

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

**August 19, 2005**

## **Meeting Summary**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ken Alexander	Bayside Center for Behavioral Healthcare
Dennis Berry	Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (CFBHN)
Rose Chapman	Jewish Family and Children's Services
Phyllis Cobb	Sarasota Memorial Hospital Board
Scott Eller	Renaissance Manor
Cathy Emmett	Senior Friendship Centers
Sally Graham	SCOPE
Tobey Hockett	Office of the Public Defender
Bob Holm	DCF—SunCoast Region
Cheryl LaFlame	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Bob Piper	First Step of Sarasota
Mike Schneiderman	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Kathryn Shea	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Heather Sniffin	DCF—SunCoast Region
John Swencki	First Step of Sarasota
Jessica Ventimiglia	Mental Health Community Centers

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Nancy DeLoach	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
James Schulz	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Michael Theall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Bill Little welcomed the members and introductions were made.

***A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the meeting summary of the July 22 meeting.***

## **Planning Committee**

Michael Theall reported that the Planning Committee met on August 16 and reviewed the current copy of the Matrix of Services. Members were encouraged to send updates to Michael so that the information in the Matrix is correct. The next step will be to develop a community strategic plan, including a gap analysis of services, which DCF will include in their next update of their regional strategic plan. The strategic plan for Sarasota County will include information gathered from the SCOPE Mental Health Report and the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) Project.

Bill Little added that it is critical to incorporate the local plan into the DCF regional plan. A template has been received from DCF to ensure the local information is being collected in a format that can easily be shared. The original Matrix was developed utilizing the same categories for services that DCF uses in its planning process. Bill further urged that timing is important and that we may need to meet more often depending on the deadline to include our information in the DCF plan. Debbie Spellman promised to provide information to the Consortium on the timeframe for development of the DCF plan.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be on September 27 at 1:00 p.m. at the Sarasota County Health Department in the second floor auditorium.

## **Acute Care System Task Force**

Bill Little reported that the Acute Care System Task Force met on August 17 and identified key areas of focus within the Acute Care System which will need to be addressed: coordination of the Baker Act and Marchman Act receiving facilities; expansion of the VIP Program; issues related to overcrowding in the CSU; and improving the assessment process for the CSU. The committee will meet again on August 31 at 9:00 a.m. at the Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Blvd., in Room 2063.

Major Kevin Gooding commented that when the Consortium was initially formed, he was not optimistic regarding the prospects of improving the system; however, after seeing the work that has been accomplished since that time, he is feeling much better about the process. Bill added that an atmosphere has been established where open dialogue can occur to benefit the system as a whole. It was noted that Major Gooding will be leaving the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office soon and the Consortium will miss his participation and input.

Michael Theall added that Consortium members will receive a spreadsheet summarizing the issues to be addressed by the Acute Care System Task Force the week of August 22.

## **Community Alternative Residential Treatment (CART) Initiative**

Bob Piper reported that the five partnering agencies have nominated the following representatives to the VIP Program project management team:

- Bob Piper, First Step of Sarasota
- Pauline MacDonald, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
- Phil Gorelick, Jewish Family and Children's Services
- Beverly Stockton, Suncoast Workforce Board
- Bryan Pope, Salvation Army

Meetings of the management team are being held on a weekly basis and a timeline leading to implementation of the program on October 1 has been developed. John Swencki, Beverly Stockton and First Step's attorney are working on drafting the bylaws. First Step is applying to DCF for day treatment licensure and is starting to work on staffing issues. There appears to be adequate space at the Salvation Army for the expanded VIP program, although there is some concern about being able to find sufficient qualified substance abuse counselors.

The management team has encountered some logistical and timing issues due to the implementation of Phase 2 (VIP Program expansion) prior to Phase 1 (Secure Adult Addictions Receiving Facility). Bob thanked Bill Little for the Health Department's role in assisting the program with securing medical clearances for clients being admitted. It has been determined that assessments will need to be completed differently than originally planned. All in all, the management team is working diligently and there is a good feeling of cooperation among all the members.

First Step has selected Elaine Charyn to be the Director of the Secure Adult Addictions Receiving Facility and she comes with a wealth of experience.

## **Early Childhood Mental Health Project**

Kathryn Shea reported that the SAMHSA grant award should be announced soon, and everyone is keeping their fingers crossed. She noted that Sarasota will be hosting the Infant Mental Health Statewide Conference next year. One day will be devoted to fetal alcohol syndrome issues and two days to infant mental health. They are working to get Stanley Greenspan as a presenter. Last year over 400 people participated in the three-day conference.

The funding for the fetal alcohol diagnostic center has been received and assessments are being conducted on some adults, but the focus is on children 0-8 years of age. DOH has confirmed that the current funding amount of \$280,000

is also included in the FY 2006-2007 budget and next year's budget will include money to develop a statewide network, with The Florida Center as the lead agency.

### **Baker Act Transportation Exception Plan**

Chip Taylor reported that the Baker Act Transportation Exception Plan (TEP) has been approved by the Board of County Commissioners and signed by the Secretary of DCF. This will mean that rather than transporting minors who are detained for observation under the Baker Act to the nearest receiving facility (which may be in Punta Gorda for south County residents), they will instead be transported to the CSU at Coastal, which will provide greater continuity of treatment. Sarasota was one of the few counties that did not already have a TEP. This will mostly affect the communities of North Port and Englewood. The committee thanked Christine Cauffield, who was very instrumental in securing support from the City of North Port and its police department.

### **FMHI Evaluation of VIP Program**

Discussions are underway with FMHI for the evaluation component of the expanded VIP Program. The County wants to make sure that the program is meeting the needs of the community and produces successful outcomes. FMHI will be assigning a researcher to the project and will submit a prospectus that will evaluate the following:

- Program effectiveness
- The impact the program is making on people's lives
- Efficacy of the collaborative governance structure

### **New Business**

Sally Graham reported that John McCafferty, a reporter with the *Venice Gondolier*, contacted NAMI and has conducted some interviews but would like to interview more people for Mental Health Awareness Week. A recommendation was made that he contact Kathryn Shea and Christine Cauffield. Concerns were raised regarding how some reporters, while well-intentioned, sometimes have trouble getting information correct due to their unfamiliarity with the complex subject of mental health.

Scott Eller raised some questions regarding Phase 3 of the CART Initiative and what progress has been made. It was reported that individuals have been researching options for this phase, but no decisions have been made. Bill Little noted that Tobey Hockett is chairing the Transitional Living Committee that is

looking at housing issues and options that are available. The Stakeholders' Consortium, the Criminal Justice Commission, and the Sarasota Partnership to End Homelessness will be approaching the Sarasota City Commission next month with regard to transitional and affordable housing. Hopefully, this will lead to a workshop later this year.

Scott further wanted to include discussion related to those issues surrounding co-occurring disorders and housing for persons with chronic mental illness that would include both transitional and long-term housing. He stated that he would like to be involved in those discussions due to some of the successes his organization has had in Lee County.

### **Upcoming Committee Meetings**

***Acute Care System Task Force, August 31 at 9:00 a.m., Sarasota County Health Department, Room 2063***

***Transitional Living Committee, September 13 at 1:00 p.m., Sarasota County Health Department, Room 2063***

***Planning Committee, September 27 at 1:00 p.m., Sarasota County Health Department, Auditorium***

***Stakeholders' Consortium, October 21 at 9:00 a.m., Sarasota County Health Department, Auditorium***