

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

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

June 16, 2008

Meeting Summary

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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
Mary Crowley	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare (for Jerry Thompson)
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Sarah Hickey	Vocational Interagency Council
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
Erin McLeod	Senior Friendship Centers (for Bob Carter)
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Pam Meunier	Sarasota County Health Department (for Bill Little)
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
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
Janet Taylor	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness (for Richard Martin)
Lt. Bill Tracy	Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office (for Capt. Richard Montemagno)
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County
Caroline Zucker	School Board of Sarasota County

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Diane Andrews	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
Christine Davis	Office of Housing and Community Development
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Cathy Duquette	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers

Kirstin Fulkerson
Jennifer Highland
Curtis Lavarello
Chief Terry Lewis
Tom Pfaff
Mark Porter
Sherri Reynolds
Anita Tambay
Marjorie Tick
Karen Wilkinson

Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
City of North Port
Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Sarasota Family YMCA
School Health Advisory Council
Hispanic Latino Coalition
NAACP
CHIP

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kari Ellingstad
Jill Fischberg
James Schulz
Doug Sword

Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Young Professionals Group
Argosy University
Sarasota Herald-Tribune

STAFF PRESENT:

Wayne Applebee
Kathleen Marie Hall
Pauline Tracy

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

Community Health Interactive

Kari Ellingstad distributed an [Idea Inventory](#) booklet and a *2008 Community Health Interactive* (CHI) [Action Forums](#) schedule to the members. Kari stated that since identifying the three health priorities (increasing access to healthcare, encouraging active healthy lifestyles and improving chronic disease management), CHIP's Health Systems Collaboration Committee sought to encourage some action steps and foster collaborations on the priorities. CHIP invited Donna Peterson, Dean of the College of Public Health, to facilitate an event on April 16. Donna guided the event through several exercises to identify ideas, prioritize the items, and contribute resources through a "dot" system. Once the exercises were completed seven themes were identified:

- Expanding mental health services
- Making communities more pedestrian-friendly and increasing walkability
- Educating the community about existing health resources
- Promoting health and wellness in schools
- Increasing farmers' markets and local foods
- Organizing wellness activities in the communities
- Expanding transportation services

Kari noted that the event not only focused on health care services but also on the intersections. A collaboration compact was used as an incentive to assist the different groups in clarifying the goals of their collaboration, the action steps, deliverables, time frame, etc. The Gulf Coast

Community Foundation of Venice and the Community Foundation of Sarasota sponsored the event and offered several mini-grants to various collaborative efforts. Eight projects were awarded the mini-grants at the event and are listed in the booklet. The booklet also summarizes all of the identified ideas and resources. Kari noted that the Action Forums will begin in July and run through January, 2009 and will relate to the seven themes in order to continue the conversation, create connections, and inspire collaborative action. Kari stated that she has the “dots” in her office, if anyone was interested in seeing the data.

A discussion ensued on the event. Members stated that the event was very interesting and productive and was similar to the *Assets Based Community* (ABC) concept. It was also mentioned that with every reporting component, the community can provide the data to continue the effort to discover the gaps in the system.

Detention Planning Update

Wayne Applebee gave a PowerPoint [presentation](#) on Sarasota County’s future detention planning. Wayne noted that through the process several work release/community corrections facilities were visited, including Washington County, Oregon; Orange County, Florida; and Hillsborough County, Florida. Bryan Pope commented that the Washington County model has several outstanding programs that demonstrate the effectiveness and strengths of the facility. This facility is a good model that provides a great deal to the community. Wayne stated that he will give a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners on October 29, 2008.

Members discussed the presentation on the outcomes, recidivism rates, cost of the facilities, current jail population in Sarasota County, length of wait before sentencing, and the guilty verdict percentage. Wayne expounded on the *Early Case Resolution Program* at the Washington County facility. This program has a dedicated Judge, Public Defender, and State Attorney who review the jail and out-of-jail population to fast-track as many defendants as possible through the system. Elliott Metcalfe explained that due to the budget cuts, Sarasota County’s fast track system can only process approximately 25 cases a week, with 50% of those being resolved. Wayne pointed out that Washington County’s theory is that by processing cases faster, their failure to appear rate decreases and there is less need for jail beds.

Community Alternative Residential Treatment (CART) Initiative Perspectives

Captain Paul Sutton gave his perspective on the positive effects of the Community Alternative Residential Treatment (CART) Initiative. Paul noted that the City of Sarasota Police Department handles the majority of the Marchman Acts in the county. In the past, these individuals were always placed in jail and it became a revolving door for many due to their living conditions. In 2003, there were 794 Marchman Acts processed; by 2004, there were 602; and in 2005 there were 599. On August 1, 2006 the CART Initiative was launched and the process changed: instead of going to jail, most individuals go to the *Additions Receiving Facility* (ARF) unless they were overly combative. Currently, 74% are sent to the ARF. In 2006, the numbers went down to 484 (partial year); in 2007 there were only 233 (75% reduction) and as of May 31, 2008, there have been 108 cases. This program has had a significant positive impact on the amount of time that law enforcement officers spend on these cases. Paul explained that once an individual completes the ARF Program they go on to the next phase, the VIP-ER Program. The graduation rate within the VIP-ER Program is very high, with 75% of the participants successfully completing the 10-week program. Statistics show that a year after graduating from the program there is still a 56% sobriety rate (6 times the national average). Paul stated that the CART Initiative has not only had a tremendous success rate but

has eliminated the revolving door, provided a higher level of law enforcement service to the community, and has taken the jail from being a drunk tank to serving more of the purpose that it was intended for.

Lt. Bill Tracy reported that the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office has seen a reduction of 75% in the Marchman Act population going to jail. In May 2005, there were 95; in 2006, only 80; in 2007, only 11; and so far in 2008, there have been 16. The CART Initiative has provided law enforcement the opportunity to do the job they were brought in to do and the program has been successful all the way around. Pam Meunier mentioned that according to the May 2008 statistics, law enforcement's turnaround time is just 4 minutes due to the CART Initiative and 94% of the individuals who have completed the program are working, have decent jobs, and are reunited with their families.

Community Information Exchange (Tapestry) Update

Pauline Tracy gave an update on the Community Information Exchange (Tapestry) Project. All contracts have been signed and the first invoice was paid to VisionLink. Jon McKenzie is in the process of contacting IT staff from the various agencies on the system requirements. An oversight group will be formed for users to assist in setting up the different fields that need to be captured. The project is moving forward with September 1 as the implementation deadline for the 2-1-1 and Disaster modules.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Pam Meunier reported that there was a [handout](#) in the members' packets on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium. Pam mentioned that the next Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training will be September 22 - 26.

Sarasota COAD

Stewart Stearns reported that at the June 9 meeting of the Sarasota COAD, Jerry Smith, Emergency Management Director for Lake County, spoke on the *Groundhog Day* tornados. Jerry pointed out that FEMA has realized that volunteers are a very important resource during disasters and were granted funding for the tornado disaster. Stewart thanked the American Red Cross and the Friendship Volunteer Center for their hard work on drafting a written document for the Long-term Recovery Plan. When completed, this plan will show how a provider can access funding for a client and the process of approval. At the next meeting the committee will review a basic agreement to move forward.

Pauline Tracy mentioned that recently the Sarasota COAD was officially approved as a Coordinated Assisted Network (CAN) member. CAN is an organization that provides case management and information-sharing following a major disaster. The next step is to review and complete CAN's list of requirements. Pauline noted that in order for an agency to be considered under the CAN Organization, it must first be registered as a member of the Sarasota COAD.

Economic Self Sufficiency Subcommittee on Financial Assistance

This line item was tabled due to Tom Pfaff not attending the meeting.

Developmental Disabilities Work Group

Peter Howard requested that the Community Alliance formally approve the Developmental Disabilities Work Group as an official work group of the Alliance. Benny Weaver pointed out that 16% of the current students in Sarasota County are developmentally disabled. These students will eventually become adults and resources need to be in place for lifetime care in the community.

Peter Howard moved, Stewart Stearns seconded that the Community Alliance approve the Developmental Disabilities Work Group as an official work group of the Alliance. The motion passed unanimously.

Dennis Stover noted that Sarasota COAD recently went through this process and offered the work group their official documents to review.

Summer Meeting Schedule

Elliott Metcalfe reported that the July meeting will be canceled in order for the strategic planning work groups to hold their meetings. The next regular meeting will be on August 18 at the Landings.

New Business

Rose Chapman announced that the Children and Youth Strategic Planning Work Group would be meeting immediately after the Community Alliance meeting.

Karen Bagues announced that the annual CYD Leadership Breakfast will be on Thursday, August 14 at the Boys and Girls Club on Fruitville Road. Dr. Kay Glasser is one of the three recipients being honored at this event for her involvement in the creation of CYD.

Public Comment

None

Next meeting: August 18, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.