

**COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY**

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

**September 8, 2006**

Members Present:

Rose Chapman	Jewish Family and Children's Service
Kevin Chinault	Mental Health Community Centers
Phyllis Cobb	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Ron Grognet	American Red Cross
Rich Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Kenneth Nutter	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Don Ottinger	SCOPE
Bob Piper	First Step of Sarasota
Katrina Rae	Department of Children and Families
Kim Seiler	Jewish Family and Children's Service
Kathryn Shea	The Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Ann Voorhees	Department of Children and Families
Jeffrey Watts	Department of Children and Families
Shelia Zelonis	SED Network

Staff Present:

Sherry Crelin	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Kelly Lewin	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pam Meunier	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
James Schulz	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

**Community Alternatives Residential Treatment (CART) Initiative Update**

- Phase 1 of the CART Initiative, the Addictions Receiving Facility (ARF), opened at First Step's 18<sup>th</sup> Street Detoxification facility on August 1, 2006 adding 15 more beds. All 30 beds in this facility are now secure after the recent renovations. As of September 5, there have been 146 admissions.
- Phase 2 of the CART Initiative, the VIP-ER Program, is a unique collaboration of Salvation Army, First Step, Coastal Behavioral, Jewish Family and Children's Service, Suncoast Workforce Board, Sarasota County Technical Institute, and the Sarasota County Health Department. In the first year of this intensive 10-week substance abuse treatment

program, the expectation is to graduate 119 individuals from the program. The ninth VIP-ER class will graduate September 15.

- Phase 3 of the CART Initiative is Transitional Housing for VIP-ER graduates. The Transitional Living Committee will be reconvening to discuss the present and future housing needs of the graduates, the status of the \$750,000 CDBG/SHIP grant that was awarded to develop housing for VIP-ER graduates, and to discuss other funding opportunities. The date of this meeting will be announced soon.
- The first year FMHI outcome evaluation report for the VIP-ER program is expected to be submitted October 30, 2006. The process evaluation that was submitted recently was very favorable.

### **VIP-ER Program Enhancement Proposal**

The unexpected high number of graduates from the VIP-ER Program has created a shortage in resources, specifically for case managers available for follow-up after the program. It has also become apparent that in order for the graduates to experience success there needs to be more of a focus on work readiness during the 10-week program and after graduation. The Project Management Team (PMT) has determined a need for two additional case managers to provide aftercare follow-up, two supported employment counselors, and enhanced work readiness classes. The PMT is in the process of developing a proposal with the needed funding required.

On October 13, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium (SAMHSC) will be asked by the PMT for their endorsement for this program enhancement. The details of the enhancement proposal will be presented at this meeting. The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), after the same PMT presentation, will be asked for their endorsement at their next meeting. If both of these bodies agree to endorse this enhancement, a proposal will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for funding consideration. In June 2005, a joint work group of the CJC and the SAMHSC presented the CART Initiative proposal to the BCC for approval of funding.

### **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Committee Update**

James Schulz advised the group that the national CIT Conference will be held this month in Orlando. We have four people from the community that are confirmed to go. He also mentioned the on-going effort to combine CIT training with the Police Academy curriculum at SCTI. There is the potential that officers could receive a salary incentive (similar to SWAT training) to be qualified as a CIT officer. To date there have been six CIT classes graduating 160 law enforcement officers. The next training will be October 23-27, 2006.

### **Planning Committee Update**

The Planning Committee is tasked with developing a mental health/substance abuse services plan for the community. The committee has developed an outline of what they envision the plan should look like when completed. The inventory of substance abuse and mental health services that this committee has been instrumental in developing will be utilized in the plan to identify gaps and needs in the existing services. The next meeting of the Planning Committee is scheduled for September 21, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. at the Health Department in Room 227.

### **Acute Care System Task Force (ACSTF) Update**

This task force is looking at the excessive demand on the acute care system and best practices to address this issue. To that end, a small group of the ACSTF visited Manatee Glens to look at their Access Center. In 2000, Manatee Glens was in crisis with extreme demands on their system. As a result, they reorganized and made a complete transformation. They began to look at CSU admissions as an option and not the only answer. They started providing much more extensive assessments, sometimes resulting in lengthy observation periods up to 24 hours. They added more case management services and began the process immediately, in some cases, finding that sometimes the crisis could be averted with referrals to the proper community resources. With hospital admission considered as only one option, Manatee Glens finds that they are seldom at capacity, averaging 50% of capacity.

The next meeting of the ACSTF is scheduled for September 19, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Health Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium.

### **Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership**

Sherri Crelin made a presentation to the group on the Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership. They have started serving clients and are working on the FY 2007 contracts with service providers. The evaluator from FMHI has collected baseline demographics regarding the potential client base. This data is available for review upon request. USF has posted a part-time position at FMHI to support the existing evaluator.

### **Next Meeting**

The next SAMHSC meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Health Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium.

The group agreed that Friday at 9:00 a.m. continues to be a time when most consortium members can attend. A schedule of meetings for 2007 will be distributed soon.