

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium and Acute Care
System Monthly Report
Summary**

February 23, 2009

This monthly report can be accessed at: www.sarasotaalliance.net as well as the summaries of all other meetings/task forces of the Community Alliance of Sarasota County.

Acute Care System Task Force (ACSTF), January 20 (see pages one and two)

- Although Jeff Watts, with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), reported the dollar amounts for some of the recommended budget cuts for mental health and substance abuse services from the special legislative session, with the Governor's veto it appears that the cuts below are now on hold until the regular session re-visits the budget cuts that need to be addressed in the regular legislative session. These were the cuts recommend at the end of the special legislative session:
 - \$162,000 reduction in adult mental health services in Sarasota.
 - \$20,000 reduction in children's mental health services for Circuit 12.
- The ACSTF "Tapestry" Work Group re-convened January 20 to discuss data collection and sharing of certain data.
 - On February 20 this group met with representatives from Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (CFBHN) to discuss a form that they developed for releasing information and a memorandum of understanding for the mental health and substance abuse agencies within the network.
 - This work group will visit an agency in Pinellas County February 24 that has developed a data collaborative.

Community Alternative Residential Treatment (CART) Initiative (see pages two and three)

- Phase 2 - VIP-ER Program
 - 34 classes have graduated to date with a 78% completion rate (401/514).
 - Class 35 will graduate Friday, March 13 at The Salvation Army at 7:00 p.m. The community is encouraged to attend and show support. **Please note the change from 2:30 to 7:00.**

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium, February 20 (see page eight)

- The group was informed that letters were sent from Bill Little as the Chair of the SAMHSC to the Governor and local legislators to recommend support for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) as was requested at the January 16 meeting.
 - The Board of County Commissioners has added the PDMP to their legislative priorities.
 - For the purposes of tracking, the following bills have been filed to date:
 - HB 0143, HB 0145, SB 0440, SB 0462, HB 0583, HB 0585, HB 0612, SB 0612, SB 0614, SB 1354, SB 1356, SB 1402
- Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS) announced that they have received a grant that will provide them with the resources to assist veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts and their families.
 - JFCS will be able to provide mental health counseling, case management, financial assistance, etc. with this funding.

A Community Calendar of Events can be accessed at the Information and Data Exchange Alliance of the Suncoast (IDEAS) website at: <https://suncoastos.org/cms/> or as a link from the Community Alliance website above.