

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

**Sarasota County School Board Chambers
1980 Landings Boulevard**

March 17, 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
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Sarah Hickey	Vocational Interagency Council
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Lynne Johnston	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Erin McLeod	Senior Friendship Centers (for Bob Carter)
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)
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Mark Porter	Sarasota Family YMCA
Sherri Reynolds	School Health Advisory Council
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Beverly Stockton	SunCoast Workforce Board
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
Capt. Paul Sutton	City of Sarasota
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Marjorie Tick	NAACP
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Cathy Duquette	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Jennifer Highland	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)

Chief Terry Lewis
Richard Martin
Anjali Natarajan
Steve Queior
Anita Tambay
Karen Wilkinson
Caroline Zucker

City of North Port
Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
STAR
Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Hispanic Latino Coalition
CHIP
School Board of Sarasota County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Eber Davis Karen Eber Davis Consulting

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 17, 2008 at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Boulevard at 1:30 p.m. Elliott Metcalfe welcomed members of the Steering Committee and guests to the meeting and introductions were made.

Emergency Assistance Fund Update

Stewart Stearns gave an update on the recent meeting to create an Emergency Assistance Fund. The participants discussed the economic downturn and the need to look at the whole issue of the mortgage crisis in order to assist individuals/families in need. A decision was made to shift gears and focus on creating a long-term strategy to mobilize a better financial stability system. The next step would be to collaborate with the experts who work in the system on a daily basis such as: banking institutions, realtors, and various non-profit organizations. Stewart gave an example of Detroit's initiative in establishing a "Foreclosure Czar," who is dedicated to bringing together the existing community resources and lenders to assist families in need. Alex Young asked the Alliance to assist in identifying ways that the community could build the system to work more effectively and to have available financial assistance funding and additional case management support in place.

Community Information Exchange (CIE) Update

Chip Taylor reported that the Community Information Exchange's (CIE) funding is in place for the Tapestry software except for a small portion which is under consideration by Manatee County. Chip stated that the next steps will be for Visionlink to submit a *Statement of Work* for the disaster and 2-1-1 modules, to execute the contract, and begin inputting the information in order to have the system in place by July 1. Over the next few months, agencies will be signing off on memos of agreement/release forms, and other information-sharing protocols. On July 1, the 2-1-1 module will be launched; the disaster module will be setup but will not be activated until the need occurs. Chip further explained that staff made a presentation on the Tapestry Software Platform to the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness Board for their consideration of using Tapestry for their HMIS system instead of ServicePoint. The

Partnership's Board of Directors has requested a committee to review the system, address their questions and concerns, and to make the final recommendation to the Board. Hopefully, a decision will be made within the next 30 days to move forward in order for the HMIS module to go live with the Tapestry platform on October 1. Chip noted that there is discussion around placing a provision in the 2009 Contracted Human Services (CHS) contracts to strongly encourage agencies to participate in the sharing of data through the Tapestry platform. In 2010, it would be a requirement for any agency receiving a grant through CHS to participate. Members felt that this was a worthwhile initiative to assist in coordinating services and will become a necessary community resource to fill the short-term emergency assistance through sharing of information, referring clients, and locating housing resources.

A discussion ensued on the Tapestry system's participant fees and the concern with systems communicating with each other properly. Chip explained that once the three modules were in place, an agency would not be charged to participate but would require staff time to input their information and for training on using the system. Once other modules come into play within the system there would most likely be a fee involved for creating and maintaining new modules. As far as the communication with various systems, Chip pointed out that Tapestry has a specific tool written into the system to be able to communicate and share information with other systems. It was mentioned that this system should be part of a future mock drill in order to test the capacity of the system.

Strategic Planning Work Group—Next Steps

Elliott Metcalfe reported that the Community Alliance Executive Committee discussed the next steps for the Strategic Planning Work Groups. The consensus was that the work groups should reconvene and continue their discussions on a regular basis. At the April 21 Steering Committee meeting, a schedule will be put in place for work groups and the Steering Committee to meet every other month. Elliott stated that the Economic Self Sufficiency Work Group will meet very soon to discuss the foreclosure issue with the banks, mortgage brokers, and legal service agencies to identify ways to assist those persons facing foreclosure. It was mentioned that the work groups will need clarity on what to focus on.

Bill Little commented that with the current budget reductions and anticipated unfunded mandates coming our way, there is the need to identify what steps could be put in place which are reasonable and add value without becoming burdensome. The goal is to continue the vision of implementing an integrated way to communicate around health and human services. The Legislature is now in session and the state agencies are being asked to identify an additional 10% reduction in their budget for FY 2009.

New Business

Bill Little announced that on March 13 he presented the Strategic Planning Work Groups' priorities along with the current information on the foreclosure issue to Dave Bullock, Deputy County Administrator. Bill stated that this powerful document represents the accomplishments in identifying the top issues within the community that need to be addressed along with the issues that cross over from one group to another. Dave suggested that the Community Alliance present the priorities to the Board of County Commissioners in May on the collected priority information (data/trends/impact) and the strategies that the Alliance has identified on the foreclosure issue.

A discussion ensued on taking the priorities to the Board of County Commissioners and how it might influence and impact decision making for the community. Members felt that it is important to show the Board of County Commissioners the intersections between the work groups. It was mentioned that this is a good way to speed up the process on making a collective decision on the foreclosure crisis and to identify where the Alliance could make the largest impact on the community. Chip Taylor explained that the Community Alliance has the opportunity to advocate and influence the Board of County Commissioners in terms of funding human services programs along with identifying various needs that impact the agencies around the table.

It was concluded that the current priority listing does not capture all the information within each group and a new work group should be initiated to discuss and analyze the priority PowerPoint presentations, create a much broader listing, and find the common themes. Stewart Stearns, Elliott Metcalfe, Kirstin Fulkerson, and Kay Glasser volunteered for this group. It was mentioned that when framing the issues for the Board of County Commissioners the report should include where the Community Alliance can make the most impact. Members noted that this is an opportunity to make a "Request for Action" instead of just giving a report, to be seen as a resource to the Board of County Commissioners, to offer positive solutions, and to identify the gaps and needs that the agencies around the table can not meet.

Announcements

Chip Taylor announced that the City of Sarasota has an initiative called *A New Day in Newtown* and City staff are interested in receiving advice and input from the Community Alliance to identify existing health and human services in Newtown and for ideas about how to meet current gaps in services. A meeting is set for Tuesday, March 18 with Don Hadsell and City representatives. Chip noted that this is an example of a group actively seeking out the Alliance for input.

Next meeting: April 21, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.