

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

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

December 8, 2006

Members Present:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital/Bayside
Dennis Berry	Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Deborah Brister	Oak Park School
Rose Chapman	Jewish Family and Children's Service
Anna Day	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Nancy DeLoach	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Lance Feldmen	Jewish Family and Children's Service
Phyllis Frederic	Oak Park School
Thom Glaza	Tri-County Counseling and Life Skills Center
Phil Gorelick	Jewish Family and Children's Service
Sally Graham	SCOPE
Ron Grognet	American Red Cross
Rod Haynes	State Attorney's Office
Tobey Hockett	Public Defender's Office
Bob Holm	Department of Children and Families
Kathleen Houseweart	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Susan Jennings	Oak Park School
Kate Kramer	Sarasota County School Board
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Robyn Marinelli	Sarasota County School Board
Bob Martin	Emotions Anonymous
David Morris	Transitional Resources, Inc.
Kenneth Nutter	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Don Ottinger	SCOPE
Gail Pearson	Jewish Family and Children's Service
Bob Piper	First Step of Sarasota
Katrina Rae	Department of Children and Families
Sherri Reynolds	Sarasota County School Board
Anne Ridings	Lutheran Services
James Schulz	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Dan Schwendeman	North Port CHAT
Kathryn Shea	The Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Jody Smith	Oak Park School
Beverly Stockton	Suncoast Workforce Board
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Ann Voorhees
Shelia Zelonis

Department of Children and Families
Severely Emotionally Disturbed Network

Staff Present:

Pam Meunier
Chip Taylor

Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) Update

James Schulz advised the group that the JAC has been moved out of the jail and has not been relocated. As a result, the number of juveniles detained has dropped by 75% in one month. They are seeking a temporary location for the JAC, preferably in downtown Sarasota. The City of Sarasota has offered one of their vacant offices to be used until the construction of the new JAC is completed at the jail. It will take approximately one year for the construction to be completed. They are awaiting word from the City before they start on renovations of the temporary site selected that is the prior Community AIDS Network facility near the Courthouse.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Committee Update

James Schulz advised the group that over 200 officers have been CIT trained to date. There are now enough trained officers on the street to start developing standard operating procedures and data collection tools to support the CIT effort. The CIT Committee meetings held in December, January, and February will focus on the future of CIT in the community. This committee will be considering the development of annual refresher training for officers and creating a CIT newsletter to provide periodic updates to the trained officers. The latest CIT class has been certified by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and will allow for an incentive bonus to the officers who completed this class. Using the FDLE approved "Memphis Model" for the refresher classes the previously trained officers who elect to participate will also be eligible for the salary incentive. There will be three or four classes scheduled for 2007 (one being the refresher class). The next class is tentatively scheduled for March 19 through March 23, 2007 at the Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI), Criminal Justice Academy.

Transitional Housing Committee (THC) Update

Tobey Hockett, the chair of the THC, advised the group that on November 9, the THC held a meeting with potential sober housing providers to discuss the Transitional Housing Program, which is Phase 3 of the CART Initiative. Coastal Renaissance, Inc. (CRI) announced at this meeting that they have purchased two houses with a third to be purchased soon with CDBG/SHIP funding of \$754,000. CRI is planning to house 12 VIP-ER graduates with this funding. Bob Piper and

Bryan Pope, members of the Project Management Team of Phase 2 of the CART Initiative, indicated that around 15 more houses are needed to serve another 75 VIP-ER graduates.

Pam Meunier discussed the funding proposal that has been developed as a result of this committee, based on research of successful and long standing sober housing models in other parts of the country and locally and the needs of the VIP-ER graduates. There will be three types of funding available for the housing providers that come forward and are able to offer the type of housing prescribed: 1) Start-up costs of \$10,000 per house for the cost of first and last months' rent, a security deposit, utility deposits, and furnishings. 2) A management fee of \$10,000 per house per year. 3) A rent voucher program to cover the rent for a VIP-ER graduate who is unable to pay their weekly rent for a valid reason. This funding proposal will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners January 9, 2007.

Oak Park Middle School Mental Health Needs

Kathryn Shea updated the group on the current status of services being provided by The Florida Center for Child and Family Development (FCFCFD) at Oak Park School. The children at Oak Park School are the most severely mentally and emotionally challenged in the county. The FCFCFD has had counselors at this school for three years. The census of children at both Oak Park locations is increasing dramatically. If therapeutic interventions were available for all the children, they would not have the need to use high-end resources in juvenile detention facilities, mental health facilities, or similar programs. Historically, this is a fee-for-service system. Therapists can only see children who have Medicaid or third party insurance. Even with this, the providers are covering the actual cost of services not paid by Medicaid or insurance. Due to the changes in the Medicaid program in 2007, Sarasota County will have the lowest Medicaid/HMO capitated rate in the state. Kathryn indicated that most Medicaid claims are denied and if approved, limited to five or six sessions per child. All of these issues make providing services to these children nearly impossible unless there is some intervention in the form of additional funding (\$159,000 annually) to hire more staff. Discussion ensued regarding the position and the responsibility of the School Board on this issue.

Emma E. Booker Elementary School Mental Health Needs

There is an on-going problem of acting out by children five to seven years of age at Emma Booker. The School Board has funded extra counselors and a social worker to address this problem. Additionally, there is a full time school resource officer stationed at Emma Booker. Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS) has stepped in to assist the School Board in their efforts. Phil Gorelick gave an overview of the interventions that have been implemented by JFCS, the School Board, and the Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership. The program costs

around \$220,000 annually. This includes the physical plant, the special education teacher, and the family advocate. The School Board has provided \$121,000 in match (including physical plant) for the program. They are seeking nearly \$100,000 for personnel and administrative costs to continue to support this program.

Kate Kramer presented information on “Emma’s Dream Team (EDT) Program.” This is a prevention program in three parts: academic support, therapeutic and behavioral services, and family support. There are currently 21 students enrolled in the program with students on the waiting list. They are seeing significant progress in reducing suspensions due to behavioral problems as well as an increase in attendance and academic achievement. They currently need a full-time therapist to be available for comprehensive intake completion and to allow time to meet with teachers to promote collaboration from therapy to the classroom.

In light of this information shared, Bill Little suggested that they take this presentation to the School Board to get their reactions and support before funding strategies can be discussed. Bill asked Sherri Reynolds to organize a task force and report back at the next meeting of this group, January 19.

North Port Community Health Action Team (CHAT) Mental Health and Substance Abuse Providers’ Roundtable

Dan Schwendeman advised the group of the latest activities of the North Port CHAT. Pam Meunier was invited to meet with the group in North Port to discuss local mental health and substance abuse needs. Several things came out of that meeting:

- a local steering committee of community leaders was established to look at the issue from a local perspective
- a proposal was developed to establish a mental health and substance abuse advisory board by March 1, 2007
- a roundtable discussion was held with the community and providers of mental health and substance abuse services to establish what services are presently provided in North Port, what services are being proposed, and what services are still needed

This group is seeking ways to fund an integrated system of care for the North Port area.

Acute Care System Task Force (ACSTF) Update

Ken Alexander advised that the last Acute Care System Task Force meeting was held on November 14. First Step of Sarasota has taken the lead in terms of

providing details to the community about the Marchman Act facility. Information is being disseminated to law enforcement, hospitals, emergency rooms, etc.

The ACSTF is in the process of developing a centralized data collection system. The data collected will be used, among other things, to look at trends with the providers in the acute care system and offer the opportunity to explore solutions for the excessive demand on the acute care system. This data will also open up possibilities for seeking additional funding for providers. A database will be developed to collect, store, manipulate, and report the data. There has been no ability to look at this data across providers in the past.

Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership (ECMHP) Update

Pauline Tracy advised that the ECMHP is accepting referrals now. There are eight families in treatment and six being processed. The plan is to serve at least 80 families in the second year of the program. This is significantly more than other providers around the country have served at this point in their programs. They are in the process of recruiting and hiring family advocates and would ask that the membership assist them in getting the word out to family members seeking part-time employment with flexible hours.

Next Meeting

The next SAMHSC meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, second floor auditorium.

All summaries of Community Alliance meetings and its committees (including the Consortium) can be found at www.sarasotaalliance.net