

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH STAKEHOLDERS' CONSORTIUM

March 16, 2007

Present:

Rose Chapman	Jewish Family and Children's Service
Anna Day	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Laurie Gable	Coastal Renaissance, Inc.
Thom Glaza	Tri-County Counseling and Life Skills Center
Sally Graham	SCOPE & NAMI
Tobey Hockett	Public Defender's Office
Bob Holm	Department of Children and Families
Rik Jimison	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Curt Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse
Pam Meunier	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Kenneth Nutter	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Bob Piper	First Step of Sarasota
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Sherri Reynolds	Sarasota County School Board
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
April Teamer	Department of Children and Families
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Shelia Zelonis	Severely Emotionally Disturbed Network

Community Alternative Residential Treatment Initiative (CART) Update

- *Phase 1- Addictions Receiving Facility (ARF)* – Bob Piper, First Step of Sarasota, distributed a detailed report highlighting admission statistics and accomplishments at the ARF including Marchman Act training for law enforcement officers. Chip asked that documentation start being collected on the amount of time an officer is required to wait at the ARF when transporting a client. He pointed out that the Board of County Commissioners as well as other stakeholders in the community are interested in that statistic because the reduction in officer time spent as a result of the ARF opening is a key indicator of the success of this service.

Chip pointed out that the number of people transferring directly from the ARF to the VIP-ER Program appears low. Bob advised the group that the VIP-ER Program holds six of the 15 beds for ARF clients. A conversation ensued about whether that procedure should be changed.

- *Phase 2- VIP-ER Program* – Beverly Stockton, a VIP-ER Program Project Management Team (PMT) member, updated the group on the VIP-ER Program. The last class graduated 100% of those enrolled and the program continues to meet all of its outcome measures. The PMT is in the process of developing policies and procedures and they have recently re-structured the operations to be more integrative and coordinated.
- *Phase 3- Transitional Housing Program*– Tobey Hockett updated the group on the Transitional Housing Program. The contracts are still in the County Attorney’s Office awaiting review. The Transitional Housing Committee will be meeting on March 20 to discuss the changing needs of the target population (VIP-ER Program graduates) for this program. Originally, there was a projection that there would be a need for 75 housing units (beds) and this was the basis for which the transitional housing funding proposal was developed. A decision to expand this housing opportunity to non-VIP-ER Program graduates, in need of sober housing, needs to be discussed.

South County Drug Court and Mental Health Court Task Force Update

The Criminal Justice Commission has agreed to create a joint workgroup with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders’ Consortium (Consortium). These two bodies will be appointing representatives to this workgroup. It was pointed out that a space for this expansion will be an issue in South County.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training and the Impact on the Acute Care System

Sally Graham reported that 25 law enforcement officers have registered for the next CIT training to be held the week of March 19. When this class graduates there will be over 200 officers who are CIT trained. Consortium members are encouraged to attend CIT graduation ceremonies to be held at the Law Enforcement Academy at SCTI, March 23 at 3:00.

Sally attended the statewide quarterly CIT Coalition meeting that was held in Orlando recently. Twenty-seven counties are involved in CIT training. Sarasota has been asked to reach out to DeSoto and Charlotte Counties to help them establish a program. The National CIT Conference will be held at the end of August in Memphis.

Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) Update

James Schulz announced that the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) will not be proposing a glitch bill to exempt JACs from the Martin Lee Anderson Act.

The JAC Advisory Board has visited the potential North Port site. They are keeping this open as an option regardless of the long drive to the site. Another option is to lease the facility that DJJ once occupied on Highway 301. However, due to the size, condition of the building, and cost, this is not a good choice. The JAC Advisory Board will be touring the CAIC facility on Fruitville Road this afternoon. This appears to be a better option if the building can be configured to accommodate the program at a reasonable cost. Discussion ensued regarding the need for JAC services in North Port.

Baker Act and Marchman Act Transportation Issues and the Impact on the Acute Care System

The County has a contract with Ambitrans to provide Baker Act/Marchman Act transportation. Rik Jimison has provided training law enforcement on the acute care system and the procedures to follow to access this transportation. Visor cards outlining the process have been provided to officers as a guide for the process.

Children's Committee Update

Kathryn Shea, the chair of the Children's Committee, reported that the committee met on February 27 and was well attended. At that time, Sheryl Schrepf, the Director of the Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health, provided a presentation to the committee about the partnership and the wraparound approach to services.

May is Mental Health Month and May 8 is Children's Mental Health Day. Activities are being planned for that day and will be announced at a later date.

Legislation is being presented in Tallahassee before the Health Quality Committee at a workshop on the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Prevention Act. DCF has noted that this will cost \$15 million to implement statewide. This will make it difficult to get that act passed in the legislature.

Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health Update

Pauline Tracy advised the group that this program has changed its name from the Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership to the Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health (Partnership).

The Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI) is starting to gather data on the Partnership and has produced a report which was distributed. Starting this month, the Consortium will be receiving a monthly status report from the Partnership. Discussion ensued regarding the highlights of the FMHI report.

There is a general training being provided on wraparound coordination for the community and a separate two-day training for providers.

Mental Health Needs in the Schools Task Force Update

Sherri Reynolds indicated that a small group met twice since the last Consortium and determined that each school has different issues and that a survey tool would be developed to gather information from guidance counselors, school nurses, and providers before moving on.

Sherri discussed how the school system is addressing substance abuse issues and school expulsions. She indicated that marijuana is the drug of choice with school children at this time.

Discussion ensued regarding the various grant opportunities that are available for substance abuse. She encouraged agencies to apply for these funds.

Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCoSA) Update

Curt Lavarello, the Executive Director of SCoSA, advised the group that the Shining Stars event took place in mid-February focusing on under-age alcohol consumption. As a result of that meeting a task force was formed to address under-age drinking and the ability to access or obtain alcohol in Sarasota County. That task force will be working with businesses that are charged with selling alcohol to minors to strengthen enforcement. A county ordinance will be proposed to focus on the educational component, requiring the business owners as well as employees to be trained on the issues surrounding under-age drinking.

Announcements

The North Port CHAT representative, Dan Schwendeman, provided an update to the Consortium on the activities taking place in North Port and their progress towards developing an integrated system of care in their community.

He also expressed his community's concerns about the JAC location and the fact that North Port children are not being picked up and dealt with because of the distance required to provide an assessment. The North Port community does not understand why the JAC Advisory Board is not considering the North Port location. Sherri Reynolds recommended that the North Port CHAT group get involved with the JAC Advisory Board to have a North Port voice. Thom Glaza said he would represent North Port on that advisory board.

Bill Little asked that the North Port CHAT group provide a monthly update to the Consortium.

Next Meeting

The April 20 Consortium was cancelled to allow for full participation in the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness Strategic Planning, the same day and time.