

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd

March 15, 2010

Meeting Summary

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Humberto Alvia	St. Jude’s Hispanic Center
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
P.J. Brooks	Juvenile Justice Council
Kathleen Houseweart	Senior Friendship Centers
Lynne Johnston	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region (for Brena Slater)
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Chief Terry Lewis	City of North Port Police Department
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Laura McIntyre	Family Safety Alliance
Erin McLeod	Seniors Advisory Council
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Kelly Morrell	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Sherri Reynolds	School Health Advisory Council
Tammy Short	City of Venice (for John Reed)
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Capt. Paul Sutton	City of Sarasota Police Department
Jessica Ventimiglia	Manasota 2-1-1
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Judi Bell	Nonprofit Resource Center
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Larry Eger	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Amy Farrington	Young Professionals Group
Keliy Fordham	STAR Representative
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Sarah Hickey	Vocational Interagency Council
Kameron Partridge	Easter Seals of Southwest Florida
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Leslie Loveless	SunCoast Workforce Board

Dale Lux	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Richard Martin	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Alana Monge	Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Sarah Pappas	Selby Foundation
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Bill Russell	Sarasota Housing Authority
Kathryn Shea	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Dr. Tam Sicard	Catholic Charities
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Karen Wilkinson	CHIP
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County
Caroline Zucker	School Board of Sarasota County

OTHERS PRESENT:

John B. Halcomb	Sarasota Family YMCA
Thomas Mayer	Safe Children Coalition
Kevin McKenney	Safe Children Coalition
John Overton	Pines of Sarasota

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
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 March 15, 2010 at the Sarasota County School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd., at 1:30 p.m.

Aging in Place Action Team

Kathleen Houseweart gave an overview on the Aging in Place Action Team, which began in 2007 under the direction of the Community for all Generations Leadership Council. The team has representation from the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), Senior Friendship Centers (SFC), Department of Children and Families (DCF), Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS), USF, CHIP, SCOPE, the Seniors Advisory Council (SAC) and many others. The initial focus was to assist older adults who are aging in place by gathering and evaluating data on senior services. The team is currently working on filling the gaps and improving access to services along with promoting programs. Discussions have been held on the Elder Help Line and the 2-1-1 call list, waitlists for services, the top needs of seniors in the community, and the barriers to accessing resources that serve those needs. The team has been successful in developing outcome measures for the community. Kathleen noted that a Sarasota County senior monthly meeting spreadsheet was developed and she will email it to staff to share with Alliance members. Karen Bagues thanked the team for its support and effort in generating the data related to senior outcomes for the Planning and Outcomes Committee.

Kathleen pointed out that there are currently 54 home health agencies and 49 companion homemaker agencies licensed in Sarasota County. AARP completed a recent study that showed 51% of seniors who received services stated that they had a difficult time getting access to services.

Community Engagement Action Team

Dennis Stover gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the Community Engagement Action Team which has been in existence since 2007. There are approximately 12 members on the team, including representation from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, the faith-based community, JFCS, SFC, Friendship Volunteer Center (FVC), USF, SCOPE and Goodwill Industries. Dennis reviewed the vision, objectives, strategies, key findings, successes, and the new campaign/new connections of the team. The main goal of the team is to research best practices and to identify how Sarasota County can implement the same practice better and smarter. Currently, the team is focused on recruiting caregiver assistance volunteers. The team is hoping to become a standing committee of the Community Alliance.

Dennis distributed the new [iVolunteer Sarasota brochure](#) to the members for review. The VISTA initiative for the Community Foundation of Sarasota allowed the FVC to launch a Public Service Announcement (PSA) “print and video” campaign that shows people how to connect and volunteer in the community through a simple message, “I volunteer”. The Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice is assisting FVC to create an interactive website that goes beyond what is currently in place. Dennis noted that the FVC is becoming a community engagement network that is connecting through many programs and opportunities in the community. Dennis showed a countywide clip from the video campaign and stated that it is currently airing on Comcast and ABC 7 TV stations and connects to a blog site.

SCOSA Update—City Ordinance

Sherri Reynolds asked to table this item until the next meeting.

TANF Funding Equity

Stewart Stearns reported that there was a [handout](#) in the members’ packets on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Funding Equity. Stewart explained that Congress will be reviewing the TANF funding in the fall of 2010. The original formula was based on how much funding each state could bring to the table to match federal dollars. The northern states were able to bring in more funding due to being in a higher taxing area and were given preferential treatment in the formula; no consideration was given to the poverty level per state. Stewart stated that he has been working with the Southeastern Council of Foundations on their concern with the inequity of TANF funding. Stewart suggested that the Community Alliance may want to take a stand to encourage Florida’s delegation to support new legislation to make the distribution more equitable for all states across the board by adjusting the poverty levels within the southern states. This would provide an additional \$648 million to the southern states based on the current funding. Florida would receive \$289 million based on their poverty level not their match. A discussion ensued on getting the legislators on board, making a presentation to the Suncoast Workforce Board, having a voice at the table, advocating for continuing stimulus funding, and the funding terms. Other discussions were on the net drain on Florida and the poverty level vs. the match. Bill Little noted that the Medicaid match is typically around 55% Federal / 45% State but due to the stimulus dollar initiative, it is currently at 75% Federal / 25% State. Stewart suggested sending a letter to the County Administrator, Jim Ley, to request assistance in getting this issue

placed on the Legislative agenda in order to research and lobby for the increase for the southern region.

Stewart Stearns moved, Karen Bogues seconded to approve a letter to County Administrator Jim Ley to request assistance in getting the TANF funding equity placed on the Legislative agenda in order to research and lobby for the increase in the southwest region. The motion passed unanimously.

Collaboration with Human Services Advisory Council

Bill Little reported that the Board of County Commissioners has scheduled another workshop with the Community Alliance and the Human Services Advisory Council on April 14 to discuss human services. The HSAC subcommittee and the Community Alliance Executive Committee met recently to discuss collaborative ideas on how the Community Alliance can assist in guiding HSAC in moving funding forward. In addition, data collection was discussed and how to centralize the data for all to utilize. Another meeting will be scheduled shortly.

Standing Committee Updates:

Behavioral Health Stakeholders Consortium

Bill Little reported that a [summary report](#) was in the members' packets for review. Bill stated that DCF is in the process of negotiating changes to the mental health and substance abuse funding. Central Florida Behavioral Healthcare (CFBH) will become a "managing entity." Regional councils will be created as advisors to the managing entities. Bill asked members to volunteer as a community partner on the Circuit 12 Regional Council sub-committee to assist in designing the structure of the council. Karen Bogues volunteered to provide supportive materials for the council and suggested including young adults on the council as well.

COAD

Stewart Stearns reported that the committee met on March 11 and reviewed by-laws, roles, and ways to become inclusive. The committee also discussed revisions to the Long Term Recovery Plan, the strike team's activities, and the upcoming disaster exercise in May.

Developmental Disabilities Committee

Sherri Reynolds stated that there was no report for this committee.

Nominating and Membership Committee

Janet Kahn reported that there are several vacancies on the Steering Committee and additional seats that needed to be reviewed since some members are not able to attend the meetings. Janet asked for volunteers to assist with the process. Pauline Tracy stated there is also a vacant seat on the Executive Committee as well.

Work Group Updates

Community Outreach Work Group

Karen Bogues reported that there was a [summary](#) in the members' packets for review. Karen explained that the work group's focus is on educating the community on human services and the Community Alliance. The group had discussions on finalizing a strategic plan and creating a marketing plan for all Alliance members to participate in. The work group is requesting that one

upcoming Steering Committee meeting be designated to a facilitated brainstorming session around marketing opportunities. Once this is complete the work group would discuss and recommend the next steps. A discussion ensued on what “the message” is and how to get it out to the community. Other discussions were on the expectations of the Community Alliance, identifying ways to better market the Alliance, revisiting the strategic plan, and links to the website. It was suggested that one meeting be devoted to “What is the message?” It was also suggested that attempts be made to engage the cities in Sarasota County with the Community Alliance.

Tom Pfaff moved, Bill Little seconded that the Community Alliance Executive Committee create a plan to move forward on the strategic plan and make a recommendation on how to market the Community Alliance to the community at the May 12, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Senior Needs Assessment Work Group

Kathleen Houseweart reported that a needs assessment of a community is an expensive and time-consuming process. The work group’s first task was to review what already exists in the community. The members reviewed the collected data and discussed assessment of need vs. review of resources. Kathleen distributed a five-page report for review on Sarasota County data that is already available. The data is specific to senior issues, health quality status, access to healthcare, BMI’s, tobacco users, licensed drivers, etc. This report will be emailed to staff for distribution. It was also noted that the Department of Elder Affairs collects significant amounts of data annually. The work group recommended that another assessment was not necessary at this time. It was agreed that the Aging in Place Action Team would further review the issue upon the result of the CHIP survey. The work group has sunsetted and the duties will now fall to the Aging in Place Action Team as necessary. It was suggested that the work group should make a presentation to the Community Alliance on the collected data and issues that should be addressed in the community.

New Business/Announcements

Pauline Tracy reported on behalf of Leslie Loveless that the *Florida Back to Work* Program is still under consideration at the Federal level but the \$200 million statewide funding has already been designated by Governor Crist. A waitlist has begun in case additional dollars are allocated to the program. In addition, an overview of the [Suncoast Workforce Region report](#) was in the members’ packets for review.

The next Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 19 at 1:30 pm at the Sarasota School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.