

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH STAKEHOLDERS'
CONSORTIUM

PLANNING COMMITTEE

JUNE 9, 2004

Members Present: Ken Alexander
Catherine Clouse
Maureen Coble
Tim Dutton
Phil Gorelick
Bill Little
Lisa Phillips
Bob Piper
Jake Thomas
Jerry Thompson

Members Absent: Dave Beesley
Linda McKinnon
Bert Tanner
Jeff Watts

Selection of a Chairperson

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that Jake Thomas should chair the Planning Committee.

The Process

The DCF-SunCoast Region's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Plan for 2003-2006 was distributed and reviewed. The plan is updated annually in the fall and stakeholders are asked for input. The report becomes part of the statewide plan which is submitted by DCF to the Legislature on January 1 of each year. Committee members were asked to review the plan in detail prior to the next meeting. Maureen Coble will ask Bob Holm and Jeff Watts to highlight those sections in the report which pertain specifically to Sarasota County for discussion at the next meeting. Members were also asked to review the SCOPE Mental Health Study Group Report and the Acute Care System Issue Analysis report completed by Mark Engelhardt for the Community Alliance.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to give meaningful community input into the DCF plan. This community wants and needs to be more involved in the development of the DCF plan. The question was posed whether the Planning Committee should work on a community plan over the summer to present to DCF to incorporate into its regional plan. Many sections of the DCF plan could be used as a starting point for the community to begin to identify gaps and strengths in the current substance abuse and mental health service delivery system. There was consensus that the state plan is just one piece of what needs to be included in the local plan. We need to keep in mind the community perspective and discuss the process for the future beyond the boundaries of the DCF plan. The Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) should also be involved in the process and consider the community plan when setting their priorities for funding.

It is important that the community keeps statewide initiatives in mind while working on a local plan. Some of the statewide initiatives include self-directed care, the prepaid plan and the role recovery model.

Composition of the Committee

The group discussed the need to add more members to the committee who can provide valuable input and participate in the planning process. Additional members included:

- Consumers
- NAMI
- Community Based Care representative
- School Board of Sarasota County
- Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
- Foundations
- Representatives from the southern part of the County
- HSAC

It is very important to the success of this committee to gain the full participation and "buy-in" of all the members. Jake Thomas agreed to contact prospective members and send out the notification for the next meeting.

Assignments

- Committee members will review the DCF-SunCoast Region's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Plan for 2003-2006 and begin identifying gaps and strengths in the current service delivery system.
- Committee members will review the SCOPE Mental Health Study Group Report and the Acute Care System Issue Analysis.
- Maureen Coble will discuss the community's request to be more involved in the DCF plan with Debbie Spellman and report back to the committee.

- Maureen, Jeff Watts and Bob Holm will identify and synthesize the Sarasota County information in the current DCF plan.
- Maureen will send the DCF plan template to committee members.
- Maureen will e-mail the website address to committee members to access the Statewide DCF Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Plan.
- Jerry Thompson and Bob Piper will forward names and contact information for consumers to Pauline.

Next Meeting

The committee agreed to meet every two weeks. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 30, from 9:00 to 10:30, at the Sarasota County Health Department, room 226.