

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

*“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”*

*The Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road*

**December 17, 2007**

## **Meeting Summary**

### **STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council and First Step of Sarasota (for Dave Beesley)
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Capt. Robert Estrada	City of North Port (for Terry Lewis)
Dr. Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Jennifer Highland	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Lynne Johnston	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Patrick Kilbane	Young Professionals Group (YPG)
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council
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
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Marjorie Tick	NAACP
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County
Caroline Zucker	School Board of Sarasota County

### **STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
Cathy Duquette	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers

Kirstin Fulkerson  
Nancy Hanshaw  
Curtis Lavarello  
Anjali Natarajan  
Sherri Reynolds  
Nancy Shoemaker  
Beverly Stockton  
Capt. Paul Sutton  
Benny Weaver

Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice  
Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court  
Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)  
STAR  
Juvenile Justice Council  
Diocese of Venice  
SunCoast Workforce Board  
City of Sarasota  
Loveland Center

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mary Crowley	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
Kari Ellingstad	CHIP
Doug Kerr	Private Consultant
April Teamer	Department of Children and Families – Substance Abuse
Carl Weinrich	YMCA
Dr. Loring Wood	CHIP

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Wayne Applebee	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
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
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 17, 2007 at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road at 1:30 p.m.

Elliott Metcalfe welcomed members of the Steering Committee and guests to the meeting. Elliott recognized Dr. Glasser for receiving two recent awards: [The Florida Commission on Status of Women Award](#) and The University of South Florida's [Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Award](#). Charles Taylor introduced Wayne Applebee as the new Criminal Justice Policy Coordinator and thanked Nancy DeLoach for her assistance as the Interim Criminal Justice Policy Coordinator. Wayne gave a history of his previous employment and stated that he looked forward to working with Sarasota County.

#### **Presentation on Aging Services Work Group Priorities**

Bob Carter and Dennis Stover gave a [presentation](#) on the Aging Services Work Group priorities. Bob stated that the group worked closely with the *Sarasota, A Community for all Generations* leadership group in putting together the key aging data on the demographics, the local/national initiatives, the state/national trends, and the quality of life outcomes. The work group came up with six critical senior issues to be addressed in Sarasota County:

- To promote maximum independence and quality of life
- To expand access to resource information and available services

- To develop strong outcome indicators of well-being
- To enhance health/wellness by promoting a health/wellness service delivery system
- To strengthen the community through active citizenship
- To establish a flexible, safer, convenient, and affordable transportation system

After defining the issues, the work group set the following goals: to create and align outcomes to demographic trends/needs, to secure appropriate funding to match the needs, and to support partnerships, collaborations, and service system development. The work group concluded that:

- Committed leadership is critical to planning/responding to the growing senior population
- Programs/services need to have a strong community engagement component that is community-driven and community-owned
- Civic engagement is an essential service to volunteer and address critical community needs.
- Population trends need to be considered in order to plan/allocate funding for the impacts of population changes and the increasing demand for services.

A discussion ensued on the Aging Services Work Group presentation. Members mentioned the lack of sufficient data for the aging community and the need for ongoing intergenerational connections within Sarasota County. Karen Bogues and Bob Carter stated that both the Planning and Outcomes Work Group and the Aging in Place Work Group were working on gathering aging data and several outcome measures will be presented shortly. Dennis Stover mentioned that the Civic Engagement Action Team was working on intergenerational relationships through volunteer programs. Tom Pfaff noted that he recently attended an all-day required course for pastors on the elderly generation and how to connect with them.

### **Presentation on Health Services Work Group Priorities**

Dr. Loring Wood and Kari Ellingstad gave a [presentation](#) on the Health Services Work Group priorities. Dr. Wood gave a history of the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) and the Health Systems Collaboration Committee (HSCC), along with the creation of the *Community Health Scorecard* (34 indicators and action guide) and the *Community Health Survey*. The work group decided to use the *Health Scorecard* data with targets set for 2006, 2007, and 2010, along with *Community Health Survey*, to identify the worst health problems in the community and the characteristics of a healthy community. Kari stated that the group came up with three broad priority areas:

- Increase access to healthcare
- Encourage active healthy lifestyles
- Improve chronic disease management.

The group felt that these areas would allow opportunity for different organizations in the community to contribute solutions around the priorities. Kari pointed out that the committee would begin promoting action in these three areas through the *2008 Community Health Interactive* on April 16, 9:00 a.m. at Chelsea Center with facilitator, Donna Peterson, Dean of USF's College of Public Health. The objective of this event will be to encourage dialogue to create collaboration efforts in order to achieve health goals and link ideas with resources. It will also be a day to highlight existing collaborative efforts, to inspire creative innovative

approaches to addressing health issues, to introduce tools to make collaboration easier, and identify new opportunities that will lead to more collaborative projects/programs to benefit the community.

Bill Little commented that both the Aging Services and Health presentations intersect by encouraging active healthy lifestyles. Bill pointed out that the County recently had conversations on how to redevelop the design of the community in order to promote aging in place and continue to have active healthy lifestyles at the same time. This is an opportunity for the conversation to come in alignment with the future design of Sarasota County.

### **Community Information Exchange**

Bill Little gave a history on the community information exchange conversation that began 14 years ago in creating a case management system to exchange information to better serve the clients among the social services agencies. Bill reminded the members of the past challenges in exchanging information after Hurricane Charley and Hurricane Katrina. Since this time, there has been an ongoing dialogue with the Coordinated Assistance Network (CAN) regarding a web-based software program developed by VisionLink called *Tapestry*. This system will assist Sarasota County in improving post-hurricane communications, along with the capacity to serve as the case management module for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), resource information centers (2-1-1), and as volunteer registration software. Over the past 6 months, the group has been working diligently with community partners to bring this software to Sarasota County. Bill noted that commitments have been received from key players including the United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota, the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, Sarasota County Emergency Management, The Salvation Army, American Red Cross, United Way, and several others. The goal is to finalize the VisionLink contract by the end of February and have the disaster module linked to the resource directory by June, 2008. The County's Information Technology Office has been involved in reviewing the software and is committed to supporting this initiative.

Tom Pfaff stated that Goodwill is in the process of recreating a religious services web-based information system (already in place in Manatee County) as a portal for Sarasota County churches to connect to the new community information exchange.

### **Forum on Property Tax Reform**

Steve Queior reported on the Property Tax Reform Forum that was held on December 4 at the Community Foundation with approximately 120 in attendance. Steve thanked Stewart Stearns and Christie Lewis for their efforts in putting together this session before the upcoming election on Tuesday, January 29, where the voters will decide on a constitutional amendment that would change the current property tax laws. The forum provided an opportunity for speakers to explain the various property tax choices on the ballot, the pros/cons of the constitutional amendment along with additional information on local and state funding issues, constrained funding streams and what strategies the community might utilize.

### **Committee and Work Group Updates**

#### **Planning and Outcomes Work Group**

Karen Bogues reported that the Planning and Outcomes Work Group was currently working on the lack of senior and positive youth outcome indicators. Karen pointed out that the work

group's past focus was on the negative youth issues such as substance abuse rates, dropping out of school, and poor behavior, but has switched their focus onto the positive youth activities.

### **Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD)**

Stewart Stearns reported that the December 10 celebration for Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) at the Senior Friendship Center was a successful event. Stewart thanked Erin McLeod and Rev. Bruce Wismer for their efforts in the preparation of the celebration. Dr. Kieran Smart, Medical Director of Sarasota County Health Department, gave a presentation on his experience after Hurricane Katrina at the Houston Astrodome and Bill Little gave a presentation on how the Sarasota COAD is building community and relationships. Stewart stated that beginning in 2008, the committee will enact by-laws and formalize the structure with leadership roles. Stewart noted that Sarasota COAD is a dedicated group and he is proud to be a part of the organization.

### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium**

Bill Little reported that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium [summary sheet and monthly report](#) were in the members' packets for review. Bill noted that the second year CART Initiative evaluation was completed and an overall favorable report demonstrates that the group is going in the right direction and is making a huge difference in the community. Bill pointed out that *Florida Partners in Crisis* recently gave a presentation and award to the Board of County Commissioners in recognition of the support given by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium, the Criminal Justice Commission, and the Board of County Commissioners toward the CART Initiative.

### **Data Group**

Elliott Metcalfe reported that the November 28 Data Group meeting [summary](#) was in the members' packets for review. Elliott explained the impact of the current economic situation, how it has affected many residents/businesses within Sarasota County, and how it will affect everyone in some way, shape, or form in the future. Elliott stated that the group met with providers to focus on various ways to raise funds and to have additional resources in place to provide the delivery of the additional services.

Alex Young stated that this is an opportunity for the community to take advantage of the information presented by the Economic Self Sufficiency Work Group to increase income for low-income families, to provide financial education, and utilize income/debt repair along with debt reduction and saving plans. Alex explained that this could be accomplished by creating an Emergency System Fund (\$5 million) with an infrastructure to manage it and to implement the five action steps on page 4 of the November 29 summary.

A discussion ensued on the Data Group proposal. Richard Martin suggested pooling various agency/organization funding together to show a seriousness of purpose in order to make a better case to the banking industry, local foundations, and government. Steve Queior announced that the Chamber of Commerce has begun a five-year initiative, *Sarasota Tomorrow*, to create more support for employers, assist small businesses in the initial start-up process, create jobs, etc. There will be a great deal of assistance and support needed for this initiative to move forward and to be proactive about job preservation and job creation. Tom Pfaff pointed out that this is an opportune time for the Community Alliance to create sustainability for the whole community through a plan.

***Alex Young moved, Stanley Godleski seconded that the Community Alliance should create a support system to promote emergency assistance funding (\$5 million) and to develop or pursue the financial stability model. The motion passed unanimously***

Chip Taylor mentioned that the Data Group is searching for a more appropriate name and asked members to forward suggestions to staff. Chip stated that the next meeting will be on January 2 at 1:30 p.m.

### **New Business**

Stewart Stearns announced that due to a time crunch prior to the local Legislative Delegation meeting, the Executive Committee approved the Community Alliance priorities that were presented to them on December 3.. Stewart noted that some of the priorities will be referred back to the work groups.

Pauline Tracy announced that the Developmental Disabilities Work Group and the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Work Group would report at the January 28 meeting; the Children and Youth Work Group will report at the February 25 meeting. Pauline suggested moving the February meeting to the fourth Monday (February 25) due to low attendance in the past two years. Members agreed.

Dennis Stover mentioned that the ["Saging Sarasota County: Increasing Civic Engagement Community Assessment Report"](#) was in the members' packets for review. This pivotal report was funded by a grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies through both the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County; it is supported by the Senior Friendship Centers and Friendship Volunteer Center.

Bob Carter announced that on February 19 the Department of Elder Affairs and AARP will hold a Community Assembly on the *Communities for a Lifetime* Initiative (preparing communities for an aging society with community supports in place). On February 22, Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence (SCOPE) and The Community Foundation of Sarasota County will host the *Winter Forum* with speaker Ron Manheim from the University of North Carolina's Center for Creative Retirement.

### **Public Comment**

***Next meeting: January 28, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., 1980 Landings Blvd., Sarasota School Board Chambers***