

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

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

January 19, 2007

Present:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital/Bayside
Doreen Benson	Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership
Dennis Berry	Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Rose Chapman	Jewish Family and Children's Service
Kevin Chinault	Mental Health Community Center
Phyllis Cobb	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Anna Day	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Nancy DeLoach	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Center
Thom Glaza	Tri-County Counseling and Life Skills Center
Sally Graham	SCOPE
Tobey Hockett	Public Defender's Office
Curt Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Bob Martin	Emotions Anonymous
Pam Meunier	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Kenneth Nutter	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Mark Porter	YMCA
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
Debbie Spellman	Department of Children and Families
Beverly Stockton	Suncoast Workforce Board
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Shelia Zelonis	Severely Emotionally Disturbed Network

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Committee Update

James Schulz distributed the training agenda for the March 19-March 23 CIT class. This will be the eighth CIT class offered. With this class, the number of CIT-trained officers will increase to 250. The CIT Committee is looking into the feasibility of offering an advanced CIT class to those officers in the first six

classes who did not receive CIT incentive pay. This class will deem them eligible for that benefit as well as providing additional information that has been incorporated into the later classes.

The next step is to establish Crisis Intervention Teams in the community. CIT Training is just the first step. The CIT Committee is reviewing the activities of other departments which have successfully implemented Crisis Intervention Teams in their communities and they will consider adopting similar policies and procedures in Sarasota County. The CIT Committee is also looking into a streamlined data collection methodology that would minimize the amount of paperwork the officers are required to complete after an incident. These data will also be valuable in establishing the impact and successes due to CIT Training.

NAMI, led by Sally Graham, is planning an event for the officers to provide updated CIT information, lunch, and recognition of selected officers for incidents in the community where CIT was used to benefit the outcome. Sally Graham has also agreed to be the editor of a CIT newsletter that will keep officers up to date on events, activities, and the latest techniques.

Transitional Housing Committee Update

Tobey Hockett advised the group that the Board of County Commissioners approved the transitional housing proposal that will allow for sober housing providers to receive funding for start-up costs, sober house management, and rental vouchers. Pam Meunier mentioned that housing providers have been coming forward to express an interest in developing sober housing in Sarasota County.

Mental Health Needs in the Schools Task Force Update

Sherri Reynolds announced that the next meeting of the Task Force will be held on January 31 from 9:30 to 10:30 at the Landings.

Acute Care System Task Force Update

Ken Alexander gave an update on the availability of forensic beds in the state. There will be an additional 200 beds available with an additional \$16 million being appropriated out of the state budget for this initiative. The legislature will have to deliberate on the proposal for on-going funding of this program. Discussion ensued regarding the qualifications and effectiveness of those individuals who determine competency to stand trial and how that impacts jail admissions vs. state hospital admissions.

Ken provided a summary of the data being provided by the Addictions Receiving Facility (ARF) regarding client numbers and types of addictions. The jail administration has expressed its pleasure with how well the process is going now

that only combative individuals are coming to the jail rather than all Marchman Act detainees. Chip Taylor advised the group that the ARF will soon reach their six month milestone. A report will be provided to the Board of County Commissioners highlighting the impact the ARF has had on the jail, the waiting time of the officers, and the impact on the criminal justice system.

Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership (ECMHP) Update

Pauline Tracy announced the new Project Director, Sheryl Schrepf, will be starting soon and will be coming to the next Consortium meeting. Pauline gave a brief highlight of Sheryl's background. She also introduced Doreen Benson, Communications Coordinator, who will also be attending some of the meetings. The ECMHP has hired 4 Wraparound Coordinators to date. The partnership is starting to enroll more children and families and hopes to have 20 or 21 families ready to be enrolled by the end of January. They have also hired 4 part-time Family Advocates so far and are interviewing for more.

Announcements

Legislation has been introduced to establish a statewide grant program to encourage communities to develop criminal justice projects like those in Sarasota County. The Florida Association of Counties is tracking this legislation and will keep this community posted on its progress.

The Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse will hold a luncheon at The Meadows Country Club on Wednesday, February 7. William Moyers will be speaking at the luncheon on underage drinking and the overall effect of addiction on communities like Sarasota County. Judge Bennett will receive an award for Citizen of the Year at that meeting. Also, several businesses will be recognized for their participation in the drug-free workplace program. Following the luncheon, there will be a community discussion on underage drinking and other issues that impact substance abuse in the community.

Bill Little asked that the Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse be included on all future agendas to provide a regular update for the Consortium.

James Schulz advised the group that Chief Abbott has indicated that they are closing on the sale of the Juvenile Assessment Center property within one week. James will be meeting with Public Works and others on-site to determine what renovations are needed. They hope to open the center in late February. Discussion ensued regarding the funding of renovations and security for the center as well as the status of the renovations taking place at the jail itself.

Kathryn Shea updated the group on the status of the fetal alcohol syndrome clinic. This is becoming a major initiative in Florida with local, state, and national media attention. The legislature will be considering legislation to assist judges to

remand mothers who abuse alcohol to treatment and change the definition of neglect at birth to include children who have prenatal exposure to alcohol or other drugs.

Chip Taylor announced that there will be a follow-up symposium on Medicaid reform in mid-May focusing on health and mental health.

Next Meeting

The next SAMHSC meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, 2nd Floor Auditorium.