

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.

September 21, 2009

Meeting Summary

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Humberto Alvia	St. Jude’s Hispanic Center
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
P. J. Brooks	Juvenile Justice Council and First Step of Sarasota (for Dave Beesley)
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
James Duplantier	Friendship Volunteer Center (for Dennis Stover)
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Sarah Hickey	Vocational Interagency Council
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Chief Terry Lewis	City of North Port
Laura McIntyre	Family Safety Alliance
Erin McLeod	Senior Friendship Centers (for Bob Carter)
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office
Sarah Pappas	Selby Foundation
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Sherrri Reynolds	School Health Advisory Council
Kathryn Shea	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Tammy Short	City of Venice (for Chief John Reed)
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Ryan Stoyles	Community Haven
Capt. Paul Sutton	City of Sarasota
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health Department (for Bill Little)
Jessica Ventimiglia	Manasota 2-1-1
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Karen Wilkinson	CHIP
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County
Caroline Zucker	School Board of Sarasota County

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Judi Bell	Nonprofit Resource Center
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Larry Eger	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Keliy Fordham	STAR Representative
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice

Jennifer Highland
Janet Kahn
Leslie Loveless
Dale Lux
Richard Martin
Janice Mee
Alana Monge
Bryan Pope
Bill Russell
Dr. Tam Sicard
Brena Slater
Jerry Thompson

Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
SunCoast Workforce Board
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
SCOPE
Twelfth Judicial Circuit
The Salvation Army
Sarasota Housing Authority
Catholic Charities
Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Coastal Behavioral Healthcare

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sarah Cloud
John Haleah
Chuck Henry
Ryan James
Andrea Kenzig
Kevin McKenney
Susan Scott

Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health
Sarasota Family YMCA
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
RBL Bank
Sarasota County Library System
Safe Children Coalition
Sarasota County Administration

STAFF PRESENT:

Kathleen Marie Hall
Pauline Tracy

Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Welcome and Introductions

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on September 21, 2009 at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd. at 1:30 p.m.

Legislative Proposals

Sherrí Reynolds reported that Caroline Zucker has agreed to co-chair the Legislative Advocacy Committee with Janice Mee. Caroline stated that a meeting will be scheduled in early October to review the 2010 legislative proposals. All Steering Committee members are invited to participate in the meeting. Currently, there are five proposals for review. Staff will send out another notice to submit legislative proposals prior to the scheduled meeting. All submissions will be reviewed and then brought forth for final approval by the Steering Committee on October 19. It was noted that legislators will be invited to an upcoming meeting to discuss the 2010 priorities.

H1N1 Influenza Update

Chuck Henry reported that a September 18 H1N1 [update](#) was in the members' packets for review. Chuck stated that Sarasota County Health Department is currently using the 2008–2009 *Essence* data as a tracking tool. This data is broken down by age group and chief complaint at Sarasota County hospital emergency rooms. Other sources of tracking data used are through providers, hospital labs, school health rooms, and school absenteeism. All data is tracked on a weekly basis. Statistics have shown that H1N1 is most prevalent in the younger population but recent data showed the 20 to 54 age group beginning to climb in numbers. Chuck gave the following statistics on the H1N1 virus:

- There have been 87 deaths related to the H1N1 virus in Florida since May 2009 and 700 known hospitalizations.
- The “community containment” method is being used to review the most serious outcomes.
- 90% of positive flu testing results are showing H1N1 present.
- The regular flu season normally results in 70 – 80 deaths; in 2008 there were 83 deaths and 300 hospitalizations.
- Pregnant women are at a greater risk of complications and therefore the state is tracking hospitalized cases with influenza like-illness and all are being tested for the H1N1 virus.
- The national death toll is up to 500; the southeastern region of the United States showed more widespread activity than any other region.
- The FDA recently approved the H1N1 vaccine.
- The average effectiveness of the vaccine is 7 to 10 days.

A discussion ensued on the H1N1 flu including the cost of the vaccine, other medical deficiencies contributing to the deaths, the regular flu vaccine’s interaction with the H1N1 shot, the precautions, alternatives to emergency rooms, egg allergies, and a policy for businesses. Chuck stated that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has made recommendations on policies for businesses but the basic guideline is that if an employee has flu-like symptoms, they should stay home until they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of anti-fever medications. If a family member has flu like illness but others do not, it is permissible for them to go to work or to school.

Chuck pointed out that additional information can be found on the Sarasota County website (www.sarasotahealth.org) under the “Resource Guide” along with links to the CDC and other organizations that provide up-to-date data. The Health Department anticipates receiving the vaccine sometime between the beginning of October and mid-November. The shot-based vaccine can be safely given to any population but the H1N1 “FluMist” will be limited as it is not recommended for children under 2, adults over 49, pregnant women, or anyone with a range of underlying health problems. School age children will be targeted first (with parental consent only) to receive the vaccine along with the highest medical priority patients. The vaccine will be distributed to the Sarasota County Health Department, Sarasota County middle and high school immunization clinics, and five elementary school locations with an after-school program. Vaccines will also be readily available to all private outlets in the community.

Board of County Commissioners Workshop

Steve Queior reported that the Community Alliance has an opportunity to give a one-hour presentation to the Board of County Commissioners on October 14. There is a need to identify the message to the Board, how complex it should be, and if the Alliance can be prepared to give a presentation by October 14. Steve suggested that the presentation could be a three-part message consisting of an update on the human service agencies’ current situation, the creative collaborations that the agencies are utilizing with the increased demand and decreased funding resources, and the further impacts that would occur with additional cuts in the future.

Susan Scott stated that this is a great opportunity for the Community Alliance to review with the Board of County Commissioners on the Alliance’s mission, current projects, the innovative and collaborative efforts among the human service agencies, and the critical human services needs in the community. It is also an opportunity for the Alliance to show their determination to change the business model, to stop the duplication of services, to integrate services and to provide a voice at the table for human services. Susan pointed out that Sarasota County is expecting a \$50 million

reduction in *ad valorem* tax revenue in 2010 and another \$50 million in 2011. The Alliance presentation will assist in shaping the conversation on addressing the human service needs of the community in light of fewer anticipated resources.

A discussion ensued on the suggested topics that included:

- The overall status of human services.
- Examples of agencies' innovative ideas and collaborative efforts in delivering more efficient services.
- Awareness that the mental health and substance abuse service agencies cannot use volunteers in the same way that other organizations can due to confidentiality reasons.

Other areas of discussion were on updating the recent survey, creating a committee to gather the data, including other services that are not funded by the county and state, sharing the outcome measurement reports to show the big picture, drawing down federal funding, and contacting the agencies by phone to gather the data.

Chip Taylor stated that at the recent Community Alliance Executive Committee, members asked staff to create a [“Sarasota County Funding for Human Services”](#) chart, which was in the members' packets for review. Chip reviewed the chart with the members, pointing out the millage rates and the total county funding each year from 2000 to 2010

Sherri Reynolds asked members to volunteer to assist with creating the presentation. Karen Bagues, Katherine Shea, Steve Queior, Stewart Stearns, Erin McLeod, Tom Pfaff, Jessica Ventimiglia, and Alex Young volunteered to assist with the presentation. It was decided that the work group will focus on the achieved outcomes, the efficiencies and economics, the mission of the Community Alliance, the units of services, and the waiting lists in the community. The work group members will contact the agencies for the updated data. It was noted that this form of communication should continue as an ongoing process on a quarterly basis with the Board.

Sarah Pappas moved, Karen Bagues seconded to move forward in gathering the data for the upcoming Board of County Commissioners workshop on October 14. The motion passed unanimously.

“Hope for Homeowners” Community Seminar Update

Pauline Tracy reported that the next “Hope for Homeowners” seminar will be on Saturday, October 3 and a [flyer](#) was in the member's packets for review. The event will be held at the Boys and Girls Club on Fruitville Road. It was noted that there were additional flyers on the table for distribution.

Committee Updates

Sarasota COAD

Erin McLeod reported that at the last meeting there was a FEMA presentation on the public assistance process and an update on H1N1 Influenza. Erin noted that the meetings have been changed to the second Thursday of each month beginning October 8. It was also pointed out that the National VOAD Conference will be May 10 - 14 in Orlando, and the Sarasota COAD was encouraged to make a presentation at both the National VOAD conference and the 2010 Governor's Hurricane Conference on their accomplishments.

Planning and Outcomes Committee

Karen Bogues reported that there was a revision to the [role](#) of the Planning and Outcomes Committee in the members' packets for review and approval.

Erin McLeod moved, Caroline Zucker seconded to approve the role revisions to the Planning and Outcomes Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Chip Taylor reported that there was a [handout](#) in the members' packets for review.

New Business

Caroline Eagen announced that on October 24 the Mental Health Community Centers, Inc. will co-host an intervention mental illness event, "Depression As We Age" at the Venice Community Center. This will be the first of a series of events on mental illness.

Public Comment

None

The next Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 19 at 1:30 pm, Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.