

***Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium  
Criminal Justice Commission***

**JOINT WORK GROUP**

**December 8, 2004 Meeting Summary**

**PRESENT:**

Elaine Charyn, DCF—Suncoast Region  
Catherine Clouse, SCOPE  
Nancy DeLoach, Sarasota County Human Services  
Sally Graham, SCOPE Mental Health Implementation Task Force  
Tobey Hockett, Public Defender's Office  
Debbi Horst, Office of Housing and Community Development  
Katie Knight, United Way of Sarasota  
Donna Lattin, Consultant  
Bill Little, Sarasota County Health and Human Services  
Jamie Mahadeo, Sarasota County Human Services  
Pam Meunier, Sarasota County Human Services  
Bob Piper, First Step of Sarasota  
Irene Plank, Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Colleen Reardon, Salvation Army  
Rev. Skip Ritter, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office  
James Schulz, Sarasota County Human Services  
Erin Shableski, Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Stewart Stearns, Community Foundation of Sarasota  
Paul Sutton, Sarasota Police Department  
Chip Taylor, Sarasota County Human Services  
Jerry Thompson, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare  
Pauline Tracy, Sarasota County Human Services  
Jeff Watts, DCF—Suncoast Region

**Presentation on Orange County Central Receiving Facility**

Bill Little announced that Carolann Duncan from the DCF District 7 Office in Orlando was unable to attend due to illness. Her presentation on the Orange County Central Receiving Facility will be rescheduled for the next meeting of the Joint Work Group on January 7, 2005.

## **Addictions Receiving Facility Subcommittee Report**

Tobey Hockett reported that the subcommittee will meet again on December 14, 2004 at the Health Department. Lt. Paul Sutton advised the group that the Sarasota Police Department has handled 564 Marchman Act clients this year. That is a significant percentage—approximately 75%--of the total Marchman Act clients for the entire county. As a result, he urged the subcommittee to seriously consider locating any proposed Marchman Act facility in or near the City of Sarasota.

## **CIT Training Committee Report**

James Schulz reported that the second CIT class graduated last month. Twenty-three law enforcement officers attended from the Sheriff's Office and the Sarasota Police Department. Feedback on the 40-hour curriculum and training format has been very positive. The format will remain the same and be updated in the future as necessary. There will be three additional classes held in 2005, utilizing LLEBG funding the Sheriff's Office has been awarded for this purpose. The next step will be to implement the Crisis Intervention Teams. The goal is to have this completed in 2005.

## **County Criminal Justice Consultant's Report**

David Bennett announced the upcoming Criminal Justice Symposium will be held on January 21, 2005. This will be an all-day event at the Chelsea Center. Coffee will be served at 8:00 a.m., with the program beginning at 8:30. Discussions will center on the structure and functioning of the criminal justice system in Sarasota County, paving the way for changes to take effect in 2005 and beyond.

David reported on challenges they are facing with regard to the accuracy and reliability of data collected in the jail and other places. Also, they are working with sample data which is two years old. He wants to move toward the development of a data warehouse with current, accurate data to be at the fingertips of those managers who are making decisions about the system.

David advised the group that Judge Robert McDonald will be taking over the specialty courts in January, 2005. The judge is interested in attending meetings of the SAMHC/CJC and has affirmed his commitment to making changes that will improve the system.

## **Jail Staffing Analysis**

James Schulz reported that the intake and booking area of the jail is outdated—too small and inefficient. A consultant, Dennis Liebert, has been hired to conduct a jail analysis. He is looking at three things: jail intake, staffing of the jail as a whole, and

security staffing at the Judicial Center. It is estimated that this will be a 5-month process.

### **Baker Act Transportation**

Chip Taylor brought up the Baker Act transportation issue which was raised at the Criminal Justice Commission meeting earlier this week. The County contracts with Grant Medical Transportation to transport Baker Act clients to and from the Crisis Stabilization Unit and other facilities. However, concerns have been raised that the contractor may not be able to handle potentially violent Baker Act clients due to liability issues, inadequate training and lack of the appropriate equipment configurations. In the CJC meeting, the Sheriff indicated that his officers would not transport violent Baker Act clients who had not committed criminal violations.

At the suggestion of the group, Chip agreed that County staff would meet with representatives from the Sheriff's Office, Grant Medical Transportation, and others as necessary to further review this situation.

*[Note: Grant Medical Transportation has since confirmed in a subsequent meeting with County Human Services staff that they are equipped, trained, and willing to transport potentially violent Baker Act patients]*

### **Next Meeting**

The Criminal Justice Commission/Stakeholders' Consortium Joint Work Group will meet *twice* next month, on January 7 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and again on January 18, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Both meetings will be at the Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Blvd, in the second floor auditorium.