

**COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY**

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

**November 18, 2005**

**Meeting Summary**

Present:

Ken Alexander  
Meg Engeten  
Rose Chapman  
Debbie Dunn  
Michael Theall  
Chip Taylor  
Bill Little  
Kelly Lewin  
Bob Piper  
Charlotte Dixon  
Mindy Yarling  
Tobey Hockett

Hillary Bardwell  
Pam Meunier  
Barbara Kopp  
Catherine Clouse  
Pauline Tracy  
John Swencki  
Maria Garcia-Casellas  
Dee Bahan  
Noel Aten  
Dianne Yeglic  
James Byrom

**Early Childhood Mental Health Grant Update**

Chip Taylor advised the group that activities to initiate work as a result of receiving the multi-year grant from SAMHSA are underway. The paperwork to establish the key positions on the Administrative Team as career service state employees with the Health Department is being processed. The advertisements for the positions will be out within the next two weeks. The search is ongoing for an appropriate location to house the staff when they come on-board. The Clinical Director position will be located at the Florida Center, since they are coordinating that piece of the program.

Debbie Dunn provided the details of the grant and the activities taking place at the Florida Center to begin providing services as soon as possible. The evaluation component will be handled by the Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida. FMHI has experience in evaluating other SAMHSA system-of-care projects.

**University of South Florida – Dept. of Rehabilitation and Mental Health  
Counseling**

Charlotte Dixon described the program being offered at USF's Sarasota Campus in response to the need in this area for mental health and rehabilitation

practitioners. USF has made it possible for individuals to receive their degree by taking courses only at the Sarasota Campus, rather than having to travel to Tampa. Students from this program will work in the community as counselors, community-based mental health and substance abuse service providers, and marriage and family therapists.

Ms. Dixon provided information to the Consortium members regarding the admissions criteria, student support services, etc. Her aim in this presentation was to recruit students, but also to identify agencies where students may complete their practicum.

### **Planning Committee Update**

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be on December 13 at 9:00 a.m. The committee will be continuing the data collection for the gap analysis, particularly as it relates to the SCOPE Report and the DCF Regional Business Plan. The committee has graded the gap analysis using a color code to allow comparison with other communities. The aim is to develop a strategic plan for Sarasota County. SCOPE has agreed to hold “conversations” in the community to assist in the development of the plan. Catherine Clouse provided details to the Consortium and received input regarding how the meetings should be handled. Extensive discussion ensued regarding how best to design the format of these meetings.

Michael Theall asked for volunteers to moderate the first session on December 6. SCOPE will provide training for the volunteers before the session begins. The aim is to get these conversations completed by January 31, 2006. Contact Catherine at SCOPE if you are interested in volunteering.

Chip Taylor asked that the Planning Committee move the date of their next meeting up to the week after Thanksgiving in order to begin planning and training for the sessions.

### **CART Update - Marchman Act Facility**

John Swencki advised the group that the construction contract with the county for the renovation of the Marchman Act facility has been approved and work has begun to get quotes from contractors to perform the renovations. The facility will hold 34 beds instead of the 30 originally projected. The total cost of the project will be around \$700,000. Funding is in place for all but about \$30-40,000 of the total cost.

### **CART Update - Expanded VIP-ER Program**

Bob Piper provided an update on the expanded VIP-ER Program. The first class of 15 participants will graduate on December 8, 2005. They are being housed

right now at the Salvation Army. Jewish Family and Children's Services is providing counseling. JOBS Etc. is working with the participants to find them stable jobs. Phases I and III of the program are still in the planning stages.

### **CART Update - Transitional Living**

Tobey Hockett described the program. The Office of Housing and Community Development has issued an RFP to award \$750,000 in CSBG/SHIP funds to develop transitional housing as Phase 3 of the CART Initiative.

### **Mission Unity, Inc.**

The program was founded on May 6, 2002 in Charlotte County and is designed to provide post-treatment housing to those who are affected by alcohol and drug abuse. The program takes people from all over the country. No one is turned away. They charge a base rate of \$160 per week providing food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and transportation. A sliding fee scale is available for the handicapped.

The next meeting of the Acute Care Task Force will be December 20 at 9:00 a.m.

The next SAMHC meeting will be announced at a later date.