

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

*“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”*

*Sarasota School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.*

**May 21, 2007**

## **Meeting Summary**

### **STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Evelyn Barritt	CHIP
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Samantha Berkey	STAR
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Phil Gorelick	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties (for Rose Chapman)
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Patrick Kilbane	Young Professionals Group (YPG)
Kim Kutch	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council
Richard Martin	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Mark Porter	Sarasota Family YMCA
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Lt. Paul Sutton	City of Sarasota
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
William Tracy	Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office (for Capt. Richard Montemagno)
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
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

Vanessa Carusone	City of North Port
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Cathy Duquette	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Jennifer Highland	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Scott Moore	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Elsie Morales	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Beverly Stockton	SunCoast Workforce Board
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Leslie Clarke	CHIP
Kari Ellingstad	CHIP
Lee Johnson	YMCA
Ann McArdle	Easter Seals Southwest Florida
Sheryl Schrepf	Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health
Marion Sortore	Friendship Volunteer Center

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Nancy DeLoach	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Kathleen Marie Hall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Cher McGuirk	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pam Meunier	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
James Schulz	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 21, 2007 at the Sarasota School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd. at 1:30 p.m.

Bill Little welcomed members of the Steering Committee and guests to the meeting.

#### **Policy Group for Detention Facility Planning**

Chip Taylor reported that the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) recently endorsed the National Institute of Corrections' Detention Facility Planning approach for designing and siting the County's new detention facility. On May 22 the CJC will go before the Board of County Commissioners with a recommendation to hire a consultant to assist in implementing this approach. Chip explained that the next step will be to create a high level "Policy Group" to oversee the planning effort. Chip stated that the "Policy Group" will utilize the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) as its core and then reach out to engage other community representatives from a community foundation, a chamber of commerce, the faith-based community, the Sarasota County School Board, one or more neighborhood associations, and the Community Alliance. Chip pointed out that the Community Alliance needs to appoint a representative to

serve on this group and the Executive Committee recommended appointing Stewart Stearns as the Community Alliance representative for the "Policy Group."

***Richard Martin moved, Dennis Stover seconded the appointment of Stewart Stearns as the Community Alliance representative for the Detention Facility's "Policy Group." The motion passed unanimously.***

Chip stated that the "Policy Group" will convene shortly for a full day workshop on alternative programming and work release centers with consultant, Dennis Liebert. Thereafter, the group will meet on a monthly basis. Subsequently, two sub-committees will form under the group for alternative programming and social marketing. Over the next three to four years other committees will form as the group moves through the phases of design.

### **Juvenile Assessment Center Update**

James Schulz reported on the status of the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC). Currently, the JAC operates as a virtual call center where law enforcement officers who arrest a youth must call in to the center to conduct a screening assessment. If the result of the assessment requires the youth to be detained, law enforcement must transport the youth to the Regional Detention Center in Bradenton which delays the officer's return to regular duties. James noted that for the past six months, alternative solutions have been sought and on June 5, the CJC will recommend to the Board of County Commissioners a temporary JAC be housed at an industrial park location off Clarke Road which requires minimal alterations. The cost of this location for a one-year span would be approximately \$166,000 (rent of \$20,000 and security at \$146,000 per year). Simultaneously, CJC is working on a permanent solution to house the JAC in the jail which will also be completed within this one-year period.

### **Strategic Planning Work Groups**

Pauline Tracy reported that a copy of the updated [work groups](#) was in the members' packets for review.

Chip Taylor mentioned that individual meetings will be set with the three existing work groups to understand the approach of the process. The three new work groups' co-chairs will meet with staff regarding the process, availability of data, and the need for sufficient information on feedback from the community. Chip pointed out that in June and August, no Steering Committee meetings would be held, but the Strategic Planning Work Groups could meet at the regular meeting times of the Steering Committee at various locations throughout the county. In July, there will be a regular Community Alliance Steering Committee where the work groups will provide an update on their progress and in September, the work groups will present their final report at the Steering Committee meeting.

Evelyn Barritt requested that the Health Work Group meet at 9:00 a.m. on the third Monday of the month in Venice at their regular Health System Collaboration Committee (HSCC) meeting.

### **Legislative Issues**

Bill Little reported that there were two articles in the members' packet for review: [HMOs Profit From Provision](#) and [Florida's HMOs would benefit under provisions tucked into a must-pass budget bill](#). Bill asked members to comment on the results of the Legislative Session.

- The statewide Medicaid capitation rate increased but Sarasota County's capitation rate will stay at \$11.
- The HMOs were successful in receiving a rate increase of 5.4% and the 80% spend rule was rescinded.
- Florida Center for Child and Family Development received an additional \$75,000 to start a Fetal Alcohol Diagnostic Center in Jacksonville.
- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities received \$55 million.
- The Homeless Coalition's funding was cut from \$24,000 to \$11,000
- The Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties expansion funding was cut in half to \$50,000.
- The Reinvestment Act passed with \$3.8 million statewide with a match of 25%.
- The Affordable Housing Bill No. 1375 passed.
- Volunteer Friendship Centers did not receive their requested funding but Volunteer Florida received an increase of \$150,000 in their budget so Sarasota could be eligible for mitigation funding.
- First Step of Sarasota requested a cost of living increase in their rates (2.4%) but received zero.

Peter Howard mentioned that on July 1, the not-for-profit agencies will be eligible to pool employees together to purchase health insurance. Bill asked Peter to arrange a group to market the new not-for-profit health insurance. Peter accepted and stated that he would fax the information to Chip Taylor for email distribution to the members.

### **Property Tax Issue**

Bill Little explained that Sarasota County has been monitoring the legislation on the property tax issue for the past six months and a proposed flat budget was met in preparation of the Legislation Session's final decision. Since there was no decision made at the regular session a special legislation session will begin on June 12 through the 22. If the legislation decides to cut \$40 to 50 million out of the budget, Sarasota County could end up taking an additional 20% cut in their budget. Bill noted that residents will be receiving a letter from the Board of County Commissioners regarding this serious issue that will affect the entire county. The BCC will meet the week of June 19 to 22 to review Sarasota County's annual budget. Both sessions will be closely monitored.

A discussion ensued on the budget cuts within Sarasota County and the need to reform property taxes by driving toward the equity and not by measuring the use of the dollars against the sense of equity or inequity. Paul Sutton pointed out that the all departments of the City of Sarasota were instructed to reduce their budgets by 22%, which will cause a \$6.5 million cut within the Police Department (86% of their budget is salaries). This will force lay-offs for 48 police officer positions, 60 employees and the loss of all special units. Bill Tracy mentioned that the Sheriff's Office Corrections Division is already short 30 officers in their current budget and may have to cut additional sworn officers and special units if the predictions are correct.

Members suggested writing a guest editorial in the *Sarasota Herald Tribune*, which will include the impact on the community and the organizations involved in the Community Alliance. Some members felt that a one-time editorial would have limited impact. Other members suggested preparing a fax sheet on county/city letterhead to share with the community with the same information as above.

***Nancy Shoemaker moved, Dave Beesley seconded that the Community Alliance write a guest editorial for the Sarasota Herald Tribune on the substantial impact Property Tax Reform will have on the community, listing all the organizations and partners who are involved in the Community Alliance, and a projection of the significant reductions and impacts on the community. In addition, create a county/city fax sheet listing the same information as above for the Community Alliance organizations and partners to share and utilize as a way to engage the community in this critical conversation. The motion passed unanimously.***

## **Committee and Work Group Updates**

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

Karen Bogues reported that there was a [report](#) in the members' packets for review. Karen stated that at the last meeting the group discussed the need to identify a representative from the Human Services Advisory Council to serve as a co-chair to the work group. There was a presentation by Kari Ellingstad on the Truckee Meadows Tomorrow model. The work group will continue to research how to best utilize pieces of this model to streamline and make a clear consensus of what priorities exist in Sarasota County in order not to duplicate efforts.

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

Pam Meunier reported that there was an updated [report](#) in the members' packets for review.

## **New Business**

### **Teen Overdose Conversation**

Bill Little reported that he recently had several meetings with grieving parents who have lost a teenager to a drug overdose and are passionate about making a connection with the community to promote public awareness on this issue. A discussion ensued on the teen overdose issue and the members felt that there was a need to gather data from the medical examiner's office before making a decision on how to assist these parents.

Sherri Reynolds stated that these same parents approached the school system and in turn, the school's advisory committee wrote an editorial in the hopes to make parents/grandparents aware of the seriousness of this issue and for parents to comment on this editorial. Sherri pointed out that not one parent remarked on this editorial. Sherri noted that the school system is trying to channel their passion into a positive direction and may use this subject as a community forum next year.

Curtis Lavarello stated that SCOSA has also been approached by these parents and one parent has been assigned to their Senior Advisory Task Force and another took a leadership role in the group.

## **Announcements**

Steve Queior announced that on June 6 there will be a luncheon forum with experts and legislators on property tax information and will forward the information to staff to distribute to the members.

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Next Meetings**

### ***Strategic Planning Work Group meetings:***

- **Community Alliance Aging Services Strategic Planning Work Group** – July 2, 2:00 p.m., The Center for Healthy Aging, The Campus of Senior Friendship Centers, Inc., 1900 Brother Geenen Way, Second Floor Conference Room, Sarasota.
- **Community Alliance Children and Youth Strategic Planning Work Group** – June 18, 1:30 p.m., the Jewish Family and Children’s Services, 2688 Fruitville Road, Sarasota.
- **Community Alliance Children and Youth Strategic Planning Work Group** – June 28, 2:00 p.m., the Jewish Family and Children’s Services, 2688 Fruitville Road, Sarasota.
- **Community Alliance Developmental Disabilities Strategic Planning Work Group** – June 18, 1:30 p.m., School Board of Sarasota County, The Landings, 1960 Landings Blvd., Conference Room 128, Green Awning Building, Sarasota.
- **Community Alliance Economic Self Sufficiency Issues Strategic Planning Work Group** – June 18, 1:30 p.m., School Board of Sarasota County, The Landings, 1980 Landings Blvd., Brown Awning Building,
- **Community Alliance Health Strategic Planning Work Group** (in conjunction with the Health System Collaboration Committee) – June 18, 9 a.m., Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, 601 Tamiami Trail South, Venice.
- **Community Alliance Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues Strategic Planning Work Group** (in conjunction with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders’ Consortium) – June 18, 1:30 p.m., 2200 Ringling Blvd., Conference Room 226, Sarasota.

***The next regular meeting of the full Steering Committee: July 16, 1:30 p.m., at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.***