

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Meeting Summary

December 3, 2004

PRESENT:

Ken Alexander, Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Kevin Chinault, Mental Health Community Centers
Catherine Clouse, SCOPE
Nancy DeLoach, Sarasota County Human Services
Tim Dutton, SCOPE
Scott Eller, Renaissance Manor
Cathy Emmett, Senior Friendship Centers
Kirstin Fulkerson, Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Maj. Kevin Gooding, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Sally Graham, SCOPE Mental Health Implementation Task Force
Tobey Hockett, Public Defender's Office
Debbi Horst, Office of Housing and Community Development
Bill Little, Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Dale Lux, NAMI—Sarasota Chapter
Pam Meunier, Sarasota County Human Services
Becky Oliver, Sarasota County Human Services
Don Ottinger, SCOPE Mental Health Implementation Task Force
Bob Piper, First Step of Sarasota
Bryan Pope, Salvation Army
Mark Porter, Sarasota Family YMCA
Colleen Reardon, Salvation Army
James Schulz, Sarasota County Human Services
Kristie Skoglund, Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Debbie Spellman, DCF—Suncoast Region
Lt. Paul Sutton, Sarasota Police Department
Chip Taylor, Sarasota County Human Services
Jerry Thompson, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Pauline Tracy, Sarasota County Human Services

Planning Committee Report

Chip Taylor reported on the progress being made on the inventory of mental health and substance abuse services in Sarasota County. The purpose of the inventory is to identify which services are currently in place and then determine where the gaps are. The latest draft of the data collection form was reviewed with members of the Consortium and changes were suggested to additional data elements, including service area, service capacity, and comments. The data base will be built starting

with the major funders (DCF, County, United Way, AHCA, etc.) and then service providers will add information on additional services they are providing. It is expected that the matrix can be completed by mid-January.

Plans for Mental Health Education Month (May)

Dale Lux made a presentation on NAMI's plans to highlight mental health education month in May, 2005. The local chapter is developing community awareness activities to take place that month. The mental health community does really not have a "visible presence" in the community like that of the American Cancer Society or the Heart Association. NAMI is looking at activities with newspaper and radio participation, such as a mental health fair in a local mall, proclamations by the Board of County Commissioners and local municipalities, etc. Dale will update the Consortium as plans are developed for these events and let members know what the providers and funders can do to assist. Chip Taylor suggested that NAMI contact the SCOPE Mental Health Implementation Task Force and the Community Alliance's Education and Advocacy Work Group to coordinate efforts with these groups.

Criminal Justice Commission/Stakeholders' Consortium Joint Work Group Report

Tobey Hockett described the activities of the Addictions Receiving Facility Subcommittee in exploring the possibilities for creating a secure Marchman Act receiving facility in Sarasota County. The group decided to pursue a model similar to the ACTS' ARF in Hillsborough County. First Step of Sarasota brought up the possibility of using their 15 bed detox unit. Currently, 7-8 of those beds are funded by DCF. They also have a 10 bed unit, originally built to Marchman Act standards, that is currently used for offices, but could probably be converted for use as a secure unit. The minimum staffing level for a secure unit would be 1 nurse and 1 technician. Maj. Gooding invited Bob Piper to visit the jail to see firsthand the type of Marchman Act detainees the jail is holding.

The group is still grappling with whether or not a locked unit is needed. Chip noted that he would ask David Bennett to respond to the usage question in the jail. Maj. Gooding stated that, as of November 16th, 770 Marchman Act detainees have come through the jail this calendar year. They typically are held for 24 to 36 hours. If these persons were sent to a true Marchman Act facility, they would be there from 3 to 14 days and be able to receive assessment, counseling and treatment.

Debbie Spellman explained the domiciliary program in Tampa. The length of stay is fairly long-term, 6 to 9 months. ACTS converted an old motel to provide these services. The funding used to pay for the domiciliary program by the state may

possibly be used to pay for a Marchman Act facility. It was felt that both a detox and a domiciliary would be needed.

Bob Piper advised the group that First Step of Sarasota is considering selling of all their existing property and relocating all of their services to a single large campus elsewhere in the county. If this happens, an existing facility may be available for a Marchman Act program. Also, a Marchman Act facility could be built into the plans for the future First Step campus if there is funding available.

Chip suggested that we need to research the regulations governing the operation of a domiciliary, identify the number of detainees and where they are from, staffing levels required, and cost projections. Bill asked that the committee's future conversations be around what we might do to enhance capacity in the short term, as well as where we might want to go in the future with an expanded capacity—such as a domiciliary arrangement—and identify the opportunities to keep the facility in the Sarasota area vs. the Laurel area.

The committee discussed the need for transitional housing for people in many of the existing mental health/substance abuse programs. Bill requested that the people in the housing arena (Bob Piper, Jerry Thompson, Debbi Horst, etc.) meet together to discuss how we can identify/construct/renovate a facility or facilities for transitional housing. He asked that they report back to the committee with their ideas and recommendations.

CIT Training Committee Report

James Schulz reported that the second CIT class has graduated. Feedback on the 40-hour curriculum has been very positive. The format will remain the same and be updated in the future, where necessary. There will be 3-4 additional classes held in 2005, using LLEBG funding the Sheriff has set aside for this purpose.

The next meeting of the full Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium will be on January 7, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Sarasota County Health Department.