

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

*“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”*

**Sarasota County Health and Human Services Building  
2200 Ringling Blvd., Room 226**

**February 25, 2008**

**Meeting Summary**

## **STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Mary Crowley	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare (for Jerry Thompson)
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
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
Chief Terry Lewis	City of North Port
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council (for Sarah Hickey)
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)
Mark Porter	Sarasota Family YMCA
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Sherri Reynolds	School Health Advisory Council
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Capt. Paul Sutton	City of Sarasota
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health Department (for Bill Little)
Marjorie Tick	NAACP
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Karen Wilkinson	CHIP
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
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)

Anjali Natarajan  
Bryan Pope  
Beverly Stockton  
Alberto Suarez  
Anita Tambay

STAR  
The Salvation Army  
SunCoast Workforce Board  
Manasota 2-1-1  
Hispanic Latino Coalition

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Doug Kerr  
Doug Sword  
Carl Weinrich

Private Consultant  
*Sarasota Herald-Tribune*  
YMCA

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Nancy DeLoach  
Kathleen Marie Hall  
Pam Meunier

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#### **Welcome and Introductions**

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on February 25, 2008 at the Sarasota County Health and Human Services Building, 2200 Ringling Blvd, Room 226 at 1:30 p.m. Elliott Metcalfe welcomed new member Karen Wilkinson (CHIP representative).

#### **Presentation on Children and Youth Strategic Planning Work Group Priorities**

P. J. Brooks and Rose Chapman gave a [presentation](#) on the Children and Youth Strategic Planning Work Group Priorities. P.J. explained the work group's process in identifying their priorities and the challenging conversations generated from the work group's five meetings. Through an initial Zoomerang survey, the unmet and system needs were identified, along with the most severely underserved populations under children and youth. Through a second survey, 64 respondents answered questions on the magnitude of the problems, seriousness of the consequences, the feasibility of correcting the problems, and the underserved populations that had the least amount of access to services. Once all the data was in, the group requested various local coalitions and committees to give their take on the top three concerns within the children and youth category and all were different. It was concluded that this group is very complex and too broad to come up with only three top priorities. However, three similar top concerns did emerge:

- Quality, affordable child care
- Safe, affordable housing
- Substance abuse and mental health

In addition, P.J. pointed out that the top underserved populations having the least access to services that should be addressed are:

- Working poor
- Immigrant families/non-citizens
- Indigents
- South County residents
- High School students (aged 15-18)
- Minorities

Rose gave a scenario of a typical family situation:

- A mother comes into a social services office with her three children and states she is in need of assistance with rent to avoid eviction. A case manager is assigned to the case and while discussing the family's situation, discovers that one of the younger children has mental health issues, the teenager has substance abuse issues and has run away from home, the third child is disabled, the husband is in jail, and the grandmother has Alzheimer's disease.

Rose explained that this example is why it is so difficult to pinpoint three top priorities within a huge population that touches so many different areas of need. A discussion ensued on the critical need for wraparound services and for all human service agencies to work together to address multiple issues for families in crisis.

### **Presentation on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Strategic Planning Work Group Priorities**

Dave Beesley gave a [presentation](#) on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Strategic Planning Work Group's priorities. Dave noted that the group received great input from the cross-section of providers, funders and consumers who participated in the meetings. The work group reviewed a variety of mental health/substance abuse reports, and acknowledged the Community Alliance's accomplishments such as the creation of the MHSA Policy Coordinator position, the CART Initiative, the CIT Training Program, and the Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health (SPCMH). Dave pointed out some of the facts which emerged during the discussions:

- Florida is ranked 48<sup>th</sup> in per capita spending on mental health/substance abuse services.
- Florida is one of four states in the country that does not have insurance parity for mental health and substance abuse.
- MHSA funding on the state level has remained flat or decreased, even though there has been a substantial increase in the state's population.
- The state model rates for providing mental health/substance abuse services are the same as they were in 1995 (.60 cents on the dollar).
- MHSA in the older adult population has become a huge issue.

In addition, the work group created a Zoomerang survey that was sent out to members of the Stakeholders' Consortium, the Acute Care System Task Force, and providers and consumers, with 61 respondents. The survey results validated the critical gaps and needs that were identified in the previous studies/reports and concluded that the critical elements for future success would be to promote awareness, accessibility and affordability (financing reform by looking at the system as a whole). The paradigm for the future is to continue to support the models that are working (CART, CIT and SPCMH) and to identify new initiatives/models such as:

- Synthesis data collection system
- Recommendations from Judge Liefman's Supreme Court Report (reduce recidivism, increase public safety, increase access to services, increase the capacity of community-based services, improve information sharing and data collection, and improve the coordination of care among systems)

A discussion ensued on Florida's rating per capita, what other states are doing, and the enormous increase in the misuse of prescription drugs. It was pointed out that the higher ranked states were putting more funding into behavioral health services per person by

prioritizing the investment, putting more time and energy into the effort, and creating collaborative projects. It was noted that one of Governor Crist's budget recommendations is to take a set amount of funding that is committed to jail construction and place it into treatment programs instead of building more jails.

Elliott Metcalfe stated that the next step will be for the Executive Committee to discuss the priorities presented by each work group, identify the common threads, and to determine where to go from here.

## **Committee and Work Group Updates**

### **Sarasota Community Organizations Active In Disaster (COAD)**

Stewart Stearns reported that the Sarasota Community Organizations Active In Disaster (COAD) addressed the need for a long-term recovery plan and will develop a draft model in the next couple of months. Stewart pointed out that the bylaws are completed and will be presented for approval shortly.

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

Karen Bogues reported that there was a [handout](#) in the members' packets for review on a draft revision of the FY 2011 community outcome targets and specific areas of emphasis. Karen stated that the work group will finalize the set of targets and bring them before the Community Alliance for approval at the March or April meeting. Karen also pointed out that the work group is working on a mechanism to raise awareness about the targets among those who should be addressing the issues.

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

Chip Taylor reported that there was a [handout](#) in the members' packets for review. Chip pointed out some of the highlights on the CART initiative and the increasing connection between substance abuse/mental health and criminal justice. Richard Martin noted that in the last year, the Transitional Housing component of the CART Initiative has come together and is a big step forward.

### **Data Group**

Richard Martin reported that the Data Group is in the process of developing a plan to create affordable housing and establish an emergency fund. Richard explained that the challenge will be to receive community will and consensus since the area's agencies and the private sector funding are tapped out. In order to move forward, the group is reviewing existing funding and ways to reprioritize funding through policy changes along with having ongoing conversations with other communities that are developing this type of plan.

Richard reported that the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) campaign has been very successful this year in both Sarasota and Manatee counties. Steve Queior mentioned that there were EITC materials on the outer table for distribution.

### **Sarasota Prosperity Campaign**

Steve Queior reported that the group researched best practices in other communities and has developed a four-step plan:

- Create a written case statement
- Meet with key entities
- Create a Planning Committee with 10 to 12 participants
- Identify seed money for staff or consultant

Steve noted that the plan is to work on the above steps over the next few months in order to move forward on a preliminary campaign. Steve mentioned that the group will also review similar campaigns which are underway in Miami, Jacksonville and West Palm Beach.

### **Community Information Exchange (CIE)**

Chip Taylor reported that a [handout](#) was in the members' packets on the proposed budget for Years 1, 2, and 3 for the Community Information Exchange (CIE) project. Chip stated that the group has been working diligently over the last six months to secure and implement the Tapestry software platform for Sarasota County and the majority of the funding has been secured for Year 1 of the project (from the Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health, the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice and the Florida Department of Health). A request will be made to Manatee County on March 11 to fund the final dollars needed to support the first year of the system. Chip explained that this software platform will meet the need not only for a web-based information-sharing module to be used by agencies following a disaster, but also the need for a web-based platform for 2-1-1 and HMIS at a discounted price. The target date to implement the disaster and 2-1-1 modules is July 1. A presentation will be given to the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness (SPEH) on the HMIS module, with the hope of implementing this module by October 1.

A discussion ensued on the IT Support position and the required level of support. Chip stated that Jon McKenzie will fill the high-level System Administrator/Project Manager position ( $\frac{3}{4}$  time the first year and  $\frac{1}{4}$  time the second and third year). Jon will be modifying the Tapestry software to meet Sarasota County's needs in the three modules, along with connecting to the Justice Assistance System (JAS). At the same time, Jon will serve as the System Administrator for the Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health's "Synthesis" data systems.

### **New Business**

Sherry Reynolds announced that SCOSA's Shining Star event will be held on Thursday, March 6 at the Meadows Country Club, with keynote speaker Lou Columbo (Toxic Culture). The honorees for this event will be Citizen of the Year Judge Andy Owens and Lifetime Achievement Award, Elliott Metcalfe.

Dennis Stover announced that the Senior Friendship Center and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County will co-host the Volunteer Fest 2008 on April 12 at the Sudokoff Center.

Karen Wilkinson announced that the 2008 Community Health Interactive will be on April 16 at the Chelsea Center to address working together to achieve community health goals.

### **Public Comment**

None

***Next meeting: March 17, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.***