

## COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

*“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”*

*Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.*

### MEETING SUMMARY

April 18, 2005

#### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Ken Alexander      | Sarasota Memorial Hospital   |
| Karen Bogues       | Community Youth Development  |
| Chrissie Budd      | Sarasota County Coalition for the Homeless<br>(for Colleen Reardon)      |
| Vanessa Carusone   | City of North Port   |
| Cathy Emmett       | Senior Friendship Centers (for Bob Carter)                               |
| Kirstin Fulkerson  | Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice                                |
| Kay Glasser        | Community Planning   |
| 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<br>Development                       |
| Marvin Huskey      | United Way of South Sarasota County                                      |
| Janet Kahn         | School Readiness Coalition of Sarasota<br>County                         |
| Katie Knight       | United Way of Sarasota County (for Alex<br>Young)                        |
| Bill Little        | Sarasota County Health Department  |
| Dale Lux           | National Alliance for the Mentally Ill                                   |
| Renee McQueen      | Vocational Interagency Council   |
| Paul Mercier       | Sarasota Board of County Commissioners (for<br>Shannon Staub)            |
| Elliott Metcalfe   | Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit                               |
| Richard Montemagno | Sarasota County Sheriff's Office   |
| Lois Natiello      | Department of Children and Families –<br>SunCoast Region (for Kim Kutch) |
| William Newell     | Salvation Army--Sarasota Corps (for Bert<br>Tanner)                      |
| Tom Pfaff          | Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity                            |
| Lisa Phillips      | Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse                                    |
| Millicent Puleo    | Hispanic Latino Coalition  |

Sherri Reynolds  
Nancy Shoemaker  
Stewart Stearns  
John Swencki  
Jessica Ventimiglia  
Caroline Zucker

Juvenile Justice Council  
Diocese of Venice  
Community Foundation of Sarasota County  
First Step of Sarasota (for Dave Beesley)  
Mental Health Community Centers  
Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee  
Counties (for Rose Chapman)

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Luis Baron  
P.J. Brooks

Christine Cauffield  
Ginny Donovan  
David English  
Don Hadsell

Frank Kovach  
Jim Myers  
Carl Penxa  
Steve Queior  
Beverly Stockton  
Alex Young

*Sieté Dias*  
Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory  
Council  
Coastal Behavioral Healthcare  
Department of Juvenile Justice  
Continuum of Care Leadership Council  
Office of Housing and Community  
Development  
School Board of Sarasota County  
City of Venice  
Loveland Center  
Sarasota Chamber of Commerce  
Suncoast Workforce Development Board  
United Way of Sarasota County

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Steve Brett  
Cathy Daquette  
Thomas Hemphill  
Jeanne Hodaian  
Christie Lewis  
Kathryn Shea

Alberto Suarez

United Way of South Sarasota County  
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill  
Suncoast Center for Independent Living  
Sarasota County Health and Human Services  
Nonprofit Resource Center  
Florida Center for Child and Family  
Development  
Manasota 2-1-1

**STAFF PRESENT:**

James Schulz  
Chip Taylor  
Pauline Tracy

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

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on April 18, 2005 at the Sarasota County School Board chambers at 1:30 p.m.

Stewart Stearns welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and guests, and introductions were made. Marvin Huskey announced that he was retiring

and introduced Steve Brett as the new Executive Director of the United Way of South Sarasota County. Steve will be taking his place on the Steering Committee. Tom Hemphill with Suncoast Center for Independent Living was also introduced.

Commissioner Paul Mercier thanked the Community Alliance for its leadership in bringing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium and the Criminal Justice Commission together to look at how we treat people in our jail systems. Commissioner Mercier stated he has been very impressed with the work these two groups have done and the amount they have accomplished in a very short time.

Members of the Alliance thanked the County for providing the staff support which has allowed the Alliance to continue to grow and take on human service initiatives.

Eva Goodwin presented Stewart Stearns and the Steering Committee with a certificate of appreciation from the Community Youth Development Project of Sarasota County for their support of youth in the community.

### **COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP (CHIP)**

Leslie Clarke, CHIP Director, gave an overview of the project, its goals, mission, partnerships, structure and organization. There are three active Community Health Assessment Teams (CHAT): the LOVN CHAT serving the Laurel, Osprey, Venice and Nokomis areas; the Englewood CHAT; and, the North Port CHAT. Citizens from each of these communities meet on a regular basis to discuss how to improve the overall delivery of health care.

A health survey was completed and the results indicate that 16.4% of all residents have no health insurance and 28.9% of low-income residents have no health insurance. Other findings: 24.4% of the uninsured were unable to access health care, 42.4% of the uninsured would use the emergency rooms to access care; 60% were not aware of programs in the community that could improve their health; and 45% believe more wellness programs are needed.

At the last Health Care for Uninsured Children (HCUC) Subcommittee meeting, the members agreed that there is a need to bring in additional resources and expertise to address the uninsured and underinsured problem. It was suggested that the community needs to look at citizens of all ages and not just children, who have been the focus of HCUC in the past. A collaboration between the CHIP project and the Community Alliance to sponsor a community forum to discuss the uninsured and underinsured in Sarasota County would be beneficial. The Alliance could invite speakers from successful initiatives from other communities to the forum to talk about their programs. After learning about each of these "best practices", a community discussion needs to take place to determine the level of concern and interest by the community, and what can be done to improve the situation.

The Steering Committee asked the HCUC and CHIP to work together to develop a concrete plan for the forum. This will be a good partnership as the Community Alliance can bring the agencies together and the CHIP project can bring the communities together.

Dale Lux stated that the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill has an interest in working with the group as members of his organization receive numerous phone calls from people trying to access the health care system but have no insurance coverage. Alberto Suarez stated that the Manasota 2-1-1 would be interested in helping in any way possible and noted that the HMIS system maintains updated information that can be accessed at any time. Millicent Puleo stated the Hispanic Latino Coalition would also like to be involved.

The Community Alliance Executive Committee needs to interface with the CHIP Steering Committee to ensure there is integration and not duplication.

### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING (BHAT)**

Christie Lewis from the Nonprofit Resource Center stated there approximately 30 people had registered for the BHAT on May 16. She distributed a sign-up sheet for Alliance members who have not had the opportunity to register yet. This training is geared toward all human service agencies and not just those specializing in behavioral health.

### **COMMUNITY ALLIANCE SATISFACTION SURVEY**

Pauline Tracy announced that there has only been about a 20% return rate on the satisfaction surveys and more are urgently needed in order to provide any type of useful data. The information collected will assist the Community Alliance members decide on their future endeavors and direction. All members were urged to complete the survey and return to staff as soon as possible [*Ed Note: Only one person has done so*]

### **EARLY LEARNING COALITION WAIVER REQUEST UPDATE**

Janet Kahn stated that a final decision has not been made regarding Sarasota's request for a waiver. Many from the community have called and e-mailed Tallahassee and members of their local delegation in support of the waiver, which reflects the strong local support.

### **COMMITTEE AND WORK GROUP UPDATES**

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

In addition to the partnership with the CHIP project mentioned earlier, the subcommittee discussed the decline in the number of children enrolled in

KidCare. The open enrollment period in January did not add any new children to KidCare from Sarasota County. Bill Little reported that there are currently 4600 children in Sarasota enrolled in the program which is down from 5600 only two years ago.

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

The Consortium is moving ahead with the three phases of the Community Residential Alternatives Program: creation of a Marchman Act facility, expansion of the VIP program; and creating long-term supportive housing. The third phase will be the most difficult to address but the stakeholders continue to meet to address issues which have come up. The Salvation Army has been very accommodating in trying to work out a solution.

James Schulz reported that the third CIT training ended last Friday with 42 graduates, including four from the North Port Police Department.

Kathryn Shea reported that a work group of the Consortium has been working together to formalize an application to SAMHSA for a systems of care grant. Much of the groundwork had already been done when the County went through a similar process two years ago to apply for a similar grant but then decided not to go through with the application. The current group has updated the original application document and addressed changes in the current grant requirements. The deadline to submit the grant is May 17, so the work group has been moving quickly. Some of the changes to the grant include less emphasis on sustainability and more emphasis on replicability. There will be 24 grants awarded in this cycle, compared with only five in the previous cycle. One of the priority target populations that SAMHSA is focusing on is the younger child which fits in with the 0 to 8 population in Sarasota's application.

***Elliott Metcalfe moved, Vanessa Carusone seconded, motion passed unanimously to support the SAMHSA Systems of Care application for children age 0 to 8.***

### **Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC)**

Jeanne Hodaian reported that the CDPC met twice in the last month. The first meeting was held in the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to familiarize the group with how the EOC operates. At the second meeting, members looked at structure and goals and established work groups in the areas of substance abuse and mental health, elder services, youth and families at risk, and volunteers. The work groups were asked to meet and report back at the next full CDPC meeting.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Five weeks into the session, few bills have been passed. There is currently \$50,000 in the House budget for the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Project; however there is no money budgeted on the Senate side. It was suggested that Alliance members contact Senators Carlton and Bennett to support the project. Kathryn Shea will send out specifics about the bill to alliance members.

The Mothers and Infants Program currently has \$250,000 in non-recurring funds in both the House and Senate budgets.

Sherri Reynolds announced there were several school health bills to watch. One reduces the funding for school health services by \$1 million and is in both the Senate and the House. This would affect the school health nurse positions currently in the schools. The other relates to the school's ability to require students with emotional/behavioral problems to take psychotropic medications.

### **New Business**

Dale Lux reminded Steering Committee members that May is Mental Health Month and distributed a calendar of events planned for the community. This is the first year there has been a concerted effort to raise awareness during Mental Health Month in Sarasota. NAMI is hopeful that next year they will be able to invite a well-known keynote speaker to kick off Mental Health Month.

Karen Bogues announced that CYD's Voices Presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19. This is the second annual report on the lives of middle school students in Sarasota County and everyone is invited.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

***May 16, 2005, Community Foundation of Sarasota, 2635 Fruitville Road. The Behavioral Health Assessment Training, (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) will take the place of the May Steering Committee meeting. The lunch hour will be used to discuss immediate issues that need to be addressed by the Steering Committee.***