

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.

March 16, 2009

Meeting Summary

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
P. J. Brooks	First Step of Sarasota (for Dave Beesley)
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Larry Eger	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Jennifer Highland	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Chief Terry Lewis	City of North Port
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Susan Magers	Parent Liaison
Richard Martin	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Mark Porter	Sarasota Family YMCA
Chief John Reed	City of Venice
Sherri Reynolds	School Health Advisory Council
Kathryn Shea	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Brena Slater	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Capt. Paul Sutton	City of Sarasota
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Diane Andrews	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
Dorothy Carlin	Young Professionals Group
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Sandy Gallagher	Catholic Charities
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Sarah Hickey	Vocational Interagency Council
Ben Kunkel	Manasota 2-1-1
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)

Leslie Loveless
Dale Lux
Alana Monge
Diana Olivieri
Sarah Pappas
Bryan Pope
Steve Queior
Stewart Stearns
Dennis Stover
Karen Wilkinson
Caroline Zucker

SunCoast Workforce Board
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Twelfth Judicial Circuit
St. Jude's Hispanic Center
Selby Foundation
The Salvation Army
Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Friendship Volunteer Center
CHIP
School Board of Sarasota County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martha Bohn
Karen Brocklehurst
Audrey Chestnut
Sarah Cloud
Jon McKenzie
Officer Ford Snodgrass
Carole Soloman
Shannon Staub
Ryan Stoyles

Sarasota Police Department / Project Lifesaver
Community Haven
Sarasota County Office of Financial Planning
Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health
IDEAS / Tapestry
Sarasota Police Department / Project Lifesaver
Sarasota Police Department / Project Lifesaver
Board of County Commissioners
Community Haven

STAFF PRESENT:

Wayne Applebee
Nancy DeLoach
Kathleen Marie Hall
Pauline Tracy

Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Welcome and Introductions

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on March 16, 2009 at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd. at 1:30 p.m.

Project Lifesaver

Officer Ford Snodgrass, Martha Bohn, and Carol Solomon gave a presentation on the Sarasota Police Departments' Project Lifesaver Program. This initiative assists families with loved ones who tend to wander off and those that have some sort of communication difficulty. The program began in 1999 and is currently in 42 states and Canada with approximately 630 agencies participating in the initiative. The program offers a waterproof, radio frequency bracelet that can be worn 24/7 on the wrist or ankle. Each bracelet emits a unique signal that allows law enforcement to track and find individuals quickly, with minimal assistance, and without visuals that normal searches require. Clients include those with Autism, Dementia/Alzheimer Disease, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and other areas of communication difficulty. Program [pamphlets](#) were distributed and a bracelet was circulated for viewing. The initial cost of the bracelet is \$275 with a \$7 per month fee but if a family cannot afford the initial cost, the Sarasota Police Department only requests that a family make a donation and to pay the \$7 monthly fee. Once a month, a volunteer visits the clients to replace the battery in the bracelet.

Officer Ford Snodgrass, the Project Coordinator and the lead tracker for Project Lifesaver, gave a demonstration on the locator instrument to track a client. It was pointed out that the instrument can pick up a signal within a mile radius and the average time to find someone is less than thirty minutes. Currently, there have been 1,880 searches nationwide with a 100% return rate and no serious injuries. It was noted that *Boars Head* donated \$40,000 toward the Sarasota County project and that *Sunset Chevrolet* donated a Chevy Tahoe for the program's use. Martha and Carol mentioned that the Department is committed to assist the entire county and in getting the word out to the community. Both are willing to present the program to any organization in the area. It was noted that there are over 19,000 citizens in Sarasota County who have Alzheimer disease.

Federal Stimulus Presentation

Audrey Chestnut, Sarasota County Fiscal Consultant, gave an overview of the \$789 Billion Stimulus Bill. The breakdown shows \$463 Billion for projects and programs (transportation, health care, education, and the infrastructure) and \$326 Billion for tax breaks for businesses and individuals in order to stimulate the economy. The purpose of the bill is to create jobs and to invest in the infrastructure. The scale of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is so large that President Obama has created an entire system for tracking and accountability. The funding sources will be funneled through Sarasota County through formula grants, competitive grants or by agency discretion.

Audrey explained that the County has created a team to specifically review each available area of funding to pinpoint eligibility and to act upon these opportunities. It is important to understand that this is not just a County effort, it is a community effort. The County has also created a webpage under the Sarasota County website (<http://www.scgov.net/Recovery/default.asp>) to post available projects and funding as they are announced.

A discussion ensued on the Federal Economic Stimulus bill including how to quickly connect the agencies to the correct resources for potential funding, the idea of creating a stimulus job fair, funding for job training, short-term vs. long-term infrastructure benefits, the need for clear communication, operating dollars availability, the narrow window of spending, foreclosure prevention, leveraging dollars for long-term results, "Green" funding, and the need of greater cooperation in the community. It was pointed out that the State of Florida will only receive an overall 1.6% from the stimulus funding. Members noted local agency information on upcoming funding sources:

- The Department of Children and Families (DCF) will receive additional funding for Food Stamp and Cash Assistance on April 1 and \$1.4 Million for the Violence Against Women Act funding.
- The Justice Assistance Grant in Sarasota County will receive an additional \$1.2 Million
- The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) will receive an additional \$222,000 for homelessness prevention but will have a different focus than the current funding.
- The human services funding will flow through DCF, AHCA and the Department of Health.
- Sarasota County will receive a \$581,000 Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Grant.

Audrey note that a handout was available for distribution on the general nationwide summary of the [ARRA](#). The County's goal is to leverage as much funding as possible for the community. Audrey distributed her business card to the members and stated that she is available to assist agencies locate the resources for any area of concern on the Stimulus Package. It was noted

that the Stimulus Package will only assist communities for the next nine quarters. Sherri asked members to bring additional updates to the April 20 meeting.

Impact of Budget Reductions Survey

Sherri Reynolds reported that the Impact of Budget Reductions Survey was sent out to the members and only 15 agencies have completed the survey. The survey was recently sent out again in request of information that will assist in identifying the local budget reductions and provide the committee in going to the next step. Sherri asked the members to participate in completing the survey.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Developmental Disabilities Committee

Susan Magers reported that the Developmental Disabilities Committee continues their discussions on modeling SCAT transportation for persons with developmental disabilities. The Eligibility Component Work Group has begun creating a eligibility checklist for families, schools, and others to determine whether a person with developmental disabilities should utilize the door to door service or the fixed route service. Other areas of discussion were on creating a Developmental Disabilities Strike Team for the Sarasota COAD to develop a disaster plan and a developmental disabilities statement to present to the Legislators on their legislative concerns.

Legislative Advocacy Committee

Janice Mee distributed a [summary](#) from the March 12 Legislative Advocacy Committee meeting and announced three proposed issues as the top critical areas:

- Support the proposal to add \$1.00 per pack tax to cigarettes (SB 1840 and HB 887).
- Oppose HB 195 and SB 970 which would create the Florida Public Employees' Charitable Campaign. Passage of these bills would result in an eventual loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars every year for critical services to local citizens
- Support replacing non-recurring funds with recurring funds for the following community services:
 - Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) located at Coastal Behavioral Health Center
 - Mothers and Infants Program located at First Step of Sarasota
 - Family Emergency Treatment Center (FETC) located at Coastal Behavioral Health Center
 - Compass Center located at Coastal Behavioral Health Center
 - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) located at the Florida Center for Children and Families

A discussion ensued on the above issues and the previous top priorities by the Community Alliance. Sherri explained that the above issues are the current critical areas that the Committee felt were of immediate need and that did not have a cost factor. The members of the Community Alliance Steering Committee unanimously approved the above recommendation from the Legislative Advocacy Committee. It was also noted that [talking points](#) will follow for use by the members.

Planning and Outcomes Committee

Karen Bogues reported that the Planning and Outcomes Committee have completed their work in revising and updating the community indicators and will present the final version to the Community Alliance and Human Service Advisory Council at their April meetings.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Bill Little reported that there was a [report](#) in the members' packets for review. Bill noted that the scheduled March 17 meeting has been canceled.

Future Meeting Schedule Discussion

Sherri Reynolds asked the members to address the current meeting schedule and the idea of changing the monthly meetings to every other month or quarterly. A discussion ensued on the schedule including the need to communicate on a monthly basis due to the economic crisis, communication difficulties in meeting every other month, more emphasis should be on work group meetings, and identifying the correct information sources and committees during the crisis. The discussion was tabled until the April meeting. It was requested that this agenda item be placed at the beginning of the meeting.

New Business

On March 18, the University of South Florida will hold a presentation by Dean Donna Peterson on the state of public health and the latest developments of the college at the Selby Auditorium.

Public Comment

None

The next Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 20 at 1:30 pm, at the Health and Human Services Building, 2200 Ringling Blvd., Room 226—please note change of location.