

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.

MEETING SUMMARY

April 19, 2004

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
Capt. Tim Carney	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office (proxy for Sheriff Bill Balkwill)
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Kevin Chinault	Mental Health Community Centers (proxy for Jessica Ventimiglia)
Richard Coccaro	NAACP
David English	Continuum of Care Leadership Council
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Foundation of Venice
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Eva Goodwin	STAR
Sarah Gorman	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Marvin Huskey	United Way of South Sarasota County
Frank Kovach	School Board of Sarasota County
Kim Kutch	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Dale Lux	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)
Bill Newell	Salvation Army - Sarasota Corps (proxy for Major Bert Tanner)
Nora Patterson	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
Carl Penxa	Loveland Center
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Bob Piper	First Step of Sarasota (proxy for Dave Beesley)
Mark Porter	Juvenile Justice Council (proxy for Sherri Reynolds)
Millicent Puleo	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Colleen Reardon	Homeless Persons (proxy for Sandy Baar)
Brett Rees	Northern Trust Bank
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice

Bob Saltonstall	SCOPE
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare (proxy for Christine Cauffield)
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County
Caroline Zucker	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties (proxy for Rose Chapman)

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Dr. Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Don Hadsell	Office of Housing and Community Development
Janet Kahn	Sarasota School Readiness Coalition
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Jim Myers	City of Venice
Lisa Phillips	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Beverly Stockton	Suncoast Workforce Development Board

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Chrissi Budd	Renaissance Manor
Maureen Coble	DCF Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program-SunCoast Region
Tim Dutton	SCOPE
Marc Lazarus	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Dr. Jerry Ross	Charlotte Community Mental Health Services

STAFF PRESENT:

Nancy DeLoach	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Becky Oliver	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

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on April 19, 2004 at the Sarasota County School Board chambers at 1:30 p.m. Stewart Stearns, Chair, began the meeting by reflecting on the contributions made by the late Judson Rees to the Community Alliance and asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

Stewart welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and guests and introductions were made. Stewart recognized new members Eva Goodwin and Bob Saltonstall.

Sarasota Memorial Hospital's Uninsured Small Group Limited Benefit Health Plan

Sarah Gorman introduced Marc Lazarus, Vice President for Business Development in Managed Care at Sarasota Memorial Hospital (SMH) Healthcare System, who presented the affordable health insurance program for small businesses which was implemented on April 1, 2004.

Marc presented the reasons for starting the program and gave the background for implementation. Marc explained the clinical guidelines used and noted that Aetna named SMH the most efficient Florida hospital. Mark noted that SMH, a public facility, receives \$16 million from tax revenues which only covers the first 13 and 1/2 days of uncompensated medical care. SMH spent \$43 million in 2003 and expects to spend \$80 million in 2004 on uninsured health care.

Marc described the problems and opportunities dealing with uncompensated care and noted that there are 45,000 people in Sarasota County who work and cannot afford health insurance. Marc stated that SMH has limited the first year enrollment in the program to 3,500 with a maximum of 25,000. The provider network currently has 170 physicians. Marc noted that the income of an employee cannot exceed 250% of federal poverty level, groups will be medically underwritten, and payment will be adjusted according to health risks. Marc explained some of the plan benefits:

- Participants attend classes on wellness and learn how the plan works
- Employers must pay 50% of premium
- Premiums do not include mental health or chiropractic care
- Prescriptions are covered for the first \$1,000
- Participants must enroll in disease management programs that include classes on weight management, diabetes, and congestive heart failure

Nora Patterson stated there is federal funding available to match state dollars to help with the KidCare deficiencies and asked if this program could be used as a match to draw down more federal dollars. Marc stated that it was a possibility and he would research.

Work Group Assignments

Stewart Stearns asked board members to review for accuracy the list of work group assignments that was distributed and reminded members that participation by Steering Committee members on at least one committee or work group is expected as it is in these committees that the actual work of the Alliance is accomplished.

WORK GROUP AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating and Membership Committee

Sarah Gorman reported that the committee recommended that in the current By-laws, **Article VII, Paragraph A (1), page 7**, the last sentence be removed to allow more than one member from each membership category from the Steering Committee to serve on the Executive Committee.

Sarah reported that they are awaiting appointments for the vacant seats on the Steering Committee. Sarah noted that the committee is currently trying to fill the vacant Business/Economic Development vacancy and several prospective nominees will be contacted.

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

Sarah Gorman clarified that the committee's correct name includes the "Health Coverage instead of "Health Care".

Sarah stated that it is projected that the changes in KidCare will unenroll 1,000-1,200 children in Sarasota County. Sarah noted that a letter to the editor regarding health care coverage for children is being drafted for Stewart Stearns' signature.

Education and Advocacy Work Group

Bob Carter reported that the committee is reviewing the Key Issue Survey results. The Committee has selected an informational/educational presentation on the homeless services in Sarasota County to be presented at the May 17, 2004 Steering Committee meeting.

Bob noted that Tim Dutton had been asked to present the SCOPE study on domestic violence at a future meeting.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders Consortium

Bill Little reported that the Consortium had a session facilitated by Bruce Rogers that focused on visioning.

Bill explained that Bruce separated the members into three groups and asked them to write an article imagining that it was the year 2009 and the Consortium had received a national award for its work. Bruce asked participants to describe what a coordinated delivery system would look like.

The common themes for a system in the year 2009 from the three groups were:

- Community involvement and ownership

- A community plan that addresses all issues and clearly communicates to the public
- A plan that addresses an integrated system
- An improvement of current resources
- Innovative and creative programs, policies, and procedures
- Accountability driven by outcome measures
- Staff support is provided/available

Bill reported that the next step will be the appointment of a work group to develop the mission statement and address planning issues. Bill noted that the summaries of the three work groups would be shared at the May 17, 2004 Steering committee meeting.

Bob Piper reported on how Manatee County was successful in fighting a “crack” cocaine epidemic twenty years ago. Bob reported that a coalition of leaders worked to educate the public and, as a result, residents voted in favor (by 67%) of taxing their own property to be used for substance abuse treatment services.

Dale Lux reported that the first week of October is Mental Health Week and the month of May is Mental Health Month. Dale viewed this as an opportunity to get all providers together for a conference to educate the community about mental health. Dale noted that 25% of the population suffers from mental illness and only 5% from cancer and 3% from heart disease, yet for every \$10 in research only 70 cents goes toward mental health services.

Peter Howard reported that the Funding Catalyst Work Group will research the revenue being spent at the local, state, and federal levels for substance abuse and mental health services and quantify the funding for Sarasota County.

Acute Care System Issues

Jerry Thompson reported that the acute care system funding has become stagnant although the population has increased. Jerry reported that although the Community Alliance identified Acute Care as a priority, the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) recently advised agencies that County funding for the priority outcome area “Supporting People in Crisis” (which includes Crisis Stabilization Services, among several others) will be reduced by 5% based on funding priorities established by the Board of County Commissioners.

Jerry Thompson introduced Dr. Jerry Ross, President and CEO of Charlotte Community Mental Health Services, to report on how the closing of Bon Secours Hospital’s private receiving facility and the increase in south Sarasota Baker Act clients being transported to Charlotte County has affected his agency.

Dr. Ross stated that Bon Secours’ psychiatric unit closed 14-15 months ago. Dr. Ross noted that the Baker Act Law states that patients must be taken to the

nearest receiving facility, which means that south Sarasota residents are taken to Riverside Behavioral Healthcare in Punta Gorda. Dr. Ross noted that Riverside is a private psychiatric institution and they transfer south Sarasota County residents over to the Charlotte Crisis Stabilization Unit, which his agency operates. Dr. Ross noted that the number of beds utilized has tripled since Bon Secours closed and there needs to be a plan to fix this problem. Dr. Ross noted that an average of one bed per day is being used by Sarasota County residents, at a cost \$103,000 per year.

Jerry Thompson reported that in Sarasota County the three issues are

- There is inadequate capacity for adults, as their CSU is at capacity every day
- There is usually room for children in the CSU
- An exception needs to be made to the Baker Act transportation rule.

Nora Patterson stated that these issues need to be brought formally and directly to the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners, so that the Board can discuss funding to reimburse Charlotte County for the cost of serving Sarasota County residents. Commissioner Patterson stated that the Alliance is not the appropriate forum to raise these issues, as the Alliance can only make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Patterson noted that Sarasota County currently provides a 40% local match, as compared to the required 25%, and commented that Sarasota County is facing Article V issues and just drug and mental health courts could cost \$2 million.

Bill Little noted that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium would be the appropriate forum to bring these types of issues to discuss and would help alleviate similar types of crises in the future.

NEXT MEETING:

May 17, 2004, 1:30 p.m. at Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.