

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

*“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”*

Health and Human Services, 2200 Ringling Blvd.

February 23, 2009

Meeting Summary

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
P. J. Brooks	First Step of Sarasota (for Dave Beesley)
Dorothy Carlin	Young Professionals Group
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Larry Eger	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Sarah Hickey	Vocational Interagency Council
Jennifer Highland	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Leslie Loveless	SunCoast Workforce Board
Erin McLeod	Senior Friendship Centers (for Bob Carter)
Susan Magers	Parent Liaison
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Alana Monge	Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Diana Olivieri	St. Jude's Hispanic Center
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
Kathryn Shea	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Capt. Joe Silva	City of Venice (for Chief John Reed)
Brena Slater	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Capt. Paul Sutton	City of Sarasota
Janet Taylor	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness (for Richard Martin)
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Laura Yahres	Community Youth Development (for Karen Bogues)
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Diane Andrews	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
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Steve Brett  
Ginny Donovan  
Sandy Gallagher  
Ben Kunkel  
Chief Terry Lewis  
Dale Lux  
Stewart Stearns  
Benny Weaver  
Karen Wilkinson  
Caroline Zucker

United Way of South Sarasota County  
Department of Juvenile Justice  
Catholic Charities  
Manasota 2-1-1  
City of North Port  
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill  
Community Foundation of Sarasota County  
Loveland Center  
CHIP  
School Board of Sarasota County

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Sarah Cloud  
Ed McBride  
Karen Lamb  
Sarah Pappas  
Carl Weinrich

Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health  
Safe Children Coalition  
YFA/SCC  
Selby Foundation  
Sarasota Family YMCA

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Nancy DeLoach  
Kathleen Marie Hall  
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 February 23, 2009 at the Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Blvd., Room 226, at 1:30 p.m.

### **Changes to the Bylaws**

Pauline Tracy reported that there was a draft of the [bylaws](#) in the members' packets for review.

***Curt Lavarello moved, Janice Kahn seconded to approve the January 26 draft of the bylaws as written. The motion passed unanimously.***

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

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

Pauline Tracy reported that at the February 9 meeting an ICS refresher course was given to the members along with the premier review of the Sarasota COAD website ([www.sarasotacoad.org](http://www.sarasotacoad.org)). Pauline noted that the strike teams have been asked to meet before the next meeting to identify data for their web pages and asked the members to forward feedback and updates to Kathleen Hall ([kmhall@scgov.net](mailto:kmhall@scgov.net)). It was mentioned that a link to the COAD website is on the Community Alliance website ([www.sarasotaalliance.net](http://www.sarasotaalliance.net)) "Home" page under "What's New".

## **Developmental Disabilities Committee**

Susan Magers reported that the Developmental Disabilities Committee's recent discussions were on creating a work group for the 18 to 30 age range and the implementation of a developmental disabilities segment (specific to Autism) into the next Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training. On February 18 the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners presented a Proclamation for Developmental Disabilities Awareness month in March. Benny Weaver accepted the proclamation on behalf of the committee. Agency representatives and consumers were present for the event.

## **Legislative Advocacy Committee**

Sherri Reynolds announced that Janice Mee has volunteered to Chair the Legislative Advocacy Committee. The members of this committee are: Ken Alexander, Rose Chapman, Larry Eger, Kay Glasser, Marsha Hosack, Bill Little, Susan Mager, and Jerry Thompson. If any additional members would like to volunteer for this committee, contact Pauline Tracy.

## **Planning and Outcomes Committee**

Janet Kahn reported that the Planning and Outcomes Committee is currently updating the community outcome targets for FY 2012. On February 6 a work group held a brainstorming session with 32 agencies to identify the local positive youth outcomes and how agencies are tracking the success of these outcomes. Many positive partnerships and collaborations were noted during this session. The work group has begun studying the collected data and will recommend the positive youth outcomes shortly to the committee.

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

Bill Little reported that the [monthly report](#) is in the members' packets for review.

Sarah Cloud reported that the Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health's (SPCMH) administrative team is in the process of completing the application and budget to SAMHSA for year five. The Coordinating Council (formerly the Governance Board) continues to identify ways to broaden the community and family involvement to the governance structure along with opportunities for the community members to provide input to the Partnership activities and goals. Recently, the Partnership launched a positive behavior support initiative for approximately 50 teachers and childcare directors. This initiative provides the necessary training and on-going coaching to promote development and to assist in preventing additional mental health concerns for children who are being expelled from programs. Additionally, the Partnership is working on how to infuse their efforts into the existing systems to sustain beyond the temporary grant funding of the project. Janice Mee noted that there was a University of South Florida evaluation report in the members' packets for review and welcomed the Community Alliance members to attend future Partnership meetings.

Rose Chapman announced that the Jewish Family and Children Services (JFCS) has received a two-year grant from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice to provide services to Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans of Sarasota, Manatee, and Desoto counties. There will be three levels of services:

1. Mental health counseling for returning veterans and their family, which will include post traumatic stress disorder.

2. Case management and financial assistance for veterans and their families who have lost their jobs, are unable to work, or need assistance with mortgage/rent. This will also provide assistance with electric and utilities.
3. Mentoring program for individuals who have been in previous wars to support Afghanistan and Iraq veterans.

Rose stated that JFCS has been networking with area veteran support groups. Currently, six volunteers have come forward to assist the advisory council in modeling the program and will be involved in the mentoring program. Leslie Loveless noted that the Suncoast Workforce Board's Veteran Services program are expecting to receive additional funding for training and will assist in providing training and support services to JFCS's new initiative. Tom Pfaff suggested contacting the local churches to access veterans in the community. Bill Little suggested scheduling Jerry Derrick, Sarasota County's Veteran Services for a future Community Alliance meeting to give a presentation on the available services provided to the community. Rose stated that this program may become the model for other areas in Florida. Further information may be found on the Gulf Coast Community Foundations' [website](#) regarding the grant.

Ed McBride reported that the Safe Children's Coalition has presented a proposal to the Family Safety Alliance (FSA) on a shift of funding due to the possibility of future non-recurring dollars. The Coalition continues to see their numbers drop (closing cases and the implementation of diversion services). The interviewing stage has begun for the Systems Advocate position and a candidate will be chosen shortly thereafter. The next meeting of the FSA will be held on March 19 at the United Way of Manatee County Building.

### **Budget Reduction Updates**

- Manatee Glens has submitted a proposal to close their short-term residential (SRT) facility. The ramifications of this facility closing will be felt by Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Bayside Center for Behavioral Health, and Sarasota Memorial Hospital.
- First Step of Sarasota will be closing their Venice location by May 1 and are currently reviewing their core services.
- The YMCA's Transitional Living Program will be closing at the end of the month with one resident left to place. Character House will be down to 12 residents at the end of the month and the Bowman Ranch closing is progressing smoothly with 12 children left to place. The YMCA is grateful to the local providers for sharing available employment resources with the staff at these facilities and for all the collaborative efforts to see that their children are taken care of on an individualized basis.
- The Florida Center will lose one full-time position that will become a part-time position in their circuit.
- The Suncoast Workforce Board funding is expected to remain flat and continue to downsize their offices. The good news is that the Department of Labor will distribute funding to the workforce regions for summer youth programs. The Board is currently posting positions for a "Summer Youth Employment Coordinator" along with case managers and job developers. The summer program is for youths 14 to 24 with the older youths being paid a stipend for the four to six weeks that they are involved in the work experience program.

### **Community Calendar**

Pauline Tracy reported that the IDEAS Community calendar was up and running as a part of the Tapestry software. The link to the website is <https://suncoast.communityos.org/cms/> and can be found on the Community Alliance website ([www.sarasotaalliance.net](http://www.sarasotaalliance.net)) on the "Home" page, under

“What’s New”. Kathleen Hall and Jon McKenzie will place all meetings for the Community Alliance and Human Services on this website. Pauline noted that if an agency is interested in advertising their meetings on this calendar to contact Jon McKenzie for more information.

## **New Business**

Susan Magers announced that on April 30 the Sarasota County School District will hold an Agency Fair at Oak Parks School from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the fair is to link families to community resources for all students with disabilities. All agencies are welcome to attend.

Erin McLeod announced that the Senior Friendship Centers is collaborating with the Sarasota Memorial Hospital’s Memory Disorder Clinic with the short-term grant, *Informed Choices*. It will provide support to caregivers who assist seniors with memory loss along with free in-home assessments, assistance with setting up a plan of care, referral to local resources, and caregiver education. The center will utilize their volunteers and case management to identify in-home patients to connect to resources in the community and to educate them on the *Falls Prevention* program. The clinic is hopeful that this will become a permanent program in the future.

Dennis Stover announced that the Friendship Volunteer Center will be offering an 8-week summer program for 15 medical interns to work with the local non-profit organizations. For more information go to [www.friendshipvolunteer.com](http://www.friendshipvolunteer.com). Dennis also announced that on March 14 the Center will collaborate with Selby Gardens for their “Rock and Roll on the Bay”.

Kathryn Shea announced that The Florida Center is once again lobbying on the Fetal Alcohol Bill that will allow the posting of warning signs on the risk of drinking during pregnancy at all available locations. If this Bill passes, Florida will be the 24<sup>th</sup> state in the nation to adopt this type of warning.

Several announcements were in the members’ packets for review:

- On February 26, a *Viable Futures* presentation by Jack Levine, Paula Dressel, and Gordon Walker at the Community Foundation.
- On February 28, a free community education event on “Today’s Schizophrenia” will be presented at Sarasota Memorial Hospital.
- On March 18, Donna Petersen will give a presentation on the state of public health and the latest developments of the college at the University of South Florida’s Selby Auditorium.
- On April 24, a charity golf tournament, *Drive for Life* will be hosted by the Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse at Bent Tree Country Club.

Curtis Lavarello made several announcements:

- The Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCoSA) has partnered with the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office, the Sarasota County School District, First Step of Sarasota, and the Jewish Family and Children’s Services in a collaborative 3-year initiative called *Project AIM* (Alcohol Impairment Measure). This is a “free” community service program that is divided into a five-part, 45 minute training that will focus on educating retailers, restaurants, and lounge staff to identify potentially impaired drivers and prevent continued service to visibly intoxicated persons.
- On March 12, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual *Sarasota Shining Stars Award and Recognition Luncheon* will honor Carl Weinrich, CEO/President of the YMCA as its “Citizen of the Year”. The event will be held at the Meadows Country Club and the keynote speaker will be Mr. William

Modzeleski, Associate Assistant Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools in Washington, D.C.

**Public Comment**

None

***The next Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 16 at 1:30 pm, at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.***