

**COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY**

**Community Disaster Preparedness Committee**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**April 15, 2005**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota, Chair
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Cathy Emmett	Senior Friendship Centers
Dennis Stover	Volunteer Connections
Bill Newell (for Bryan Pope)	Salvation Army—Sarasota Corps
Dr. Carrie Springer	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
Christie Lewis (for Stewart Stearns)	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Chris Stewart	First Step of Sarasota
Lois Natiello	DCF—Suncoast Region
Alberto Suarez	United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota
Rev. Dr. Tom Pfaff	Goodwill Industries
Dr. Kay Glasser	Human Services Advisory Council
Miriam Lacher	Bayside Center – Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Linda Wagner	Hospice of Southwest Florida
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Mike Bigner	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Mark Porter (for Lee Johnson)	Sarasota Family YMCA
Phil Gorelick	Jewish Family and Children’s Services

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Kim Kutch	DCF—Suncoast Region
Bob Berns	Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters
Inaki Rezola	American Red Cross
Aleda Kleckauskas	Hospice of Southwest Florida

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ron Grognet	American Red Cross – Volunteer
Marion Sortore	Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church
David J. Stone	Pastor, First Brethren Church

## STAFF PRESENT:

Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Jeanne Hodaian	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Cher McGuirk	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Michael Theall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Jamie Mahadeo	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

The Community Alliance's Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (**CDPC**) held its third meeting on April 15, 2005 at the Sarasota County Health and Human Services Business Center (2200 Ringling Blvd) at 8:30 a.m. Alex Young, Committee Chair, welcomed the members, introductions were made, and Alex reviewed the meeting agenda and expected outcomes (decision on short-term Committee goals, formation of relevant subcommittees and introduction to a Model Disaster Plan).

### Presentations

The two presentations focused on CDPC goals and subcommittees to facilitate work toward achieving those goals.

- 1) Jeanne Hodaian presented Committee-specific goals for consideration by the CDPC members: three short-term goals and two longer-term goals. The goals focus on planning outcomes for the next 2-4 months and a longer-term view of the Committee's role in promoting preparedness planning at the community level.
- 2) Jeanne proposed the formation of four initial subcommittees to address the most vulnerable population groups and the larger issue of volunteer coordination. The four subcommittees are *Mental Health/Substance Abuse, Elder Care, Youth and Families At Risk, and Volunteer Coordination*. The proposed subcommittees reflect proposed subcommittee ideas from previous meetings. As a part of the presentation, the group was asked to identify agencies to participate in the subcommittees, and Jeanne provided an initial list of immediate subcommittee tasks. Refer to the discussion section below for more details.

Note: The third agenda topic – Introduction to the Disaster Plan Model – was not presented due to time constraints. The Model Plan will be presented at the next meeting.

### Discussion

During the presentation of CDPC goals, the general discussion centered on the 3<sup>rd</sup> short-term goal linking volunteer coordination and database systems for coordination. The general consensus was to divide this goal into two separate goals – one goal

focusing on developing a countywide system for volunteer coordination, and the next focusing on identifying and promoting a database system(s) to facilitate the coordination of available community resources/assets, with particular reference to disaster response and long-term recovery resource needs. In addition, the second longer-term goal -- *to promote the adoption of standardized disaster plans among targeted human service agencies*—required wording changes, emphasizing that the standardized plan refers to an external inter-agency plan to address cross-agency coordination and communication procedures rather than a change to existing agency’s internal disaster plans. Jeanne will make changes to the goals as per requested.

*Subcommittee Formation:* The purpose of the subcommittees is to facilitate the achievement of the short-term CDPC goals, with an eye to the long-term initiative implementation. As previously noted, the four initial subcommittees are Mental Health/Substance Abuse, Elder Care, Youth and Families At Risk, and Volunteer Coordination.

The Elder Care subcommittee will address issues faced by vulnerable elderly who are “out in the community” rather than those affiliated with a particular program or agency. It was decided that the Volunteer Coordination subcommittee will address both affiliated and unaffiliated volunteer issues. Originally, Jeanne presented this as a subcommittee to look only at affiliated volunteers. The definition of “at-risk youth and families” was a topic of some discussion. A few individuals stated the desire to see undocumented families and homeless persons and different cultural/ethnic groups considered for discussion within this subcommittee. It was decided that we will focus on DCF families for the present, as many of those subsets fit within the DCF client base. It also was agreed that a broader interpretation of “at-risk youth and families” will be considered in the future as warranted.

*Subcommittee Composition:* The following agencies were proposed and/or volunteered to participate on the subcommittees:

- 1) Mental Health/Substance Abuse: Bayside Center-Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., First Step of Sarasota, Hospice of Southwest Florida, Jewish Family and Children’s Services (JFCS), the Department of Children and Families (DCF-Suncoast Region) and Sarasota County Health and Human Services (SCHHSBC).
- 2) Elder Care: Senior Friendship Centers. Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA), SCHHSC, Hospice of Southwest Florida, JFCS, DCF, and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).
- 3) Youth and Families At Risk: YMCA of Sarasota, DCF, JFCS, Children’s Medical Services, Glasser/Shoenbaum Human Services Center, and the Hispanic Latino Coalition also was proposed for consideration to participate.

- 4) Volunteer Coordination: Volunteer Connections, The Salvation Army, Goodwill Industries, SCHHSBC, faith-based organizations (such as JFCS, the First Brethren, United Methodist and Catholic Charities), United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota, DCF, American Red Cross, and Sarasota County's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) representative. Not mentioned was the local VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters), but the VOAD Coordinator is an invited committee member and will have an opportunity to participate on this subcommittee.

*Subcommittee Tasks:* Jeanne suggested some immediate tasks for these subcommittees. Bill Little suggested some revisions to the proposed tasks. In general, initial subcommittee tasks will center on identifying the core areas requiring or benefiting from coordination and communication between agencies that serve targeted vulnerable populations and volunteer coordination enhancements. Jeanne will make revisions to the initial tasks and send these to the designated subcommittee Chairs.

Marion Sortore wanted to include a public information component to the planning. Bill Little stated that the public information should be coming from the county level, using a *Unified Approach* for information dissemination as outlined in the EOC/ICS system. It was decided that the Sarasota County Health and Human Services Public Information Officer (Dianne Shipley) would be invited to participate.

## **Announcements**

Christie Lewis (Nonprofit Resource Center) reminded members about the *Behavioral Health Awareness Training (BHAT) for Terrorism and Disasters* being offered by the University of Miami's Disaster Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness (DEEP) Center. This awareness-level training will be held Monday, May 16, 2005 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road, Sarasota. Christie encouraged interested individuals to register by May 10<sup>th</sup> at the latest or sign up at the end of the meeting with Pauline Tracy. Christie also announced another training opportunity being provided at the Community Foundation of Sarasota on May 13 – *Compassion Fatigue and the Traumatic Stress Response Training*. For information about this training contact Christie Lewis (556-7102) or check out the training information on the Nonprofit Resource Center website: [www.suncoastnonprofits.org](http://www.suncoastnonprofits.org).

Alberto Suarez provided members with a copy of the United Way 2-1-1 report "*Trial by Wind and Water: How 2-1-1 Played a Vital Role During the 2004 Florida Hurricanes.*" Participants were encouraged to review this and familiarize themselves with the scope of the 2-1-1 system here in Sarasota and throughout Florida.

## **Next Steps**

The proposed subcommittees will strive to meet at least once before the April 29<sup>th</sup> CDPC meeting and subcommittee Chairs will report on activities.

SCHHSBC's Emergency Planning Consultant will present the proposed Disaster Plan Model – Base Plan and Annex formats. The Model Plan is proposed for consideration in designing standardized plan, with special reference to preparing inter-agency of coordination and communication procedures

Review planned activities to be accomplished by Committee and Subcommittees by June and by August of 2005.

***NEXT MEETING: April 29, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road, Sarasota 34237***