

## COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

*“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”*

*Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Blvd., Room 226*

### MEETING SUMMARY

February 19, 2007

#### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Barbetta	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
Evelyn Barritt	CHIP
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Kim Kutch	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Marion Sortore	Friendship Volunteer Center (for Dennis Stover)
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Beverly Stockton	SunCoast Workforce Board
Charles Taylor	Sarasota County Health Department (for Bill Little)
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County
Caroline Zucker	School Board of Sarasota County

#### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Janis Alberti	Loveland Center
Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Samantha Berkey	STAR
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
Vanessa Carusone	City of North Port
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Jennifer Highland	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Patrick Kilbane	Young Professionals Group (YPG)
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Adrienne P. Lazeroff	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council

Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Scott Moore	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Elsie Morales	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Daniel Schmelzinger	Office of Housing and Community Development
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
Vicki Taylor	City of Venice
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Tammy Zappa	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mary Hitchcock	Easter Seals Southwest Florida
Cher McGuirk	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sheryl Schrepf	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

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 February 19, 2007 at the Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Blvd., at 1:30 p.m.

Stewart Stearns welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and guests to the meeting.

#### **Disaster Preparedness Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)**

Cher McGuirk, Emergency Operations Planning Coordinator, reported that Sarasota County Health and Human Services is in the process of developing Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) agreements with other agencies in the community. These agreements would allow the Department's nine facilities to continue to provide services in an alternative location in the event of a man-made or natural disaster and would reciprocate with other agencies when their facilities were adversely affected. Cher explained that an email from Michael Griffin would be sent out soon to agencies to determine their interest in meeting to discuss the Department's needs as well as the agencies' needs during a disaster.

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

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

Alex Young reported that the Sarasota COAD met on February 12 and discussed the 2006 Action Plan and the need to update their plans for 2007. Each strike team and task force was asked to meet before the next COAD meeting and be ready to present their 2007 Action Plan at that time. Alex stated that he recently attended a meeting with Manatee and Sarasota EOCs to develop a common protocol for the utilization of 2-1-1 in the event of a disaster.

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

Pam Meunier reported that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium met on February 16 and discussed the forensic bed issue, funding for in-jail mental health services and the impact it may have on other services. Pam mentioned that Debbie Spellman of Department of Children and Families would follow up and forward an updated report to the Consortium. Pam pointed out the key issues in the members' packet handout:

- CART Initiative
  - Phase 1 – The Addition Receiving Facility has been in operation for 6 months. Prior to the opening of the ARF, there were approximately 80 Marchman Act detainees per month in the jail. Currently, the Marchman Act jail population has decreased to 9-12 detainees (due to combative behavior) per month.
  - Phase 2 – VIP-ER's 10-week residential treatment program is moving into its second year of operation and meeting the required outcome measures. The program was recently awarded enhancement funding for follow-up services through case management and supportive employment counselors.
  - Phase 3 – Staff are currently preparing transitional housing contracts with several providers to open sober housing units. The Salvation Army has opened one house and Coastal Renaissance, Inc. has opened two houses (one male/one female), with another house opening March 1. There are ten clients entering the sober housing program who have completed both the ARF and VIP-ER programs.
- Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) – the next class will be held March 19 - 23 at the Sarasota County Technical Institute's Police Academy. The graduation ceremony will take place on March 23 at 3:00 p.m. and Community Alliance members are encouraged to attend to support this initiative. After completion of this class, the next step will be to form teams in the community to handle intervention calls.

Chip Taylor introduced Sheryl Schrepf, the new Project Director of the Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership. Sheryl has served as a Regional Technical Assistance Coordinator for SAMHSA for the past 2 years, working with approximately 10 other systems of care projects in the Midwest. Sheryl reported that there were now 23 children enrolled in the program with six Wraparound Coordinators and six Family Advocates on board to serve the children. The Partnership is preparing the reapplication to SAMSHA for continuing funding in the upcoming fiscal year (October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008). The expectation is to increase the number of families served and to develop the infrastructure. The Care Review Work Group has met and established two sub-committees. Wraparound training will be held on April 10-12 with an overview session open to the community and specific training sessions for care coordinators and supervisors. Invitations will be sent out soon.

A discussion ensued on how the ECMHP and CART Initiative will interrelate with future Federal funding. Chip pointed out that both the CART Initiative and the Partnership were moving parallel to each other, using the same system of care principles and core values but dealing with different populations. Ultimately, the hope and vision in 10-15 years is to have Sarasota County under one system of care for all.

Pam announced that the next scheduled meeting of the Acute Care System Task Force will be on March 20 at 9:00 a.m.

For a complete summary of the Consortium report, please click on the [February 14](#) report.

### **Strategic Planning Retreat Discussion**

Stewart Stearns opened a discussion on the recent Strategic Planning Retreat explaining the need to look to the future and anticipate the unexpected, to work together to generate more funding, to brainstorm ways to identify issues before they become a crisis and develop creative solutions to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners.

Chip Taylor proposed a proactive approach which prioritizes needs in the community. The concept would be to identify the issues in advance rather than waiting for a crisis, without a solution already in place. To develop this concept, the Steering Committee would collapse the three categories of members (as seen in the “red and black” membership listing) into five or six ad hoc work groups according to broad service area (mental health and substance abuse, court system and criminal justice, homeless persons and housing, etc.). Then, over the next three months, each work group would hold community workshops and hearings to identify the top priority needs in the community in that particular service area. In late summer, the work groups would report back to the Steering Committee, and the Steering Committee would identify the top five or six key priorities for the community to address. Human Services Advisory Council could use these priorities in making recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on funding and writing public policy. The priorities would be shared with other funders as well.

The members’ commented that this was a sound approach that should generate productive ideas, provide excellent direction, and is a way to move forward. Members also discussed the need to convene the funders to obtain their input into priorities as well.

A discussion ensued regarding the benefits of the Community Alliance and Human Service Advisory Council (HSAC) coming together at the same table. Chip pointed out that five members now sit on both the Community Alliance and Human Services Advisory Council. Both entities need to continue to develop and become broader-based.

### **Nominating and Membership Committee**

Steve Queior reported that the Nominating and Membership Committee met on February 16 to nominate officers and Executive Committee members. After reviewing the current officer positions, the committee recommended a four officer structure including a Chair, two Vice-Chairs, and an Immediate Past Chair. The Committee also recommended the following nominations for Officers: Elliott Metcalfe as Chair, Steve Queior and Bill Little as Vice-Chairs, and Stewart Stearns as Immediate Past Chair.

In addition, the following Executive Committee members were nominated:

- Ken Alexander
- Bob Carter
- Kay Glasser
- Peter Howard
- Tom Pfaff
- Beverly Stockton

- Jerry Thompson

Other recommendations by the committee:

- Increase the number of at-large members on the Executive Committee from six to seven members.
- Add a seat under Education for a School Health Advisory Committee member.
- Fill the vacant seat under the Housing category with the Housing Trust, Habitat for Humanity, or Housing Authority representative.

Pauline Tracy stated that the Executive Committee discussed the vacant Housing seat and Steve agreed to contact the Housing Trust; if the Housing Trust declined the seat, Habitat for Humanity, or the Housing Authority would be contacted to fill the seat. Steve pointed out that the recommended [bylaws revisions](#) were in the members' packets for review. Pauline Tracy clarified that the officers' election needed to occur every two years on the Steering Committee. Pauline noted that the recommendations along with the revised bylaws would be voted on at the March 19 Steering Committee meeting.

A discussion ensued on south county representation and the reporting of south county activities and issues. Steve stated that this topic was discussed at the Nominating and Membership Committee meeting, where it was noted that members from both Venice and North Port had low attendance. Several members stated that they sit on human service committees in south county and report to the Steering Committee on any current issues.

### **Next Meeting**

There was a discussion on the future location of the meetings for a more convenient location for the south county members to attend. A decision was made to contact Twin Lakes Park on their conference room availability. This issue will be discussed at the March Steering Committee meeting.

### **Public Comment**

None

*Next Meeting: March 19, 1:30 p.m., at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.*