

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

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

May 19, 2008

Meeting Summary

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Diane Andrews	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
Christine Davis	Office of Housing and Community Development
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
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
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Mark Porter	Sarasota Family YMCA
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Beverly Stockton	SunCoast Workforce Board
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
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Karen Wilkinson	CHIP
Lauren Yahres	Community Youth Development (for Karen Bogues)
Caroline Zucker	School Board of Sarasota County

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Cathy Duquette	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Sarah Hickey	Vocational Interagency Council
Jennifer Highland	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County

Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Anjali Natarajan	STAR
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Sherri Reynolds	School Health Advisory Council
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
Anita Tambay	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Marjorie Tick	NAACP
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lucille Acken	Catholic Charities
Rik Jimison	Eldercare Strike Team
Edward McCrane	Emergency Management
Lois Natiello	Department of Children and Families
Carl Penxa	Loveland Center

STAFF PRESENT:

Kathleen Marie Hall	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 May 19, 2008 at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Sarasota County Administration Building, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sixth Floor at 1:30 p.m.

Emergency Management's Role

Ed McCrane gave a PowerPoint [presentation](#) on Sarasota County's Emergency Management role. Ed noted that there will be an exercise on June 5 at the alternative EOC COOP site (Wilkinson Elementary School, 3400 Wilkinson Road, Sarasota).

Health and Human Services Role

Bill Little gave a PowerPoint [presentation](#) on the Human Services role.

COAD Today and Future Plans

Pauline Tracy gave a PowerPoint [presentation](#) on Sarasota COAD's role and future plans. Stewart Stearns noted that Ed McCrane and the Human Services staff have brought a great deal of information to the Sarasota COAD table and should be commended for their efforts. Stewart explained that Sarasota COAD recently voted to become the Citizen Corps, which is a unit within the Department of Homeland Security. This will assist Sarasota COAD in their efforts of community planning. Stewart pointed out that if any organization member was not mentioned in the Sarasota COAD presentation to contact staff.

Strike Team Brief Presentations:

Pauline Tracy explained the difference between a strike team and a work group to the members. A strike team's focus is on one particular issue, whereas a work group's focus is on multiple issues.

Children and Families Strike Team

Lois Natiello explained that the Children and Families Strike Team's role is to focus on meeting the needs of children at risk during a disaster, including locating available daycare centers. Lois mentioned that the team members are from the Community Alliance, Jewish Family and Children's Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Early Learning Coalition, and the Department of Children and Families. Their current goals are to educate and receive input from other organizations, develop a contingency plan, and develop exercises to increase their knowledge and ability to reach out to other counties.

Elder Care Strike Team

Rik Jimison explained that the Elder Care Strike Team's current goals are to educate the community on Sarasota COAD's focus and efforts, identify available space for elders, and recruit discharge planners to fill a critical role of returning displaced frail older adults at special need shelters to their homes or alternative habitable sites. Rik noted that additional information is included in the PowerPoint [presentation](#).

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Strike Team

Rik Jimison explained that the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Strike Team's role is to coordinate utilization of mental health and substance abuse services in the community along with coordinating service requests for the specific vulnerable target population. Currently, the strike team's goals are to update the community volunteer and resource lists for Sarasota County, compile information on the scenarios discussed at the meetings into one document, research the possible role of a mental health professional at the special needs shelters, and to recruit additional members.

Volunteers and Donations Strike Teams

Dennis Stover explained that the Volunteers & Donations Strike Team's role is to partner with established community agencies, including Sarasota County Human Services and Friendship Volunteer Center. This partnership will strengthen the community's capacity to respond more effectively to requests for volunteers and donations following a disaster. Dennis noted that the team's structure is in place with a data base of approximately 214 volunteers who are ready to respond in the event of a disaster. The faith-based organizations are a crucial part of the team, with 65 faith organizations ready to assist and approximately 220 faith-based volunteers on their email address data base. The strike team utilizes volunteers to manage Volunteer Reception Centers (VRCs) and is continually training new volunteers for the centers. There has also been training for pet-friendly centers, call centers and the bus system. The four available sites that have been identified as a potential VRC are Fruitville Library, Twin Lakes Park, Woodmere Park and the North Port Library. Dennis asked members to contact staff with any additional needs to be addressed.

Next meeting: June 16, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.