

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Health and Human Services, 2200 Ringling Blvd.

December 15, 2008

Meeting Summary

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Sarah Hickey	Vocational Interagency Council
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Chief Terry Lewis	City of North Port
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Leslie Loveless	SunCoast Workforce Board
Richard Martin	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
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
Sherri Reynolds	School Health Advisory Council
Tammy Short	City of Venice (for Chief John Reed)
Brena Slater	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Karen Wilkinson	CHIP
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
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Sandy Gallagher	Catholic Charities
Jennifer Highland	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)

Dale Lux	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Alana Monge	Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Diana Olivieri	St. Jude's Hispanic Center
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Kathryn Shea	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Capt. Paul Sutton	City of Sarasota
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Marjorie Tick	NAACP
Caroline Zucker	School Board of Sarasota County

OTHERS PRESENT:

P. J. Brooks	First Step of Sarasota
Kevin Dewitt	YMCA
Larry Eger	Public Defender's Office
Kevin McKenney	Safe Children Coalition
Jon McKenzie	IDEAS
Susan Magers	Sarasota County School Board
Sarah Pappas	Selby Foundation

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
Tammi Poswiatowsky	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Chip Taylor	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 December 15, 2008 at Sarasota County Health and Human Services, 2200 Ringling Blvd., Room 226, at 1:30 p.m.

Presentations

IDEAS Presentation

Jon McKenzie gave an update on the progress of the IDEAS "Tapestry" Initiative and a presentation on the "Shelter Management Tool". Jon explained that the website is licensed in the three counties comprising the 12th Judicial Circuit as a Human Services tool (including intake, referral and case management) that will be implemented through various phases. Currently, the group is working on converting the Manasota 2-1-1 data base into the system. Discussions are underway to implement a transitional housing component into the system using the shelter management tool. Jon showed examples of how the shelter management tool functions, including the user rights under authorized web pages utilizing the public search engine screen and a direction locator to the various shelters. In the next phase, it is anticipated that authorized users will be able to assign clients to shelters, locate clients by name, and access the case management information.

Chip Taylor explained that the tool could also be utilized by authorized jail personnel to access information when placing inmates being released in local housing. This tool will be enhanced to

match the person's circumstances with the type of beds that are available. The Acute Care System Task Force and the Transitional Housing Committee will be working on the specific criteria for their needs. Jon mentioned that in a future phase there will be a search engine available for individuals to self-refer. Chip pointed out that the disaster assistance module is already in place and ready to be launched when the need occurs; many of the disaster module applications can also be used in the "blue sky" module.

Family Safety Alliance

Nancy DeLoach gave a brief update on the reorganization of the Safe Children Coalition which provides oversight of the community-based care system in Sarasota, Manatee and Desoto counties. Nancy explained that in early 2007, a Department of Children and Families "Review Team", chaired by Chief Judge Lee Haworth, was created to review the operations of the community-based care lead agency in Sarasota County and developed ten major recommendations. In November 2007, a "Transition Oversight Team" was formed to begin working on the recommendations and to recommend improvements to the system. The team made a number of recommendations, including the formation of the new stakeholders' group, The Family Safety Alliance (FSA). Bill Little is the chair of this tri-county stakeholders' group, whose purpose will be to set policy and provide an operational oversight and guidance to the Safe Children Coalition. The first major initiative of the FSA will be to hire a *Systems Advocate* to oversee the operations in DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties. This position is designed to be a short-term position for one year, with a possibility of one additional year. Sarasota and Manatee counties will share in funding the position. The advertisement for the position will be posted shortly and a link will be forwarded to Kathleen Hall to distribute to the Community Alliance members.

Nancy pointed out that the Family Safety Alliance meetings are on the third Thursday of the month at 4:00 pm at the Lakewood Ranch Northern Trust's Community Room and are open to the public. Nancy distributed a current Family Safety Alliance [membership list](#) for review. Bill Little commented that this is the beginning of an opportunity for true collaboration between the community represented by the Family Safety Alliance members, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the YMCA as the lead agency. This initiative is supported by George Sheldon, Secretary of DCF and Nick Cox, DCF Suncoast Regional Director; both will be in attendance at the January 2009 meeting. Bill stated that this could potentially be a model for the state and asked the Community Alliance members to participate in this initiative.

Legislative Priorities Presentation to the Board of County Commissioners

Pauline Tracy reported that Steve Queior gave a presentation on December 10 to the Board of County Commissioners on the 2009 Community Alliance legislative priorities. The Board approved all of the priorities and members were pleased to see Steve representing the Community Alliance. This is the first year that the Board has asked the Community Alliance to make a separate presentation to the Commission. Pauline noted that Steve also made a presentation to the Legislative Delegation on December 12.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Developmental Disabilities

Susan Magers reported that at the December 8 Developmental Disabilities Committee meeting the Bylaws were officially approved. Susan stated that the committee continues to collaborate with SCAT Plus on a solution to the potential policy change to increase fees to the agencies

serving persons with disabilities in the community. As a result, a memo was sent to the Board of County Commissioners jointly by the County's Public Works and Health and Human Services business centers recommending a delay of the fee increase to the agencies for one year. Other areas of work by the committee are the implementation of an after care survey with parents in the community and data collection regarding the services available to and being utilized by clients in the 18-30 age range. Susan noted that there are also efforts underway to incorporate a developmental disabilities segment into the Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) curriculum for the next training class.

Nominating and Membership

Pauline Tracy reported that there was a handout in the members' packet for review on the nominations of the [slate of Officers and Executive Committee members](#). Pauline asked if there were any additional nominees that should be added to the listing.

Richard Martin moved, Mark Porter seconded to approve the above list of nominees for Officers and Executive Committee members. The motion passed unanimously.

Sarasota COAD

Stewart Stearns reported that the proposed slate of Executive Committee members was ratified at the December 8 Sarasota COAD meeting. There will be 14 members, with Stewart serving as the Chair and Rev. Bruce Wismer as the Vice-Chair. Stewart noted that the other order of business was the approval of the Long Term Recovery Plan (LTR) and the implementation of the IDEAS initiative into the plan. Ongoing training will be offered throughout 2009 in preparation for this plan. Stewart mentioned that the Sarasota COAD website is in the process of being developed and should be up and running by the end of January 2009.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Bill Little reported that there was a [report](#) in the members' packet for review. Bill recognized Pam Meunier for her diligent work in putting this report together each month for the Stakeholders' Consortium and Community Alliance.

New Business

Bill Little presented Elliott Metcalfe with a plaque on behalf of the Community Alliance members in honor of his years of service and for making a difference in the community. Elliott thanked the members for this honor and reflected that it has been a delight to work with the Community Alliance.

Public Comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Next meeting: January 26, 2009 at 1:30 p.m., at the Health and Human Services, 2200 Ringling Blvd., Conference Room 226
(Please note the above change in location of the next meeting)