00 a.m, in room 2063 at the Health Department.***