

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH STAKEHOLDERS' CONSORTIUM

May 18, 2007

Present:

Monica Becket	North Port CHAT
Doreen Benson	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Dennis Berry	Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Ted Bogusz	Loveland Center
Monica Brown	Drug Court
Rose Chapman	Jewish Family and Children's Service
Anna Day	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Nancy DeLoach	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Edward Eagen	Pride Integrated Services
Laurie Gable	Coastal Renaissance, Inc.
Thom Glaza	Tri-County Counseling and Life Skills Center
Phil Gorelick	Jewish Family and Children's Services
Sally Graham	SCOPE and NAMI
Sharon Hamilton	Value Options/Florida Health Partners
Tobey Hockett	Public Defender's Office
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
James McCloud	Genesis Health Services
Victor Metiti, Jr.	North Port CHAT
Pam Meunier	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
David Morris	Transitional Resources
Kenneth Nutter	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Bob Piper	First Step of Sarasota
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Katrina Rae	Department of Children and Families
Dan Schwendeman	North Port CHAT
Craig Smith	Transitional Resources
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
April Teamer	Department of Children and Families
Jeffrey Watts	Department of Children and Families
Shelia Zelonis	Severely Emotionally Disturbed Network

Community Alternative Residential Treatment Initiative (CART) Update

- *Phase 1 Addictions Receiving Facility (ARF)* – Bob Piper, First Step, updated the group on the status of the ARF. He directed their attention to the ARF Fact Sheet and noted that the primary substance of abuse was

alcohol (79%). Pam Meunier highlighted the wait time for law enforcement officers as they bring persons to the ARF – from a low of one minute to a high of 14 minutes - less than six minutes is the average. Bob noted that they were updating their website to include a real time number of available detoxification beds.

- *Phase 2 VIP-ER Program* – Phil Gorelick directed the committee’s attention to the Consortium Report which noted that 15 classes have graduated to date with a 76% completion rate. The program is meeting or exceeding all of its goals. Phil noted that the First Year CART Evaluation Report completed by the Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida had some recommendations for the program:

Case Management – There were three different partners providing case management for one individual at different times during their time in treatment. This has caused some duplication of case management services to individuals and a lack of continuity. The Project Management Team (PMT) which governs the VIP-ER Program determined that a single case manager will be involved with a client from their first contact through one year post graduation from the program.

Supported Employment – There is a need for supported employment. Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, having the most experience in this area locally, has utilized a traditional supported employment model for the benefit of VIP-ER Program participants as well as graduates.

Participant/Client Involvement – It was suggested that a VIP-ER Program participant be part of PMT. In lieu of that, the PMT decided to enhance their customer satisfaction survey. They will ask each person both verbally and in writing how the program can perform more efficiently from their perspective.

Clinical Data Sharing – Due to some organizational changes the PMT has put in place, there will be more effective clinical coordination.

- *Phase 3 Transitional Housing Program* – Tobey Hockett, the outgoing chair of the Transitional Housing Committee, reported that the BCC has approved funding for transitional housing and a contract with Transitional Resources, Inc. (TRI) will be presented to them for approval and execution May 22.

Tobey introduced Monica Brown with Drug Court. She works closely with TRI in Manatee County and is pleased to see that they will be expanding

to Sarasota County. Based on her positive experiences with this agency, she felt the program should be very successful.

Laurie Gable with Coastal Renaissance, Inc. (CRI) advised that they have two men's sober houses open and operating successfully. They are running at full capacity. The women's house has been a bit more challenging to keep occupied. Pam Meunier indicated that Human Services staff are in the process of developing a Strategic Initiatives and Opportunities Fund contract with CRI to assist them with funding based on a 25% vacancy allotment for their three houses.

Chip Taylor discussed a decision, with the approval of the BCC, to open the transitional housing program to participants of Drug Court and Mental Health Court and inmates released from the Sarasota County Jail with a commitment to recovery, in order to maximize the utilization of the funds. The future of transitional housing will depend on client demand and whether the funding will be available due to potential cuts to County funding as a result of the State property tax reform initiative.

South County Drug Court and Mental Health Court Task Force Update

Chip advised that the Criminal Justice Commission has finalized its appointments to the joint workgroup. The Consortium will be represented by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), First Step, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Mental Health Community Centers, Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS). The cost to expand Drug Court to South County has been estimated at \$300,000. Chip feels they may be able to offer something of value with one third of that amount. This program will most likely be impacted by property tax reform.

CIT and the Impact on the Acute Care System

Pam advised that class # 8 graduated 25 law enforcement officers on March 23. The next class is going to be held July 16 through July 20. A total of 217 officers have been trained to date. The next step is to implement the CIT program now that over 200 officers have been trained. The national CIT conference will be in Memphis this year, August 28-30. The next meeting of the CIT Committee will be June 1. The CIT Committee is going to become active in the newly developed Florida CIT Coalition. The next meeting of this group is June 8 in Orlando.

Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) Update

Pam directed the group's attention to the JAC decision support matrix. On June 5, the BCC will be making a decision as to which site will be used for the program. No matter where it is located, it will cost around \$500,000 to set up and move the program.

Mental Health Needs in the Schools Task Force Update

Shelia Zelonis, with the Severely Emotionally Disturbed Network, advised the group that the task force is focusing on the highest risk students, primarily in Oak Park and Emma Booker Elementary Schools. The next step is to look at the long term continuum of mental health needs throughout Sarasota County. The School Board has agreed to fund the additional teacher for Emma Booker. JFCS has applied for a Juvenile Justice grant to fund a full-time mental health therapist. The Federation of Families has agreed to fund the family advocate position full-time. The task force is working on establishing funding for additional needs in order to be ready to operate when school opens.

Children's Committee Update

Shelia Zelonis advised that the committee met on April 24. Dan Englund from Magellan provided an update on Florida's Child Welfare Pre-paid Mental Health Plan. There was a great deal of concern about legal issues surrounding substance exposed children. A sub-committee has been formed to address these issues.

Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health Update

Doreen Benson reported for Sheryl Schrepf. She went over their evaluation report indicating that at the end of April, 27 families have been enrolled, 78% of the children identified are boys, most are four to five years old with an Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder diagnosis. They are preparing to hire a Youth Coordinator. The position has been offered to James Sawyer from Idaho. They are advertising for a Cultural Competency Coordinator and a Family Involvement Coordinator. Kelly Lewin is leaving the partnership to assume the position of Executive Director of the Sarasota Chapter of the Federation of Families. May 8 was National Children's Mental Health Day. There was a family picnic and yard signs were displayed throughout the community to commemorate this day.

North Port CHAT Update

Dan Schwendeman, with the North Port CHAT, reported that this group continues to work on the development of the Integrated Care Council. The City of North Port will be partnering with this group by providing office space for the Project Director once they are hired. The legislature approved an exemption for North Port allowing them to create a free standing emergency room. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Subcommittee of the CHAT is working to ensure that mental health/substance abuse issues are appropriately referred.

Community Alliance Strategic Planning Work Groups

Chip updated the group on the efforts of the Community Alliance to plan for the future. They are attempting to identify where the human services gaps are and/or will be in the next 10 years. To that end, they have established strategic planning work groups covering health, children and youth, substance abuse/mental health, aging services, developmental disabilities, and economic self-sufficiency. The Alliance has assigned its members to one or more of the six groups and has invited others in the community to participate. Chip advised that the most obvious committee to handle substance abuse/mental health is the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium. He asked if they would agree to take on this role and asked for volunteers. They agreed and several individuals volunteered.

Disaster Recovery Funding

Bill Little asked how we can be prepared with the documentation necessary to complete the forms to get FEMA dollars flowing in the event of a disaster. From his past experiences with disasters he knows the challenge is to get the documentation assembled quickly considering the potential loss of manpower and materials in the event of a disaster. The group discussed preparing a skeleton of the application and to get as much documentation together as possible to get ahead of the crisis. Jeff Watts, DCF, indicated that he was aware of an application that this group could use as a template. He agreed to send it to Pam for this group's review.

Announcements

Bill indicated that in the last six weeks he has had two parents come to him who have lost their children due to drug overdoses. They are looking for some way to connect to the system to help in a significant way. Bill recommended to one of the parents that if she could bring a group of interested people together, he would offer the Health Department resources to meet with them, to gather data, and assist them in identifying the scope of the problem.

Jeff announced that DCF is reorganizing to establish an administrative delegation of authority at the circuit court level. These areas will roll up into districts. Tentatively, they will begin making some of the changes on July 1.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium will be held on June 15, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Blvd., Room 226.