

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

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

October 13, 2006

Members Present:

Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Dennis Berry	Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Dale Chadwick	Citizen
Rose Chapman	Jewish Family and Children's Service
Phyllis Frederic	Oak Park School
Laurie Gable	Renaissance Manor
Tobey Hockett	Public Defender's Office
Kathleen Houseweart	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Rich Montemagno	Sarasota Sheriff's Office
David Morris	Transitional Resources, Inc.
Kenneth Nutter	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Lynthia Oratokhai	Sarasota County Health Department
Bob Piper	First Step of Sarasota
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Mark Porter	YMCA
Katrina Rae	Department of Children and Families
Shelley Rence	Sarasota County Health Department
Susan Scott	Sarasota County Government
Beverly Stockton	Suncoast Workforce Board
Travis Totten	Sarasota County Government
Ann Voorhees	Department of Children and Families
Jeffrey Watts	Department of Children and Families
Alex Young	United Way

Staff Present:

Anna Day	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Nancy DeLoach	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pam Meunier	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
James Schulz	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Transitional Housing Committee Update

Tobey Hockett updated the committee on the October 3 Transitional Housing Committee meeting. There is a need for the Community Alternatives Residential Treatment (CART) Phase III, Transitional Housing Program, to get started in order to meet the needs of the VIP-ER Program graduates. Those graduates who are currently homeless are living at The Salvation Army. A \$750,000 CDBG/SHIP grant was awarded for transitional housing for VIP-ER graduates to Coastal Renaissance, Inc. The deadline to spend part of the funds is December 31, 2006. At the meeting, four Manatee County housing providers (Three Quarters Recovery, Jan's House, Volunteers of America, and Transitional Resources) were present and gave a short presentation on their respective programs. They are interested in helping Sarasota County replicate the programs currently available in Manatee County. The next meeting of the Transitional Housing Committee will be November 9 at 3:00 p.m. at The Salvation Army.

Transitional Housing Proposal

Chip Taylor introduced the transitional housing proposal for which staff is seeking the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium (SAMHSC) endorsement. Once the SAMHSC endorses the proposal, it will be presented to the Criminal Justice Commission for endorsement and to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

The VIP-ER Project Management Team (PMT) estimates that 75% of the VIP-ER graduates (93 people for the upcoming year) do not have a home to go to upon graduation. This seems to be a key variable for relapse. The \$750,000 CDBG/SHIP grant currently funded will generate 18 beds. This leaves 75 individuals homeless at the end of the program. One way to address the lack of housing is to give incentives to providers that are already operating successful programs in other areas to come into Sarasota County and replicate their programs.

In one sober housing model, a group of individuals live together in a rented residential house. One individual will act as House Manager. The House Manager must be sober for 1 to 2 years and will receive housing at a reduced cost or free of charge for acting in this capacity. With six individuals per house (the House Manager included), the program would need approximately 15 rental properties to serve 75 additional VIP-ER graduates. The start-up cost for each house rental is estimated to be \$10,000 to \$12,000 per year per unit. The cost would include first and last month's rent, a security deposit, utility deposits, and furnishings. The ongoing cost of the housing will be borne by the individuals residing in the units who will pay rent of \$125 a week. The total start-up cost for 15 rental properties would be approximately \$150,000.

The PMT estimates that individuals will need subsidized rent approximately 25% of the time due to unemployment. The annual rent subsidy per graduate would be \$1,625. The number of graduates needing rent subsidies would be 93 to = \$151,125. The subsidies would be paid directly to the housing providers. The total budget for this transitional housing proposal is \$301,125.

After discussion the committee unanimously moved to endorse the proposal.

VIP-ER Program Enhancement Proposal

Bob Piper introduced the VIP-ER Program Enhancement Proposal. The individuals in the program are facing substance abuse and co-occurring mental health disorders. Although 73% are successfully completing the program the PMT has come to realize that this is not the true measure of success. Maintaining sobriety, holding jobs, reconnecting with family, and living in stable housing in the community three, six, and twelve months after leaving the program are more meaningful indicators of success. With this in mind the PMT identified three areas that need to be enhanced in the VIP-ER Program for the long-term success of the graduates: more intensive vocational and employment services, more intensive after-care case management, and increased administrative resources. A staff report was provided outlining the proposal that the Board of County Commissioners will be asked to approve October 24 for an additional \$241,556 in 2007 funding to provide these enhanced services.

After discussion the committee unanimously moved to endorse the proposal.

Juvenile Assessment Center Update

James Schulz introduced a discussion of the current status of the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) as a result of legislation recently passed called the Martin Lee Anderson Act. This act was created as a result of the death of a youth at a Florida boot camp. The act has been interpreted by Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) attorneys to extend to all JAC's and requires that all JAC security officers be trained in techniques to restrain individuals who are acting out. It also limits the availability of mace, pepper spray, tasers, etc., in the vicinity of the JAC. Due to the location of the JAC in the jail, to comply with the law all employees in the jail would be required to take the training and would be prohibited from carrying any personal security items at all. The Sheriff has determined that this is not appropriate for a jail setting. As a result, as of October 1, juvenile intakes are being completed at the regional DJJ detention center in Manatee County unless the juvenile is eligible for release back to his/her parents.

The result of this change is that a significant amount of the officer's time is spent shuttling the juvenile to and from the jail and the detention center. Additionally, there is less incentive for officers to detain juveniles resulting in an abnormally sharp reduction in juvenile crime since the change in procedures has occurred.

An unintended result of this could be, once the juveniles realize the change in enforcement, the crime rate will rise significantly. Also, juveniles will not be receiving needed drug and alcohol abuse treatment because they are not being arrested.

The county is attempting to get all parties to the table to try to work out the problem. The committee will be updated as changes are implemented.

CIT Committee Update

James Schulz advised the group that the next CIT class will start October 23 with 36 officers currently on the roster to fill the 30 seats available. They will expand the class to accommodate all the officers who want to attend. This is the first class that will take place at the Criminal Justice Academy. They are attempting to get the class Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) certified which would provide the opportunity for a salary incentive for the graduates.

Planning Committee Update

Pam Meunier updated the group on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Plan that a work group of the Planning Committee is developing. The first draft of the plan will soon be ready for review. She will keep the group informed on the progress of the committee.

Acute Care System Task Force Update

Ann Voorhees, Department of Children and Families reported that the Acute Care System Task Force (ACSTF) is looking at a standardized method of data collection through the enhancement of a form being used in Hillsborough County. A work group of the ACSTF is adjusting the data collection tool to fit the acute care system in Sarasota County. They are going to collect Baker Act and Marchman Act information at all the hospitals in the county, Coastal Behavioral, and the Addictions Receiving Facility.

Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership

Pauline Tracy advised the group that their first site visit would be held next week by the national evaluation team. This will be mainly a training visit. Also, the Partnership will be holding a facilitated retreat for the Governance Board members to learn their role and responsibilities and define their structure. This week they enrolled their third child. As more families are enrolled, more Wrap-around Coordinators will be hired at the partner agencies.

Next Meeting

There will be no SAMHSC meeting in November.

The next SAMHC meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Sarasota County Health Department 2nd Floor Auditorium.