

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

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

ACUTE CARE SYSTEM TASK FORCE

June 19, 2007

Present:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital/Bayside
Terry Belcher	Venice Regional Medical Center
Lucia Callaway	Doctors Hospital
Marie Graham	Doctors Hospital
Cheryl LaFlame	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Pam Meunier	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Susan Nunnally	DCF
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Brian Ryals	First Step of Sarasota
James Schulz	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Alan Skavroneck	Ambitrans
Ann Voorhees	Florida Health Partners/Value Options

Acute Care System Update

Addictions Receiving Facility (ARF)

Brian Ryals informed the group that they have had 652 involuntary admissions since the inception of the program. There were 72 involuntary admissions in May with an average length of stay of 4.76 days. Emergency admissions represent 45% of the total admissions to date. The average wait time for law enforcement at the ARF, when they transport Marchman Act clients, is 7 minutes.

Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)

Cheryl LaFlame noted that the number of adult patients admitted to the Crisis Stabilization Unit in May has gone up, with an average daily census of 20 patients, while the number of children's admissions has gone down (13 total admissions in the month of May).

Doctors Hospital

Lucia Callaway provided an update for Doctors Hospital. The average length of stay for Baker Act patients waiting in the Emergency Room (ER) for placement to a psychiatric unit was 1.4 days in May. The ER provided the required medical treatment in

approximately 4 hours in most cases. The rest of the time these patients remained in the ER without the necessary psychiatric treatment as they awaited placement. Discussion ensued regarding miscommunications that have been occurring between the hospitals and the CSU and other facilities and the problem of psychiatric patients queuing up in the ERs without treatment. Susan Nunnally indicated that she will be conducting meetings with the hospital ERs, Bayside, and the CSU to formulate solutions to the issue of extended stays for psychiatric patients awaiting appropriate placement.

Sarasota Memorial Hospital/Bayside

Ken Alexander advised that 81% of Baker Act patients received at the Sarasota Memorial ER did not have their Baker Act rescinded and were sent to the CSU as required. The majority of Marchman Act patients did not have their Marchman Act rescinded either and were referred to the Marchman Act facility at First Step.

Baker Act/Marchman Act Transportation Update

Alan Skavroneck, representing the Baker Act/Marchman Act transportation provider, Ambitrans, provided data on the number of trips that have been provided to Baker Act and Marchman Act clients. They transport an average of 6 or more clients per day. He relayed an incident where a nursing home demanded that a patient go to Bayside but no bed was available there. The nursing home needs to be advised that, if no bed is available at Bayside, they can be referred to a facility that does have capacity. He also asked that more information be provided on the status of the patient when the trip is assigned so that they can be sure to have the appropriate vehicle and personnel dispatched. It was requested that he revise his report to show which are Marchman Act and which are Baker Act clients. Pam noted that this group was working on a data collection system that would provide comparable data for the purpose of analysis, yet funding availability is an issue, at this time, in the continued development of this system.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Update

Pam reported that 217 law enforcement officers, correction officers, school resource officers and call center staff have been CIT trained, to date,. CIT class #9 will be held July 16–20 at the Police Academy at SCTI. The community is encouraged to show support by attending the CIT graduation, July 20 at 3:30 at the Police Academy. Martha Lenderman will be conducting Baker Act/Marchman Act training for this CIT class in the morning on July 19 and again that afternoon, for the community, at The Salvation Army, from 1:00-4:30. Anyone interested in attending the afternoon training, at no cost, is welcome. Pam will be sending out a notice of the training to the membership.

Next Steps

- What is going on within the acute care system that the ERs are consistently overwhelmed? What can this group do to fix this?
- Are there still tasks for this group to address? Discussion ensued regarding reinstating the Baker Act Receiving Facility meetings facilitated by DCF and whether or not they would duplicate what is being done by the Acute Care System Task Force. It was suggested that the two be merged. When an issue surfaces that the Acute Care System Task Force needs to address, it can be reconvened. The consensus was to have the July 17 meeting and discuss these issues further. Pam asked that anyone with agenda items submit them to her before the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Acute Care System Task Force is scheduled for July 17, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, Room 226.

Videoconferencing will be available for participants in the southern part of the county at the Venice Health Department, 7810 Tamiami Trail, Building A, Catlin Room.