

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

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

February 16, 2007

Present:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital/Bayside
Elaine Charyn	First Step of Sarasota
Claire Felder	Department of Children and Families
Thom Glaza	Tri-County Counseling and Life Skills Center
Phil Gorelick	Jewish Family and Children's Service
Tobey Hockett	Public Defender's Office
Kathleen Houseweart	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Susan Jennings	Family Advocate
Kelly Lewin	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pam Meunier	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
David Morris	Transitional Resources
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Katrina Rae	Department of Children and Families
Shelley Rence	Sarasota County Health Department
Sherri Reynolds	Sarasota County School Board
James Schulz	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Walt Smith	Court Administration
Debbie Spellman	Department of Children and Families
Carrie Springer	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Beverly Stockton	Suncoast Workforce Board
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
April Teamer	Department of Children and Families
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Stephen Watson	Public Defender's Office
Shelia Zelonis	Severely Emotionally Disturbed Network

Community Alternative Residential Treatment (CART) Initiative Update

Phase 1-Addictions Receiving Facility - Elaine Charyn discussed the report that was distributed outlining the first six months of ARF operations. The primary drug of choice is still alcohol. The average length of stay for a person who has been admitted on a Marchman Act is 10 days, depending on court hearings and whether the client can be referred to the VIP-ER Program or another treatment or residential facility.

Phase 2-VIP-ER Program – Phil Gorelick discussed the report that was distributed containing data on the first year of operations. The Project Management Team is operating well, with open discussion enhancing the outcomes of the project. Just over 75% of the participants have completed the program, which is well above the industry standard.

Phase 3-Transitional Housing – Tobey Hockett advised that the transitional housing contract templates are being reviewed by the County fiscal planning, procurement, finance, risk management, and the legal department staff.

Jerry Thompson updated the group on the status of Coastal Renaissance, Inc. They presently have two transitional houses operating with 12 beds available for VIP-ER graduates. A third house is scheduled to open by March 1, which will bring six more beds on line.

South County Drug Court

Walt Smith, Court Administrator, advised the group that his office has started a Dependency Drug Court for parents who have abused and neglected children. It seems to be working well so far. The adult Drug Court just celebrated its 10-year anniversary in Sarasota. The program is at maximum capacity (120 cases) at this point. The goal is to expand the program to south county in order to reach over twice as many individuals (up to 300 total cases). Judge Owens wants to create a culturally-relevant track to attract minority candidates to drug court. He would also like to expand Mental Health Court. However, that will depend on the funding available and the capacity of Coastal Behavioral Healthcare to expand its services.

A recommendation was made to create a joint work group of the Criminal Justice Commission and the Consortium, similar to the work group that was assembled to develop the CART Initiative, to move this plan forward. Tobey Hockett, Phil Gorelick, and Jerry Thompson expressed an interest in being a part of this work group. It was agreed that representation is also needed from the DCF, First Step of Sarasota, the Department of Corrections, the Clerk of Courts, the State Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Committee Update

James Schulz announced that the next CIT class will be held March 19 through March 23. The additional classes this year will be held during the weeks of July 16 and October 15. For planning purposes, James is developing an ongoing schedule in which classes will be held the third week in July and the third week in October each year. The Sarasota and North Port police departments are each filling all five of their designated slots now.

Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) Update

James Schulz advised the group that the CAN building will not be able to be used for the JAC due to the cost of \$100,000 to renovate the building (extensive

mold damage was discovered). The JAC will also not be allowed by the City to put in a trailer. Chief Terry Lewis in North Port has offered a facility, although the initial reaction has been that it is not centrally-located enough. The County, DJJ and CBH are still looking at potential sites, including the former CAIC facility on Fruitville Road, which could potentially be leased on a month-to-month basis. Jerry Thompson indicated he would assist in negotiations with the owners, if necessary. The County has offered land outside the city limits, but those sites are not centrally-located either. No decisions have been made to date.

Forensic Issues

Debbie Spellman of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) advised the group that DCF requested and received from the Legislative Budget Commission \$16 million to be utilized for new forensic beds by June 30, 2007. Additionally, DCF was allocated \$2.8 million for community-based services through June 30, 2007. The Suncoast Region's allocation of \$350,000 is being used for services in the jails for Incompetent to Proceed (ITP) clients, primarily in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, for the remainder of this fiscal year. A total of 373 beds, both secure and non-secure, should become available around the state by June 30, 2007, which should alleviate most of the waiting list for persons in jails over 15 days.

Governor Christ's FY 2008 Legislative Budget Recommendation for mental health includes \$78.8 million to maintain the 373 newly-created beds on an annual basis, and to continue the community-based funding. Debbie cautioned that if the community-based funding is not approved by the Legislature, and DCF still has to provide mental health services in the jails, they will have to cut other mental health contracts next year to fund these forensic services.

As of February 14, 277 persons were on the forensic waiting list, with 214 of these (77%) waiting over 15 days. This number is expected to decrease weekly as the 373 new beds come on-line.

DCF's overall strategic direction for the mental health forensic system includes increased capacity of forensic beds, prevention of individuals entering the criminal justice system, increased diversions, strengthening of mental health services in the jails, enhancement of court services, and strengthening coordination of aftercare and transitional services.

Acute Care System Task Force Update

Ken Alexander distributed a summary of the last Acute Care System Task Force meeting. He advised that Rik Jimison is working on the flow chart for Baker Act and Marchman Act Transportation for medical professionals and, in the future, for nursing homes. Ken updated the group on Senate Bill 430 that will mandate reporting of certain data for receiving facilities.

Children's Committee Update

Phil Gorelick updated the group on the Children's Committee meeting, where the discussion centered on how to move forward in looking at mental health and substance abuse needs in line with the effort being conducted by the School Board. The summary of that meeting is not yet available. The committee will continue to meet regularly.

Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership Update

Pauline Tracy advised the group that the new Project Director, Sheryl Schrepf, has been hired. There are currently 23 children and their families being served in the program. There are four children and their families that are pending, awaiting contact from the Family Advocate or Wraparound Coordinator. The goal for the end of February is to serve 27 children and families, so the project is on target. Four Wraparound Coordinators and six Family Advocates have been hired. The Governance Board is meeting and has elected Janice Mee as their Chair. Chip Taylor announced that introductory training on the wraparound process for the mental health community will be held on April 10.

Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCoSA) Update

Sherry Reynolds summarized the presentation made at the annual SCOSA event where Bill Moyers, Jr. was the keynote speaker. 125 people were present for the workshop. Mr. Moyers was impressed with how far Sarasota has come in the collaboration between community agencies in trying to go forward with substance abuse treatment and prevention. Judge Bennett was honored as SCOSA Citizen of the Year for his efforts in this arena. Seven businesses were also honored for being exemplary drug-free workplaces.

Announcements

The committee was asked to consider meeting in south county at least once a quarter to encourage participation by those providers. Bill suggested that they could use the Health Department's or the hospitals' audio-visual capability to be more inclusive.