

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Health and Human Services, 2200 Ringling Blvd, Room 226

November 16, 2009

Meeting Summary

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
P. J. Brooks	Juvenile Justice Council and First Step of Sarasota (for Dave Beesley)
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Fedora Ford-Kendricks	SunCoast Workforce Board (for Leslie Loveless)
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Chief Terry Lewis	City of North Port
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Charles Mead	Twelfth Judicial Circuit (for Alana Monge)
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Sherri Reynolds	School Health Advisory Council
Kathryn Shea	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Tammy Short	City of Venice (for John Reed)
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Ryan Stoyles	Community Haven
Jessica Ventimiglia	Manasota 2-1-1
Karen Wilkinson	CHIP
Caroline Zucker	School Board of Sarasota County

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Humberto Alvia	St. Jude's Hispanic Center
Judi Bell	Nonprofit Resource Center
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Larry Eger	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Amy Farrington	Young Professionals Group
Keliy Fordham	STAR Representative
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Sarah Hickey	Vocational Interagency Council

Jennifer Highland	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Dale Lux	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Richard Martin	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Laura McIntyre	Family Safety Alliance
Sarah Pappas	Selby Foundation
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Bill Russell	Sarasota Housing Authority
Dr. Tam Sicard	Catholic Charities
Brena Slater	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Capt. Paul Sutton	City of Sarasota
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Erin Bartholomew-Cook	VISTA - Friendship Volunteer Center
Vicki Copeland	VISTA - Senior Friendship Centers
Pamela Deneweth	AmeriCorps - Senior Friendship Centers
James Duplantier	Friendship Volunteer Center
Donna Evans	Goodwill Manasota
Sandra W. Figueroa	VISTA - Friendship Volunteer Center at Goodwill
Lena Heath	VISTA - Keep Sarasota Beautiful
Sid Holtzer	VISTA - Friendship Volunteer Center
Phyllis Kirtley	VISTA - Friendship Volunteer Center
Cheryl Leonard-Buich	VISTA – Laurel Civic Association
John Lewis	VISTA Volunteer – Families Against Addictive Drug Abuse
John B. Malcomb	Sarasota YMCA
Ed McBride	Safe Children Coalition
Katie Pernicone	AmeriCorps Director - Friendship Volunteer Center
Susan Scott	Sarasota County Government
Janice Williams	AmeriCorps – Senior Friendship Centers
Pam Wilson	RSVP Manager for Friendship Volunteer Center
Earl Young	Americorps VISTA (Friendship Volunteer Center and Nonprofit Resource Center)
Steven Zaborski	VISTA – Senior Friendship Centers

STAFF PRESENT:

Nancy DeLoach	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Kathleen Marie Hall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pam Meunier	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Welcome and Introductions

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on November 16, 2009 at the Health and Human Services Building, 2200 Ringling Boulevard at 1:30 p.m.

VISTA and AmeriCorps Recognition

Dennis Stover gave a PowerPoint presentation on the [VISTA and AmeriCorps Volunteer Program](#) that currently has 52 participants throughout Sarasota County. It was noted that the Senior Friendship Centers also hosts a member for Lee, Putnam and Leon Counties. James Duplantier stated that Sarasota County is seeking to increase the number of members by requesting additional agencies to seek VISTA/AmeriCorps members. Sarasota County has the largest local VISTA/AmeriCorps site in the state of Florida with approximately 12 agencies on the wait-list to receive a volunteer. Each member in attendance gave an account of the agency they serve and their current assignment.

The National Civil Community Corps (NCCC) consists of VISTA and AmeriCorps members that assist with disasters all over the country. There are five locations throughout the country with Vicksburg, Mississippi as the newest location. It was noted that in the event of a disaster, Sarasota County and surrounding counties will have an opportunity to request additional members from NCCC. The Community Alliance members thanked the VISTA/AmeriCorps volunteers for serving in Sarasota County. Tom Pfaff mentioned that the Senior Friendship Center and Friendship Volunteer Center provide Goodwill Industries with six VISTA members to oversee the community educational program, "Good Neighbor". This program offers free classes (Spanish, computers, cooking, crafts, etc.) in four locations throughout Sarasota County.

Community-Wide Senior Needs Assessment

Rose Chapman reported that Sarasota County needs to conduct a community-wide senior needs and resource assessment, as the last such assessment was completed in 2001. This type of assessment could assist in receiving funding from various sources in the future. A discussion ensued on senior services and redirecting services to address critical senior needs.

Rose volunteered to co-chair the work group with Bob Carter and invited members to join by contacting Pauline Tracy at 861-2561 or Pauline_Tracy@doh.state.fl.us. It was noted that the target for completion of the assessment is the first quarter of 2010.

Tom Pfaff moved, Jessica Ventimiglia seconded to approve the completion of a Sarasota County community-wide senior needs and resource assessment. The motion passed unanimously.

Meetings with the Sarasota Legislative Delegation

Caroline Zucker stated that there was a copy of the meeting invite [letter](#) sent to Representative Doug Holder in the members' packets for review. All local representatives were sent a copy of the letter as well. Caroline stated that she will follow-up with the delegation on a meeting date.

"Hope for Homeowners" Community Seminar Update

Pauline Tracy announced that the next "Hope for Homeowners" Community Seminar will be held on Saturday, December 5 at Heron Creek Middle School in North Port. A copy of the [flyer](#) was in the members' packets for review and distribution.

Committee Updates

Sarasota COAD

Stewart Stearns reported that the November meeting was productive with presentations by Mike Drennon on a H1N1 update and Larry Allen from "Project Hope" (provides mental health services during a disaster). A decision was made to review the organizational structure of COAD at an Executive Committee meeting in December. The committee will brainstorm on roles, the level of responsibility, and community awareness on COAD's mission and purpose. Stewart reminded members to review the website (www.sarasotacoad.org) for further information and announced that hurricane season will end on November 30.

Developmental Disabilities Committee

Ryan Stoyles reported that Jessica Ventimiglia made a presentation on Manasota 2-1-1 and the available resources in the community at the last meeting. A letter was sent to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the Board's decision not to fund respite services for persons with developmental disabilities in 2010 and supporting the need for adequate services in the community.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Bill Little reported that there was a [summary](#) in the members' packets for review. Pam Meunier gave an update on the Transportation Exception Plan (TEP) that realigns the transportation system in order to keep the public safe and law enforcement on the street. Nancy DeLoach gave an update on the CART Initiative changes that have reduced the cost of the project by \$140,000 while at the same time adding several enhancements to the program. It was mentioned that a federal SAMHSA grant opportunity has been opened with only twelve \$400,000 slots available nationally over a three-year period. The grant will enhance or increase community-based substance abuse treatment to embrace a system of care. A work group has identified six to eight areas that could utilize the funding. The deadline for applications is mid-January 2010.

New Business

December 21 Steering Committee Cancellation

Sherri Reynolds announced that the December 21 Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting has been canceled. It was noted that the January and February Steering Committee meetings will be held the fourth Monday of those months due to holidays that fall on the third Monday. Both meetings will be held at the Sarasota County School Board chambers.

USF-Sarasota School of Social Work Update

Rose Chapman announced that the University of South Florida (USF) has made a decision to close their satellite program in Sarasota, Lakeland, and St. Petersburg due to the cost of the accreditation. As a result, the BSW/MSW program will no longer be offered in Sarasota and will cause a huge impact on the availability of trained social workers in this community. Rose suggested that the Community Alliance write a letter to Dr. Arthur Guilford at USF Sarasota-Manatee expressing its concerns and encouraging the school to seek the accreditation for BSW/MSW program.

Kay Glasser moved, Stewart Stearns seconded to approve a letter to Dr. Arthur Guilford at USF Sarasota-Manatee to promote the continuation of the BSW/MSW program in Sarasota County. The motion passed unanimously.

It was also suggested to include the Community Alliance Steering Committee roster with the letter.

Announcements

Tom Pfaff invited members to a free Thanksgiving event at the First Presbyterian Church on November 25 for lunch and entertainment. Tom encouraged that caregivers of the health and human service agencies to attend the free event as well.

Pauline Tracy announced that the schedule for the [upcoming meetings](#) can be found on either the Community Alliance website (www.sarasotaalliance.net) under "Meeting Schedule" or on the Sarasota County website (www.scgov.net) under "Calendar of Events".

Curt Lavarello thanked everyone who assisted with the first "Candlelight Vigil" to honor those who have lost a loved one to substance abuse. The event was held in North Port with 130 persons in attendance. A special thank you went out to Chief Terry Lewis and the North Port Police Department for their participation. Curt announced that the annual "Shining Stars" event will be held on March 18, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency in Sarasota. The tentative speakers for the event will be Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske and the former Secretary of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Dr. Anthony J. Schembri.

Public Comment

None

The next Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 25 at 1:30 pm, Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.