

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota School Board, 1980 Landings Blvd.

MEETING SUMMARY

August 16, 2004

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
Sandy Caplan	Vocational Interagency Council (proxy for Coral Thorsen)
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Dr. Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Sarah Gorman	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Sally Graham	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) (proxy for Dale Lux)
Don Hadsell	Office of Housing and Community Development
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Frank Kovach	School Board of Sarasota County
Leslie Loveless	Suncoast Workforce Development Board (proxy for Beverly Stockton)
Patricia McGuillen	United Way of South Sarasota County (proxy for Marvin Huskey)
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Marlene Minzey	First Step of Sarasota (proxy for Dave Beesley)
Jessica Petro	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare (proxy for Dr. Christine Cauffield)
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Lisa Phillips	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Millicent Puleo	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Colleen Reardon	Sarasota County Coalition for the Homeless (SCCH)
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Homer Rice	Sarasota County Health Department (proxy for Bill Little)
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on August 16, 2004 at the Sarasota County School Board chambers at 1:30 p.m.

Stewart Stearns, Chair, started the meeting by asking members to observe a “moment of silence” for those who have suffered from the effects of Hurricane Charley.

Stewart welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and guests, and introductions were made. Stewart recognized new member Steve Queior.

Update on Relief Effort for Victims of Hurricane Charley

Chip Taylor reported that staff from the Health and Human Services Business Center have worked in the Emergency Operations Center for Sarasota County since Thursday, August 12 and were responsible for coordinating volunteers and donations and health-related issues.

Chip explained the role and actions of the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) and Emergency Support Function (ESF) 15, Volunteers and Donations. He noted that the Sarasota County EOC has been operating on behalf of the Charlotte County EOC because their building was damaged in the hurricane. Chip stated that there are two locations registering volunteers and receiving donations daily from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

- Office of Environmental Health, 1301 Cattleman Road, Building A, Sarasota, 861-6001 or 861-6002.
- Volunteer Connections, 7810 Tamiami Trail South, Suite A5, Venice, 496-8466.

Chip invited those wanting to volunteer to register at either location.

Homer Rice, representing ESF 8 (Health and Medical Support) reported that that the worst damage was in Charlotte County where there is no water or electricity. Homer reported that patients in hospitals and nursing homes were transported to other locations. Homer stated that Desoto County has no electricity, but that the immediate needs were still being assessed.

The following information was shared:

Ken Alexander reported that Sarasota Memorial Hospital had “special needs” patients who needed to be moved so that room can be made for those patients with acute medical issues.

Jessica Petro reported that the Coastal Behavioral Healthcare’s 40-bed facility for boys in Punta Gorda sustained no structural damage, but was without electricity.

Doug Kerr reported that the Gene Matthews Boys & Girls Club in North Port would be open daily from 7 am to 7 pm.

Colleen Reardon, representing ESF 11 (Food, Water and Ice), reported that Publix and Anheuser-Busch had donated water to be distributed in Charlotte and Desoto counties.

Leslie Loveless reported that Suncoast Workforce Development Board sent their mobile unit to Port Charlotte to assist those displaced from their jobs.

Nancy Shoemaker reported that the Diocese of Venice was asking for donations from parishioners. Nancy noted that the work of Catholic Charities would be "second tier".

Steve Queior reported that the Sarasota County Board of Realtors was contacted for assistance with temporary housing needs.

Wendy Hopkins reported that the Community Foundation of Sarasota has disaster relief funds to assist the needs of the non-profit agencies.

Marlene Minzey reported that First Step has housing available for some who are displaced.

Susan Nunnally reported that Riverside Mental Health Center was destroyed, Charlotte Mental Health Center was operational, and the other receiving facilities were currently being assessed.

James Harris, from Port St. Lucie, who was assisting with the Special Needs Shelters, reported that nurses were needed at Robarts Arena and Bon Secours Hospital and that general physicians are needed at Robarts Arena.

Alex Young stated that he would contact Chip with updates on volunteer needs for Desoto County.

Nancy Shoemaker requested that the Alliance recognize those in the media for the excellent work in getting the word out.

Steve Queior requested that there be a central place for communicating information. Pauline suggested that e-mails be sent to her and that the Alliance website would be updated as information is received.

WORK GROUP AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating and Membership Committee

Sherri Reynolds reported that the following three appointments were made:

- Shannon Staub, Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
- P. J. Brooks, Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
- Colleen Reardon, Sarasota County Coalition for the Homeless

Sherri stated the following:

- The City of Long Boat Key has indicated that they are not interested in participating in the Community Alliance.
- Mayor Richard Martin of Sarasota was contacted and he will discuss the appointment of a representative with the City Manager.
- The Council of Neighborhood Associations has declined to participate on the Steering Committee. The City Coalition of Neighborhoods Association will be contacted for potential candidates.

Sherri reported that the Committee voted unanimously to nominate Luis Baron to fill the vacant Business/Economic Development seat on the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee unanimously passed a motion to nominate Luis Baron to fill the vacant Business/Economic Development seat on the Steering Committee.

Sherri stated that the attendance log was reviewed and that certificates will be presented to those who have exemplary attendance.

Sherri reported that the Committee recommended that the Steering Committee discontinue the use of the proxy form. Members who wish to send a designee to the Steering Committee meetings would simply need to notify staff in advance.

Sherri recommended that Article V, Section 4.c (page 5) be changed to the following:

In the event a member cannot attend a scheduled meeting of the Steering Committee, an assigned designee **may be** chosen by the member **and** shall be afforded all rights and privileges of that member. ~~only after execution of a signed certificate of proxy (see Appendix I). The assigned designee may only vote in the members' absence~~ and that the **PROXY FORM** in Appendix I be deleted.

Stewart stated that the Committee members can vote on the change to the bylaws regarding the use of proxies at the September 20 meeting.

Health Care for Uninsured Children Committee

Sarah Gorman reported that the pending Medicaid “Super Waiver” for Florida that might be requested by the Governor prior to the next Legislative session could result in a reduction of Medicaid benefits. Sarah stated that this would impact the information gathered regarding uninsured in the County and more data will be presented at the September 20 Steering Committee meeting.

Amendment to F.S. Chapter 20.19 re: Composition of Community Alliances

Stewart Stearns reported that a change to the language regarding the composition of Community Alliances, F.S. 20.19, passed during the last legislative session and that staff were unaware of the amendment until recently. The amendment states “A member of the community alliance, other than a member specified in paragraph (d), may not receive payment for contractual services from the department or a community-based care lead agency.” Based

on this change, many of the existing members of the Steering Committee would not be eligible to serve on the Alliance since they receive funds directly from DCF or from the Sarasota YMCA, which is the lead agency.

Stewart stated the Community Alliance of Sarasota County has never been an alliance as envisioned by F.S. 20.19. Sarasota County served as the pilot for Community-Based Care in the state, and the Community Alliance did not need to provide the oversight of that system as other community alliances do. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that all references to F.S. 20.19 be removed from the bylaws of the Community Alliance of Sarasota County so that the group may continue to retain its current structure. This amendment will be voted on at the September 20 Steering Committee meeting.

New Business

Sally Graham reported that the second class of CIT training is scheduled for September 13-17 and 32 officers are enrolled. (This training class has since been postponed due to the approach of Hurricane Ivan).

Lisa Phillips announced that SCOSA would be sponsoring a fundraising picnic at Oscar Scherer State Park on September 18, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. called "Celebrate Safe".

Karen Bagues distributed flyers regarding the 2004 Girls Summit for middle school girls, to be held on February 28, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Sarasota High School.

Steve Queior announced that chambers in the community are planning to facilitate disaster recovery small business loans.

NEXT MEETING:

September 20, 2004, 1:30 p.m. at Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.