

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

*“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”*

Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Blvd.

## MEETING SUMMARY

January 26, 2004

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Midgalia Aponte	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Sandy Baar	Sarasota County Coalition for the Homeless
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Dr. Kay Glasser	SCOPE
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Sarah Gorman	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Tom Hannon	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region ( <i>proxy for Kim Kutch</i> )
Hal Hedley	Loveland Center ( <i>proxy for Carl Penxa</i> )
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Marvin Huskey	United Way of South Sarasota County
Janet Kahn	Sarasota School Readiness Coalition
Dale Lux	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Jim Myers	Sarasota Council of Governments
Nora Patterson	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
Jessica Petro	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare ( <i>proxy for Dr. Christine Cauffield</i> )
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Lisa Phillips	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Brett Rees	Northern Trust Bank
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County

Beverly Stockton

Suncoast Workforce Development Board  
(*proxy for Mary Helen Kress*)

Bert Tanner

Salvation Army - Sarasota Corps

Alex Young

United Way of Sarasota County

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Maureen Avila

Private Attorney

Capt. Jerry Eggleston

Sarasota County Sheriff's Office

Nancy Hanshaw

Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court

Lee Johnson

Sarasota County Stakeholders' Advisory Group

Frank Kovach

School Board of Sarasota County

Bill Little

Sarasota County Health Department

Larrie Muncie

Department of Juvenile Justice

Judson Rees

Sarasota Chamber of Commerce

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Socrates Birsky

Public

Dr. Chrissi Budd

Renaissance Manor

Jan Chester

Planned Parenthood

Kevin Chinault

Mental Health Community Centers

Stephania Feltz

Girls, Inc.

Diane French

Volunteer Connections

Katie Knight

United Way of Sarasota County

Cheryl Kopmann

Easter Seals of Southwest Florida

Dolores Lopez

NAMI

Janice Mee

Public

Mike McHugh

School Board of Sarasota County

Debbie Spellman

DCF Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Program SunCoast Region

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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 January 26, 2004 at the Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, at 2:30 p.m. Stewart Stearns, Chair, welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and guests, and introductions were made.

Chip Taylor gave a brief history of the Health Department building and invited anyone present for a tour following the meeting.

Stewart Stearns acknowledged Stanley Godleski for receiving the C. Colburn Hardy Older Advocate Award, given to him in recognition of significant contributions to policies, programs, and services for elders.

### **Adoption of Amendments to By-Laws**

Stewart Stearns reported on the changes to the composition of the Steering Committee as listed in the proposed By-Laws. Stewart explained that to improve the health and human services delivery system there needs to be decision makers from a diverse group of people.

Jim Myers asked what was being done to get the other municipalities involved. Stewart explained that letters of invitation will be sent, but there is no guarantee that there will be representation by all municipalities. Stewart noted that the City of Sarasota has expressed an interest in being involved.

***The Steering Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed changes to the Community Alliance By-Laws.***

### **Election of At-Large Members of Executive Committee**

Brett Rees reported that the last Nominating and Membership Committee meeting was held January 23, 2004. Brett stated that at this meeting the Committee nominated Lee Johnson, Bob Carter, Christine Cauffield, Kay Glasser, Sarah Gorman and Peter Howard to fill the at-large Executive Committee seats for a two-year term.

Stewart Stearns asked whether there were nominations from the floor to fill the at-large Executive Committee. There were no other nominations.

***The Steering Committee voted unanimously for Lee Johnson, Bob Carter, Christine Cauffield, Kay Glasser, Sarah Gorman and Peter Howard to serve as the at-large members of the Executive Committee for a two-year term.***

## **WORK GROUP AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Nominating and Membership Committee**

Brett Rees reported that the following three seats are currently vacant on the Steering Committee:

- STAR
- Vocational Interagency Council
- NAACP

Brett reported all the agencies have been contacted and asked to recommend a representative for the Steering Committee. Brett noted that the names of those who are designated will be given at the February 23 meeting of the Steering Committee.

Brett reported that because the By-Laws were approved that there will be several vacant seats that need to be filled by specific entities, such as local governments and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice.

Chip Taylor clarified that letters will be sent to local governments and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice asking for a designated representative. Chip noted that the seats in Housing, Homeless Persons, and Mental Health will need to be filled by agencies, while the Community Representatives and Community Planning seats will need specific groups or individuals identified.

Brett asked Steering Committee members to be thinking of possible appointments before the next Nominating and Membership meeting.

Brett reported that the committee reviewed the attendance log to ensure members are actively participating in Steering Committee meetings.

### **Funding Catalyst Work Group**

Peter Howard reported that the Work Group looked at Title IV-e money to ensure that Sarasota County is drawing down their equity from the federal and state governments. The findings show that the County is already maximizing all of the available draw-down for Title IV-E and a report will be presented to the Steering Committee in July to quantify this study.

Peter reported it was discovered that the second largest allocation of Medicaid funds distributed by the State and Federal government is going to the School Board. Peter contacted the School Board to find out how they are utilizing these funds. Peter met with Mike McHugh and Janice Mee, both who are familiar with revenue maximization. Peter reported that we have taken advantage of all available federal funding and introduced Mike McHugh, from the school system, who reported on the Medicaid funding and how it is used for education services. Mike reported that the School District receives 1 million in Medicaid funding. The challenge will be to ensure this funding continues.

Chip Taylor asked if the funding received by the School System could be used to support the school health nurse program. Mike said that this could be explored.

Stewart thanked the work group for their report and the School Board for the work they do.

## **Education and Advocacy Work Group**

Bob Carter reported on the recent changes made to the Alliance website. He reported that the meeting summaries, schedules, and agendas will be available on the website at [www.sarasotaalliance.net](http://www.sarasotaalliance.net) and recommended that Committee members take a new look at this excellent resource of information.

Bob distributed a survey to determine what key issues the Community Alliance members feel are facing the community that need to be pursued. Members were asked to select two issues within their sector and one outside of their sector. Bob noted that this information would be compiled and the work group will review to decide if there are issues that need to be addressed.

Bob also reported that the Work Group moved their regular meeting time to the third Monday of every month, one hour prior to the Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting and welcomed anyone to attend.

## **Legislative Advocacy Committee**

Although not on the agenda, Chip Taylor reported that in November the Legislative platform for the Community Alliance was adopted. Chip noted that in the Governor's budget recommendation some of the existing funding will not be available. For example, the cost of the proposed juvenile detention center has been shifted to county government at a cost of \$68 million and the Mothers and Infants Program has been eliminated. This created a new awareness of items that might need attention. Members were asked to send responses to him by the end of the week. These items will be reviewed at the next Legislative Committee meeting and presented to the Community Alliance on February 23 to be finalized before the next Legislative session.

Chip noted that the agenda originally scheduled for the January 27 Board of County Commissioners' meeting to discuss the Article V programs was changed to February 10 at 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

## **Planning and Outcomes Work Group**

Chip Taylor reported that the work group met jointly with SCOPE and the subcommittee of the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) responsible for setting community outcome targets. Another meeting has been scheduled to revise the community outcome targets. Chip explained that because of the data received from the Communities that Care (CTC) Survey of 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, additional outcome targets were added. The committee has identified four specific outcome indicators in the substance abuse category to replace the generic indicators.

In addition, Chip provided an overview of the risk and protective factors measures included in the CTC Survey. It was discovered that in the 20 protective scales that show what keeps youth headed in the right direction, Sarasota County ranked below the national average in 18 of the 20 factors. The work group agreed to use the factors as benchmarks this year until data from the next survey is collected and reviewed. The revised targets and benchmarks for FY 2007 will be proposed at the February 23 Community Alliance Steering Committee.

Chip reported that there was very little data pertaining to the elderly and to include them as a community outcome target, a survey would cost \$15,000-\$20,000. Committee members were asked to think of ways to raise these funds.

### **Health Care for Uninsured Children Subcommittee**

Sarah Gorman reported the subcommittee is researching model projects across the country in hope of finding ways to provide health coverage for children.

The group research has shown that the model project in Santa Clara, California is of particular interest because of their commitment that all children will have health care. She noted that Santa Clara works closely with HMOs. The reserve funds that HMOs have cannot exceed a certain limit and when it does the money needs to be used for community health issues.

Sarah noted that currently there is over 100,000 children on the waiting list on Florida for health coverage. Sarah explained that the remedy to this situation is to take less than 10% of the Extraordinary Medicaid payments and use it to remove children from the waiting list for health coverage. This is a discretion the Governor can use and it doesn't require legislative approval. Sarah requested that Stewart Stearns submit a guest column to the Sarasota Herald Tribune to encourage this remedy for covering the gap.

Nora Patterson stated that although a letter to the editor is helpful, a phone call to Senator Lisa Carlton might be more effective.

### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders Consortium**

Stewart Stearns reported that the first meeting of the Consortium was held on January 20. Although there seemed to be a lack of clarity on the purpose of the meeting, there is another meeting scheduled on February 23 at 10:30 a.m. at the Landings.

Chip explained that the Consortium was envisioned to provide a community forum for everyone to come together to prioritize and address substance abuse and mental health issues.

***NEXT MEETING:***

***February 23, 2004, 1:30 p.m. at Sarasota School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.***

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**