

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

**Sarasota County School Board Chambers
1980 Landings Boulevard**

October 20, 2008

Meeting Summary

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Sarah Hickey	Vocational Interagency Council
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development (for Kathryn Shea)
Lynne Johnston	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Mary Koctur	Catholic Charities (for Dr. Tam Sicard)
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Chief Terry Lewis	City of North Port
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Mark Porter	Sarasota Family YMCA
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Sherri Reynolds	School Health Advisory Council
Bill Siedlecki	Department of Juvenile Justice (for Ginny Donovan)
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Beverly Stockton	SunCoast Workforce Board
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Diane Andrews	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
Cathy Duquette	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

Carolyn Eagen
Richard Martin
Alberto Suarez
Capt. Paul Sutton
Anita Tambay
Marjorie Tick
Karen Wilkinson
Caroline Zucker

Mental Health Community Centers
Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Manasota 2-1-1
City of Sarasota
Hispanic Latino Coalition
NAACP
CHIP
School Board of Sarasota County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Crystal Aguilera
Judith Bell
Daneen Clarke
Jamil Collins
James E. Duplantier
Phil Gorelick
Wendy Hopkins
Tonia Hutchinson
Katie Knight
Lisa Lassman
Ed McBride
Susan Magers
Nicole Martin
Felicia Patterson
Richard Sassone
Ryan Stoyles
Britt Townsend
Carl Weinrich
Ron Weismen

United Way of Sarasota County
Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Family Preservation Services
Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Friendship Volunteer Center
Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Family Preservation Services / Safe Children Coalition
United Way of Sarasota County
Family Preservation Services
YMCA/Safe Children Coalition
Sarasota County School Board
Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Youth and Family Alternative SCC
United Way of Sarasota County
Community Haven
The Salvation Army
Sarasota Family YMCA
Private Consultant

STAFF PRESENT:

Wayne Applebee
Nancy DeLoach
Kathleen Marie Hall
Jamie Mahadeo
Pam Meunier
Chip Taylor
Pauline Tracy

Sarasota County Health and Human Services
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Welcome and Introductions

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on October 20, 2008 at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Boulevard, at 1:30 p.m.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Sarasota COAD

Stewart Stearns reported that the Sarasota COAD met on October 13 and gave a [presentation](#) on the Long-term Recovery Operational Plan to the members. The plan can be found on the

Community Alliance website (www.sarasotaallinace.net). A [proposed nomination listing](#) of officers and the Leadership Team members was given to the members to review and were asked to forward any additional names to staff prior to the next meeting. The nominees will be finalized at the next meeting and voted upon. The next steps will be to delve into the process of connecting the Long-term Recovery Plan with IDEAS.

Developmental Disabilities

Susan Magers reported that the Developmental Disabilities Work Group has approved the officers of the work group as follows:

- Susan Magers, Chair
- Ryan Stoyles and Kameron Partridge – Vice-Chairs

The work group is currently focusing on the development of by-laws along with creating a community plan to address the recent SCAT Plus policy change, conducting an aftercare needs survey, and continuing conversations on respite care services and advocacy efforts in the community.

Bill Little commented that the recent SCAT Policy change in services is a good example of the real benefit of the Community Alliance. The work group collaboratively focused on how to identify a different approach on transportation for the disadvantaged and has begun a systems conversation on the importance of the transportation's delivery system. Bill noted that there may be additional impacts on other agencies around the table that should be involved in the conversation and asked those members to contact Susan for information on the next meeting.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Bill Little reported that there was a Substance Abuse and Mental Health [report](#) in the members' packets for review. Bill commented on several items in the report:

- Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health recently held a retreat focusing on operational issues, governance structure, accountability, and service delivery. Bill noted that this retreat gave the members direction and a strong sense of community commitment. A report will be forthcoming.
- The October 17 Consortium meeting was facilitated by Shelley Robertson to assist in identifying where the group has been, where they have been successful, and where the group will go in the future. A summary report will be forthcoming.

Wayne Applebee gave an update on the Criminal Justice Commission's plan to expand capacity for Sarasota County's current detention needs to the year 2030. Wayne noted that there will be a presentation given to the Board of County Commissioners on October 29 as an update on the detention planning progress. Various groups have been meeting to identify recommendations to improve the criminal justice system along with researching best practices around the country to develop a non-secure community correction center. The Commission will recommend beginning the implementation of the project through a prototype community corrections center by 2010. If approved, this center will have a capacity of a 100 beds in either a current leased spaced or a new space. Once the center is in place, the next step will be to expand to long-term detention beds, additional community correction beds, and security detention beds. The Jail Site Criteria Development Staff Work Group (Health & Human Services, Sheriff's Office, Planning & Development Services, Office of Fiscal Planning, Community Services, Public Work - Facilities Construction, Public Works - Transportation

Planning, Environmental Services, SCAT and GIS) is currently working on the site criteria to support the mission of the detention planning.

Presentation of ESS Collaboration Work Group

Tom Pfaff and members of the ESS Collaboration Work Group gave a PowerPoint [presentation](#) to the Community Alliance on the need for additional case management services in Sarasota County due to the overwhelming increase in emergency financial assistance and services. The work group's recommendation is to expand the existing case management services, financial assistance, and supportive services that are already in place through The Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, and Jewish Families and Children's Services by increasing the funding levels. Tom asked the Community Alliance to support this endeavor along with giving the work group direction and guidance.

A discussion ensued on the presentation including all aspects of case management, the short-term and long-term needs, examples of times when the plan does not work, 2-1-1 referrals, and the fact that the Community Alliance is not a funding entity. Members suggested that the next step should be to identify who will take the lead on this collaborative initiative and how to bring it into operation. Tom stated that the work group will meet over the next month to identify the operational costs and who should oversee the case management. Alex Young stated that the questions that should be addressed are:

- Is the ESS Collaboration Work Group going to identify particular funding sources to direct funding to agencies?
- Will it be a collaborative funding process?
- Who is going to be accountable in the process?

Legislative Proposals

Elliott Metcalfe reported that the listing of the [2009 Legislative Proposals](#) was in the members' packets for review as follows:

1. Addressing the inability of the physically-challenged to visit neighbors and socialize normally despite disability, and the inability of all to "age in place"
2. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)
3. Inadequate housing for low-income retirees
4. Increase or maintain funding for key services targeting older adults, particularly frail older adults
5. Juvenile Assessment Center Funding
6. Mothers & Infants Program
7. Nonrecurring funding for Sarasota County services
8. Potential of cuts to Human Services
9. Protect existing and increase older adult transportation funding, particularly for low-income older adults
10. Proposal to add \$1.00 per pack tax to cigarettes
11. Revise Section 617.0802, Florida Statutes "Qualifications of Directors"

Stanley Godleski moved, Stewart Stearns seconded for the Community Alliance to support the above eleven 2009 Legislative Proposals on behalf of the Community Alliance. The motion passed unanimously.

Elliott suggested that the above proposals not be prioritized this year. Elliott noted that the proposals will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on December 10 to request their support. Steve Queior suggested that next year there should be some type of mechanism to prioritize the proposals by using a scoring/point system. It was also suggested that the Community Alliance should only have one item per category.

2009 Nomination of Officers

Sherri Reynolds reported that the Nominating and Membership Committee will schedule a meeting soon to discuss and nominate candidates for the vacant Chair position, a vacant Executive Committee seat and several Steering Committee seats. Sherri announced that if anyone was interested in volunteering for one of the vacant seats to please contact Pauline Tracy.

New Business

Rose Chapman announced that Jewish Family and Children's Services will hold their annual conference for mental health and substance abuse professionals on January 30, 2009 at the Sarasota Hotel and Marina. The title of this year's conference is "Pathways to Change: Collaborative Strengths-based Brief Family Therapy with Difficult Adolescents."

Janet Kahn announced that the Early Learning Coalition's "2008 Report to the Community" is available on the table in the lobby.

Ed McBride announced that the Family Safety Alliance is a new stakeholder group that has been formed to set policy and provide operational oversight and guidance for the Safe Children Coalition. The Family Safety Alliance met recently and addressed the initiative of obtaining funding for a Systems Advocate position. Ed explained that tentative funding has been received from Manatee County and are waiting on confirmation from Sarasota County on matching funds for this position. This position will work very closely with the Safe Children Coalition in a systems advocacy role to identify gaps in the system. Ed stated that the Alliance is currently facing approximately 1 million in budget cuts, has eliminated positions, and will be discussing a system redesign to absorb the budget cuts.

Karen Bogues reminded the members that this would be Peter Howard's last meeting with the Community Alliance as he is retiring from The Florida Center. Members thanked Peter for his service on the Community Alliance and wished him well in his new endeavors.

Curt Lavarello announced that there will be a retirement gathering on October 21 for Sheriff Balkwill and Commissioner Paul Mercier at the Meadows Country Club. Tickets are \$75.

Stewart Stearns announced that Elliott Metcalfe will be honored on Thursday, October 23 at Michael's on East.

Public Comment

None

Next meeting: November 17, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., at the Health and Human Services, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, Conference Room 226