

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.

July 16, 2007

Meeting Summary

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Evelyn Barritt	CHIP
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
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
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Richard Martin	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
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
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
Lt. Paul Sutton	City of Sarasota
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
Vanessa Carusone	City of North Port
Cathy Duquette	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court

Jennifer Highland
Curtis Lavarello
Renee McQueen
Scott Moore
Elsie Morales
Mark Porter
Sherri Reynolds
Beverly Stockton
Jerry Thompson
Caroline Zucker

Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Vocational Interagency Council
Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Hispanic Latino Coalition
Sarasota Family YMCA
Juvenile Justice Council
SunCoast Workforce Board
Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
School Board of Sarasota County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kari Ellingstad
Lee Johnson
Bill Lloyd
Susan Nunnally

CHIP
YMCA
The Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Department of Children and Families

STAFF PRESENT:

Nancy DeLoach
Kathleen Marie Hall
Barbara Kopp
Pam Meunier
Pauline Tracy

Sarasota County Health and Human Services
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Welcome and Introductions

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on July 16, 2007 at the Sarasota School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd. at 1:30 p.m.

Elliott Metcalfe welcomed members of the Steering Committee and guests to the meeting.

Update on Strategic Planning Work Groups

Aging Services

Bob Carter reported that the Aging Services Work Group has combined participation with the Sarasota County Leadership Council: A Community for all Generations, Seniors Advisory Council, Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, and Senior Friendship Center. Bob stated that the group discussed the unmet senior needs, a stronger and effective system for all ages, and housing issues. Bob pointed out that seniors are in a two-generation age group; the 52 to 75 year olds who are in the active aging group with life-style changes and those 76 and above who have outlived their retirement and are struggling with many needs. Bob announced that their next meetings will be on July 17 and August 20 at the Senior Friendship Center.

Children and Youth

Rose Chapman reported that the Children and Youth Work Group discussed children and youth issues (from 0 to 18, including families) ranging from health, social, family, mental health and substance abuse. Rose stated that since there was a large range of issues, the group created a Zoomerang survey and will send it out to the participants. Rose noted that the group will discuss the results of the survey at the August 6 meeting. Community Alliance members

questioned whether the Children and Youth survey questions could be standardized and sent out to the other work groups to review and use. Pauline Tracy agreed to email the list of questions to the other work groups.

Developmental Disabilities

Peter Howard reported that the Developmental Disabilities Work Group discussed who should be around the table and broke down developmental disabilities into three groups: youth, young adults, and adult services. Peter noted that the top children's issue was on respite care with other discussions on the disjointed system, the major gaps between age groups (especially between 8 through 25), competition among agencies, and the need for collaboration, better communication, and technology. Peter mentioned that it was also discovered that another developmental disabilities group, "Transition Leadership Team" were working on similar issues with the University of South Florida and the hope is to eventually combine the two groups together to meet on a regular basis. Peter felt that the group could identify two or three recommendations but the process could actually take 6-12 months to get everyone on the same page. Peter mentioned that the next meeting will be on August 13 at the Health Department.

Economic Self Sufficiency

Steve Queior reported that the Economic Self Sufficiency Work Group discussed homelessness, housing, financial stability, and financial economic self sufficiency and have invited several speakers, practitioners, and financial experts to their meeting. Steve stated that presentations have been made by representatives from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Committee (Rik Jimison), the Consumer Credit Counseling (Sandee Rains), Jewish Family and Children Services (Phil Gorelick and Jamil Collins), and Goodwill Industries (Tom Pfaff). Steve mentioned that the group also discussed the possibility of holding a forum aimed at businesses to highlight some of the tools available which will enable their employees to become more financially stable. Richard Martin stated that the group has not been able to engage representation from the African American and Hispanic Latino community. Richard pointed out that there are many overlaps in the system with a need to coordinate communication efforts of the available data and collaborating between agencies. Steve explained that at the August 20 meeting there will be a discussion on housing issues with Richard Martin (Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness) and representatives from the Housing Authority, Community Housing Trust, Good Homes, Habitat for Humanity, and the SunCoast Workforce Board.

Health

Evelyn Barritt reported that the Health Work Group is collaborating with the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) to determine their top priorities. Evelyn explained that CHIP has been in existence for approximately five years and completed a great deal of research including two recent studies: the Scorecard (34 health areas) and the Community Health Survey. Kari Ellingstad stated that the work group used the data from the Scorecard and the survey to determine the three top areas of concern and discussed administering a Zoomerang survey to agencies in order to gather additional data. Kari pointed out that at the August 20 meeting the group will refine the priorities and recommend key actions along with best practices.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Carolyn Eagen reported that the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Work Group reviewed SCOPE studies, community plans, the matrix of provider services and a great deal of past information but felt that more data was needed before making their recommendation. Carolyn stated that a Zoomerang survey was sent out to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium, providers, consumers, and families through NAMI. The work group received a good response from the survey, had a meaningful discussion on the results, and was able to agree on five top issues within the mental health and substance abuse area. The five priorities were emailed to the work group participants for review and to give their interpretation on a creative way to convey the needs without being limited or too broad in developing a continuum of care. Carolyn stated that at the August 20 meeting the group will refine their priorities.

A discussion ensued with the Community Alliance members on the mission of the six work groups, prioritizing the top issues, the overlaps, and if the process would be completed by September. Elliott Metcalfe stated that each work group should define their own process in prioritizing the top issues and on September 17 the Steering Committee members will discuss whether to extend the timeline. Bill Little stated that all the work groups have had direct and indirect discussions of collaboration and are focused on improving the systems/overlaps which is a reflection of where the community is headed. Bill noted that the overlaps could be better expressed as intersections of subsystems. The Community Alliance's power of successful conversation lies in locating these intersections and knowing how to maximize the connections that these intersections represent. Bill stated that once the priorities have been set, the next step will be to make the community aware of these critical needs that should be addressed collectively.

Sarasota County Human Services Budget Reductions

Bill Little reported that the Board of County Commissioners began minimizing the impact for 2007/2008 by using reserve funds to present a flat budget and then were mandated to cut an additional \$7 million at the recent budget hearings. Bill pointed out that there could be another impact in January 2008 when citizens vote on the Property Tax Amendment. In addition, state agencies are facing a 4-10% budget cut and depending on actions taken in the 2008 legislative session, there could be additional reductions at the county level next year. Bill stated that all in all the recent budget cuts were not as severe as they could have been but it will mean a scale back on parks, libraries, and road construction services along with law enforcement and fire departments.

Bill explained that Contracted Human Services (CHS) took a 12% (\$1,393,988) budget cut including \$625,338 from the \$11.1 million CHS direct contracting funding, \$240,037 from the Strategic Initiatives and Opportunities (SIO) funding and depleting the \$528,613 reserve SIO funding for new initiatives. Bill pointed out that the Human Service Advisory Council (HSAC) holds the responsibility to prioritize and make recommendations on CHS funding that will be presented for approval to the Board of County Commissioners on October 2.

A discussion ensued on the budget cuts and the impact on the community. Members suggested holding a multi-county public forum and to initiate a public relations/marketing communications task force as an ongoing educational program to advocate and promote the issues. In addition, the members suggested the need to share information directly with each

entity's board of directors around the table, the need to consolidate systems and to not just focus on the current unmet needs but also on those that may be cut in the near future.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Planning and Outcomes Work Group

Karen Bogues reported that there was a [handout](#) in the members' packets for review. Karen mentioned that the work group discussed the one key gap around the table relating to senior services. The members invited Rik Jimison on behalf of the Seniors Advisory Council to give an update on the Council's work. Karen stated that Rik made a recommendation to add two members, Van Deist, and Kathleen Houseweart and both have agreed to participate in the group.

Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disasters (SCOAD)

Elliott Metcalfe announced that Alex Young will step down as the SCOAD Chair and Stewart Stearns has agreed to chair the committee. Alex reported that the County has done an excellent job on disaster preparedness and collaborating with over 30 organizations in an ongoing dialogue. Alex stated that there is still a lot of work to be done regarding the handling of monetary contributions and long-term recovery issues.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Pam Meunier reported that there was a [handout](#) in the members' packets for review. Pam noted that an interim independent evaluation was received from Florida Mental Health Institute. This evaluation indicates the progress of the enhancement services within the VIP-ER Program and showed that after 3 months 59% were sober, after 6 months 52% were sober, and after one year 43% were still sober and in stable housing. Pam pointed out that the Sober Housing Initiative has had a difficult time locating local units due to many saying, "not in my back yard" but the committee will continue working on this phase of the project.

Pam pointed out that a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training class (No. 9) began on July 16 with 28 law enforcement officers at Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI). Pam invited all Community Alliance members to attend the graduation on Friday, July 20 to support the program. Pam noted that following this class, there will be over 250 graduates in the community and will soon initiate the next phase.

New Business

Announcements

Janet Kahn distributed [flyers](#) to the members and announced that on Friday, July 28 there will be a Kid's Fair hosted by many community partners. Janet asked that the Community Alliance members assist in getting the word out to the public.

Janet reminded members that the initiative on pooling non-profit health insurance should be discussed at the next meeting. Peter Howard will be asked to provide an update at that time.

Karen Bogues announced the opening of the long awaited project, "Out of School Time Initiative" and the unveiling of the website, TheLookUp941.org with over 300 different organizations represented and 1700 different activities. Karen explained that Sarasota County

contracted with Community Youth Development (CYD) to collect data on every positive activity for any school age child in Sarasota County (5 -18). The project was completed by high school students. Karen asked members to view the site and provide feedback at their convenience.

Karen announced that the Community Youth Development Leadership Council has chosen Stewart Stearns, Lee Byron, and Andrew Greenwell as this year's leadership awards program honorees. The breakfast event will be held on Thursday, August 16 at the Lee Wetherington Boys and Girls Club.

Public Comment

None

The next Strategic Planning Work Group meetings will be:

- **Community Alliance Aging Services Strategic Planning Work Group – July 17, 3:00 p.m.**, 2nd Floor Conference Room, The Center for Healthy Aging, Campus of Senior Friendship Centers, 1900 Brother Geenen Way, Sarasota. Call 941-861-2564.
- **Community Alliance Economic Self Sufficiency Issues Strategic Planning Work Group – Aug. 2, 1:30 p.m.**, Conference Rooms 128, School Board of Sarasota County, Green Awning Building, The Landings, 1960 Landings Blvd., Sarasota. Call 941-861-2561.
- **Community Alliance Children and Youth Strategic Planning Work Group – Aug. 6, 1:30 p.m.**, the Jewish Family and Children's Services, 2688 Fruitville Road, Sarasota. Call 941-861-2877
- **Community Alliance Developmental Disabilities Strategic Planning Work Group – Aug. 13, 1:30 p.m.**, Conference Room 226, Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota. Call 941-861-2877.
- **Community Alliance Aging Services Strategic Planning Work Group – Aug. 20, 3:00 p.m.**, 2nd Floor Conference Room, The Center for Healthy Aging, Campus of Senior Friendship Centers, 1900 Brother Geenen Way, Sarasota. Call 941-861-2564.
- **Community Alliance Health Strategic Planning Work Group (in conjunction with the Health System Collaboration Committee) – Aug. 20, 9 a.m.**, Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, 601 Tamiami Trail South, Venice. Call 941-861-2877.
- **Community Alliance Mental Health and Substance Abuse Issues Strategic Planning Work Group (in conjunction with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium) – Aug. 20, 1:30 p.m.**, Conference Room 227, Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota. Call 941-861-2877.

The next regular meeting of full Steering Committee: September 17, 1:30 p.m., at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.