

**Joint meeting of the
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY
and
Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disaster (Sarasota COAD)**

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

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

August 18, 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
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory 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
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Bryan Pope	The Salvation Army
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Kathy Baylis	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Cathy Duquette	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Sarah Hickey	Vocational Interagency Council
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Chief Terry Lewis	City of North Port
Richard Martin	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office

Tom Pfaff
Mark Porter
Sherri Reynolds
Beverly Stockton
Capt. Paul Sutton
Anita Tambay
Jerry Thompson
Marjorie Tick
Karen Wilkinson
Caroline Zucker

Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Sarasota Family YMCA
School Health Advisory Council
SunCoast Workforce Board
City of Sarasota
Hispanic Latino Coalition
Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
NAACP
CHIP
School Board of Sarasota County

SARASOTA COAD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anna Day
Debbie Duff
Donna Dunio
Tom Giles
Curtis Hencye
Barbara Kopp
Miriam Lacher
Elaine R. Levesque
Randy Mayer
Lois Natiello
Mark Pritchett
Katrina Rae
Inaki Rezola
Marion Sortore
Bruce Wismer

Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota Memorial Hospital
American Red Cross
Friendship Volunteer Center
Calvary Chapel
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota Memorial Hospital
First Step of Sarasota, Inc.
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Department of Children and Families
Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Department of Children and Families
American Red Cross
Volunteer
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jon McKenzie
Connie Mawby
Barbara O'Connor
Kathryn Shea

IDEAS
Community Haven
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
The Florida Center

STAFF PRESENT:

Wayne Applebee
Nancy DeLoach
Kathleen Marie Hall
Jamie Mahadeo
Pam Meunier
Chip Taylor

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Welcome and Introductions

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on August 18, 2008 at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Boulevard, at 1:30 p.m.

Information and Data Exchange Alliance of the Suncoast (IDEAS) Update

Jon McKenzie gave an update on the Information and Data Exchange Alliance of the Suncoast (IDEAS), formerly known as "Tapestry". The technical work group has completed the configuration package for the system and the installation process has begun. Once the base system has been installed, the 2-1-1 resource directory conversion will take place and then the CAN implementation. The newly-formed Policy Group will meet on August 21 to discuss the governance structure for IDEAS. Training of technical staff is scheduled to begin on August 22. Steve Queior suggested having a demonstration of the system once it is up and running at a future Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting.

Contracted Human Services Update

Nancy DeLoach gave an update on Contracted Human Services (CHS). Over the next month, the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) will develop the FY 2009 funding recommendations for CHS and a BCC budget workshop will be held on August 28. Nancy explained that CHS's budget has been reduced by approximately \$1.6 million for next year (from \$8.5 million to \$6.9 million) and that they do not expect to receive any additional funding. This year, HSAC will not predetermine the dollars available by sub-area, in order to maintain maximum flexibility in dealing with the budget reductions. In addition to the HSAC Finance Committee's development of their yearly financial assessment score for the applications, they have created a "Financial Necessity" score. This score will assist the HSAC in reviewing each agency's operating reserves, previous year surplus, where the surplus exceeded the county funding, and the size of any unrestricted endowment or foundation supporting the agency. The other important factor that the HSAC will use in the evaluation process will be the individual agency's audit.

During their first recommendation meeting, the average reduction was 11% per program. In September, CHS's budget will roll up as a single-line item in the approved County's budget. On October 23, HSAC will attend a special budget workshop with the Board of County Commissioners to address the individual program recommendations. This workshop is open to the public.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Developmental Disabilities Work Group

Peter Howard reported that at the August 12 Developmental Disabilities Work Group meeting it was announced that SCAT made a decision to charge the agencies an additional transportation fee per trip for SCAT Plus service to the various facilities (The Loveland Center, Easter Seals, Community Haven, etc.). Benny Weaver pointed out that in addition to the extra charge, the agencies will now be responsible for the scheduling of all client trips to the facilities. The Loveland Center will see an impact of over \$100,000; the overall impact to the local agencies will be in the range of \$400,000 to \$500,000.

Peter explained that this information was presented at the August 13 meeting of the Community Alliance Executive Committee. Beverly Kent of SCAT attended the meeting and explained that this decision was only made "to get the attention of the agencies" and to "create partnerships with the agencies". However, Peter pointed out that the agencies were never contacted for their input before the decision was made to charge the new fees. Ms. Kent indicated at the Executive Committee meeting that SCAT had already decided to postpone implementation of the new fees until January 2009, with the possibility that the change could be postponed until October 2009. Chip Taylor commented that the reality of this change will be

that the agencies will be able to provide fewer services to their clients and, ultimately, the clients will suffer because of this change. The recent formation of the Developmental Disabilities Work Group provides both an opportunity and a venue to deal with this type of issue in the future.

Sarasota COAD

Stewart Stearns welcomed the Sarasota COAD members to the meeting to discuss *Tropical Storm Fay*. Stewart gave an update on the last Sarasota COAD meeting where Ken Skalitzky, a representative from FEMA, gave a regional update on changes to the law and how they are now integrating with local communities.

The Long Term Recovery Planning Committee has completed a draft document to present to the Sarasota COAD for comment. LTRPC Chair Rev. Bruce Wismer is in the process of putting together a Nominating Committee to recommend members for the Leadership Team of the Sarasota COAD.

Health and Human Services Incident Command Team

Barbara O'Connor gave a current report on Tropical Storm Fay. On August 17, Sarasota County Government declared a state of emergency. A mandatory mobile home and low-line evacuation is in effect for Zone "A." All Sarasota County Government offices, the Health Department, and all schools will be closed on Tuesday, August 19. Two special needs shelters opened with 162 persons and three general population shelters will open this evening (Heron Creek Middle School, Brookside Middle School and the Venice Community Center). Sarasota County will activate to a Level 1 at 5:00 p.m. this afternoon and the EOC will be in lockdown with two 12-hour shifts (7 to 7) in place. The Health Department will also be on 12-hour shifts (8 to 8). Barbara pointed out that www.scgov.net provides information for those who are not sure if they are in a storm surge area and who need to know the locations of the nearest shelters.

Bill Little commented that the current path of the storm is heading on a northwest track and shows landfall somewhere south of Charlotte County. Since the anticipated storm does not appear to be a huge threat, the Health and Human Services staff will be minimized by serving only those at risk. Alberto Suarez stated that 2-1-1 has received many calls regarding the storm and is referring callers to the Sarasota County Call Center at 861-5000. Stewart Stearns noted that the Sarasota COAD will not be activated at this time and thanked the members for attending the meeting.

Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health

Sarah Cloud gave an update on the Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health (SPCMH). Sarah explained that the Partnership is in the third year of the SAMHSA grant. Within the first two years, the Partnership established a service delivery model by identifying a single point of entry that allows parents to talk to parents about their concerns with their child along with the agencies being able to refer children who are dealing with challenging behaviors in the preschool or home. Wraparound facilitation was also implemented to assist in identifying available services and supports (both formal and informal). At this point, the Partnership is looking back at how far they have come, what systems were established and where the community should go from here to strengthen the system. Two perspectives are being looked at for this system: broadening the spectrum and continuum of supports/services for young

children by promoting social and emotional wellness and recognizing linkages (bridges) to strengthen and support the network services. Steps have been taken to identify how to assist preschoolers to be successful in their surroundings by working with teachers and daycare providers to better understand and support children with challenging behaviors.

In September, the Governance Board will participate in a retreat. This retreat will assist in identifying how the Partnership and community can move forward, to broaden their public health perspective on early childhood mental health and to look at the continuum of care in the area of promotion, prevention and treatment for mental health. During this retreat, the board will also have the opportunity to look at the gaps in services, and what the project will look like in another three years when the SAMHSA funding is gone. There will be clarification on their vision, mission and goals to assist in achieving the outcome of sustainability and to strengthen the system of care. Some of the other areas that will be discussed are professional development, public relations, and financing and policy.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Bill Little reported that there was a [summary and report](#) in the members' packets for review.

Strategic Planning Work Groups

Children and Families

Rose Chapman reported that their committee broke down the age groups into four categories. A *Zoomerang* survey was sent out to 30 agencies and received back 17 responses. The survey asked the participants two questions in each category: what action could be taken to address a need without additional funds? and what could be done to address a need if funds were available? The results were as follows:

- Ages 0 – 4

No additional funding – conduct additional social marketing of existing resources, advocate for quality childcare, and hold regularly-scheduled meetings of providers and advocates that work with this age group.

With additional funding – more affordable childcare for working parents

- Ages 5 – 10

No additional funding – conduct additional social marketing for programs, advocate for volunteer mentors, and hold regularly-scheduled meetings of providers and advocates that work with this age group.

With additional funding – fund additional intervention and prevention programs

- Ages 11 – 13

No additional funding – conduct additional social marketing for programs to enlist youth volunteer mentors and promote more collaboration among the providers.

With additional funding – provide additional treatment interventions in the mental health and substance abuse areas.

- Ages 14 – 18

No additional funding – collaboration of providers

With additional funding – provide school-based mental health and substance abuse intervention and to research demonstration projects that may have new approaches to working with the age group.

Rose explained that their next step is to request agencies to come together according to the four age groups to identify solutions to the issues and to develop the resources to continue the collaboration. Rose noted that volunteers will be needed to chair each of these groups. It was suggested that the Early Learning Coalition could fill the 0-4 age group.

A discussion ensued on the linkages and collaboration of the age groups. Dr. Kay Glasser pointed out that linkages are crucial but it was much more important for each age group to remember to be very specific in their priorities when requesting funding.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Dave Beesley reported that there was a report in the members' packets on the work group's findings. Dave stated that the group went through a very collaborative process and then sent out a *Zoomerang* survey, which supported their extensive work. There findings were as follows:

- Awareness
- Access
- Affordability
- Accountability

No additional funding – support the expansion of the information exchange (IDEAS) to enhance awareness and access to the services available. In addition, to collaborate with trade associations, advocate to dedicate funding sources for services, work with the media on public service announcements regarding mental health and substance abuse services and issues, and to continue to address legislative issues that impact mental health and substance abuse.

With additional funding – to support and reduce the recidivism in the Criminal Justice System and support the collaborative efforts that are presently going on at this time.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None