

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

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

February 24, 2006

Present:

Rose Chapman	Jewish Family and Children's Service
Kathleen Houseweart	SCOSA
Peter Howard	The Florida Center
Ken Nutter	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Mark Porter	Sarasota YMCA
Mary Parrett	SCOSA
Katrina Rae	DCF
Jeffrey Watts	DCF

Staff Present:

Bill Little	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pam Meunier	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
James Schulz	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Michael Theall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and accepted by the committee.

Update on Changes in Residential Services

Michael Theall introduced Ken Nutter, VP of Adult Services for Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, who gave an update on this topic. He advised the group that the state determined that they would continue to focus on mental health rather than including the forensic population. No change in the program will be made. The state is attempting to increase the number of forensic beds in the state hospitals, but it is very expensive. In the meantime, clients are backing up in the existing forensic beds and the jail is still seeing these individuals.

Ken suggested that a 16 bed RTF forensic housing program would address the issue locally. However, no state funding will be forthcoming. There is an interesting program in Broward County that trains forensic program evaluators to better do their jobs. That could be done in Sarasota County to more appropriately direct patients to the correct type of bed (forensic, mental health, substance abuse, etc.) based on their primary diagnosis.

Bill Little asked Ken to gather additional data on the issue in order to take the discussion to the Criminal Justice Commission for action.

Introduction of Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership Employees

Michael advised the group that Ann Kelley has been hired as the Project Director of the program. She has hired Kelly Lewin as the Family Resource Coordinator. Right now all the staff is at a workshop and could not be at the meeting today. The Florida Center has made available leased office space for the program.

Planning Committee Update

Michael advised the group that the Planning Committee is meeting weekly. DCF has been given the template for their three-year business plan. They have forwarded to us some of their early materials. Phil Gorelick is assembling the list of available services. Once this is complete, the committee will develop our priorities based on (1) the need, (2) our ability to address the issue, and (3) whether this is a long-term or short-term issue.

Acute Care Task Force / CIT Training Update

Michael advised that the Acute Care Task Force is currently working on implementing CIT training in March (6th – 10th). The commitment level is not going as planned with the Sarasota PD and Venice PD. North Port PD has made a commitment to the program. The Sheriff is working on identifying funding for his participants in this class.

CART Initiative Update

Bill Little advised that the 3rd class graduated from the VIP-ER program this week and there is a new class currently in process with 9 or 10 participants. Michael advised the group that 37 of 45 participants have completed the program. Of those 80-90% have jobs when they leave. Housing continues to be an issue. The Salvation Army has accepted some of those without families in their TLC program.

Transitional Housing Update

No word is available on transitional housing. We are still awaiting a response from the Housing Authority.

Next Meeting

The next SAMHSC meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the Health Department 2nd Floor Auditorium.