

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.

MEETING SUMMARY

August 15, 2005

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Kevin Chinault	Mental Health Community Centers (for Jessica Ventimiglia)
Lynore Dickinson	Loveland Center
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Sarah Gorman	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Barbara Gross	City of North Port (for Vanessa Carusone)
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Kim Kutch	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Pauline MacDonald	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare (for Christine Cauffield)
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council
Scott Moore	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Jim Myers	City of Venice
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Daniel Schmelzinger	Office of Housing and Community Development
Mike Schneiderman	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness (SPEH)
Kathryn Shea	Florida Center for Child and Family Development (for Peter Howard)
Shannon Staub	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
Bert Tanner	Salvation Army--Sarasota Corps

Alex Young
Tammy Zappa

United Way of Sarasota County
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Luis Baron	<i>Sieté Dias</i>
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
Tony Cornish, Jr.	NAACP
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Eva Goodwin	STAR
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Frank Kovach	School Board of Sarasota County
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Millicent Puleo	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Beverly Stockton	SunCoast Workforce Development Board

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mark Porter	Sarasota Family YMCA
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Christie Lewis	Nonprofit Resource Center

STAFF PRESENT:

Kathleen Marie Hall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
James Schulz	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Michael Theall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on August 15, 2005 at the Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd. at 1:30 p.m.

Chair Stewart Stearns welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and guests and introductions were made.

COMMITTEE AND WORK GROUP UPDATES

Nominating and Membership Committee

Stewart Stearns stated that the Executive Committee met last week and had a discussion on the vacancy in the Homeless Persons category on the Steering Committee. He will ask Sherri Reynolds to present this information to the Nominating and Membership committee and have them come up with a recommendation for this vacant seat.

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee (HCUC)

Sarah Gorman reported that there was a handout in the meeting packets showing the progress on the upcoming community forum, *Community Solutions to the Challenge of the Uninsured*. This event will take place on Thursday, November 10, at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. This forum will cover citizens of all ages. The presenters who have committed to this forum include:

- Robert Sillen, Executive Director, Santa Clara Valley (California) Health and Hospital System
- Dr. Cynthia Chestnutt, P.A., County Commissioner, Alachua County and Speech Pathologist at Shands Hospital.
- David Rogoff, Director, Department of Health and Social Services, Hillsborough County.
- Dr. Rhonda Poirier, P.H.D., Founding President & CEO, JaxCare, Inc.

The Community Alliance and CHIP Leadership Council are co-sponsoring this event. Sarah stated that approximately half of the projected budget is committed at this time. A packet of material will be sent out to all who have committed to attend this event which will give the attendees an opportunity to review the literature prior to the event. In the afternoon, participants will break into small groups for discussions.

Sarah also mentioned that Christie Lewis from the Nonprofit Resource Center has offered to make her center's website available for the registration process and to handle RSVP's for the event. The website address is: <http://www.suncoastnonprofits.org/>

Planning and Outcomes Work Group (POWG)

Chip Taylor reported that the Planning and Outcomes Work Group has been meeting as a joint committee with members of the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC), which has increased the number of members on this committee to 10.

The group is in the process of analyzing the January 2005 "Communities That Care" High School survey data and has had a lot of good input as to how to look at the data in different ways. They will be making recommendations to the Community Alliance and the Board of County Commissioners on using this data to establish new targets. There

should be a preliminary report available at the next Steering Committee meeting which will show:

- Areas where the Sarasota County students are performing below the national norm.
- Areas where they are still within the national norm range but showing signs that they are moving in the wrong direction on the scales.
- Areas where they are doing better than the national norm or moving in the right direction.

The POWG meetings are on the first Friday of every month at the Health Department and new members are always welcome.

Pauline Tracy mentioned that the next meeting on September 2 at 10:00 a.m. will be at the County Administrative Center, 1660 Ringling Boulevard, Conference Room A/B due to a conflict with the HSAC meeting the same day.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium (SAMHSC)

Bill Little reported that the Marchman Act and the VIP Program have been combined and will now be called the Community Alternative Residential Treatment (CART) Initiative. They have been meeting on a weekly basis.

Michael Theall reported that CART has developed a timeline to have the program up and running as follows:

- The 10-week expanded VIP program will open October 1.
- The Marchman Act Receiving Facility which will be located at First Step's Detox facility will open January 1, 2006.

Bill Little reported that the Acute Care System Task Force has had one meeting so far and will be meeting again on Wednesday, August 17. They will begin looking at solutions on how to add the Marchman Act and VIP programs to the acute care system, what this will do to the system and address some of the other system issues that are going on in other areas.

Bill also reported that the Planning Committee is looking at developing the mental health and substance abuse plan for the county. They will be meeting on Tuesday, August 16 at the Health Department.

The next Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium meeting will be on Friday, August 19 at the Health Department.

Bill Little asked Kathryn Shea to speak on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Association (SAMHSA) grant that the County applied for recently. Kathryn stated that the only information that we have received is the grant proposal has made the first cut, which puts it in the top 55 sites, and from these 55 SAMHSA will pick 24

sites. Kathryn mentioned that it does look favorable because it is the only application submitted for the young child population.

Kathryn also mentioned that the initiative that the Community Alliance endorsed and supported to develop the first fetal alcohol diagnostic center in the State of Florida was fully funded in the amount of \$280,000. The contract has been signed and is being managed by Children's Medical Services (DOH). This center is now up and running and they have eleven diagnostic assessments scheduled so far. The targeted populations are as follows:

- Children 0 – 8
- Children at risk in the child welfare system
- Children living in poverty
- Mothers and infants in the First Step program

DOH has confirmed that this funding is included in their 2006 – 2007 budget and they have requested the Florida Center for Child and Family Development to submit a proposal for an expansion. Kathryn thanked the Community Alliance for their support of this initiative.

Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC)

Tom Pfaff reported that their committee held two faith-based community breakfasts. The first breakfast was hosted by the Community Foundation on July 6, with approximately 90 participants in attendance. The second breakfast was hosted by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice on July 26, with about 50 participants in attendance. The committee is very appreciative to both foundations for their generous support of these events. The response from the faith-based community has been very positive.

Dennis Stover mentioned that there will be another event on Wednesday, August 17 the Jewish Family and Children's Services. It will be hosted by the Jewish Federation and Jewish Family and Children's Services.

Dennis also reported that thus far, they have registered 31 congregations to participate in the Neighborhood Points of Distribution Sites (N-PODS) Program. Forty congregations have given their leadership the membership forms to sign up their community. One church in particular has already brought in over 200 completed individual registration forms. Dennis stated that he recently met with Health and Human Services, Emergency Management and some others to discuss and plan the next step on how to keep these registered volunteers engaged by having a training exercise with them at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) within the next couple of weeks.

Dennis stated that in the past week, 35 volunteers completed Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) training at Twin Lakes Park, which is one of the potential VRC sites. Everyone was very positive about this training.

Chip Taylor reported that there also was a mock drill between the Health and Human Services Operations (HHS-OPS) and the EOC to test the communication linkages to and from the EOC and the HHS-OPS. Chip stated that by Dennis Stover taking on the responsibility to operate the Volunteer Reception Centers (VRC) this year, he has taken quite a load off of the Health and Human Services staff. Last year most of the staff in the Health and Human Services Department were engaged in the VRC operations side instead of the human services side. Now, with the work that Dennis has accomplished, Health and Human Services will only need to have one liaison at each of the Volunteer Reception Centers.

Chip also wanted to mention that the health department is in the process of replacing the roof to make the building able to withstand the same kind of storms as the County Administration Center building. Bill Little added that they are in the process of putting the fuel tank in the back of the building for the generator.

The Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC) continues to meet on a regular basis. The next scheduled meeting will be on August 22. All four sub-committees are working on various issues at this time, one of which is the Volunteer Task Force, which works mainly on volunteer issues. The other three groups are called Strike Forces and they are as follows:

- The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Strike Force, which is chaired by Sarah Gorman.
- The Elder Strike Force, which is chaired by Cathy Emmett.
- Child and Family Strike Force, which is chaired by Lee Johnson.

Stewart Stearns mentioned that just one year ago our Steering Committee met in this very room in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley. At that time, it was clear from the looks on the faces of everyone in that room that there was no coordinated health and human service plan, but everyone in the room wanted to help in some way. But now there *is* a plan, a system in place with coordinated linkages, and everyone is prepared to deal with whatever comes their way.

Bill Little commented that one of the things that has been going on parallel to these groups is a core group of hospitals working primarily with the special needs shelters. Last year it was a real challenge in dealing with the special needs shelters. This year there is a connection in place between the Elder Care Strike Force that has been working with discharge planning and the hospitals' special needs group. In the last week there was a meeting with approximately 8 to 10 nursing home representatives at the health department to discuss their disaster plans and how they can link into the hospital and the Elder Care group. Because of this meeting the nursing home group has been included in the discussions. These committees become more integrated each time we have an opportunity to add another group and by taking advantage of that, the connections are continually growing larger and larger. Bill noted that the work would not be completed this year, but eventually most of the agencies and entities will be connected in a real positive way that will make a difference.

Bill also mentioned that recently they met with USF staff to discuss the possibility of applying for a Robert Wood Johnson grant which would focus on health information exchange. This proposal would center on the information exchange in a disaster that would take advantage of our information registration, special shelter needs, other shelter needs, volunteers, as well as having access to hospital surveillance studies.

Jim Myers mentioned that the Venice Community Center will be completed by the end of next month and will be a certified Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hurricane shelter and the only one in the city of Venice.

Michael Theall commented that the mental health sub-committee has been in the process of gathering research that shows positive feedback on giving people information during a crisis and that it shows that they are more likely to use this information during the time of need. Therefore, this committee has decided to create a strike force of people who hand out resource flyers that identify what is normal in the time of a disaster and what is not. The flyers will include the hot line numbers for Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, First Step and Bayside. They will also have teams that will be headed up by a licensed counselor or someone from the Medical Reserve Corps to visit through the hardest-hit neighborhoods and hand out these flyers. At the same time, it will enable them to identify who needs help and who doesn't in post disaster. The flyers will also be placed in the shelters.

Crisis Intervention Team Committee (CIT)

James Schulz reported that this would be his last official report on the Crisis Intervention Team Committee (CIT), as Michael Theall has taken over the leadership responsibility of this committee. He stated that they just graduated their fourth class which now gives them over a 100 law enforcement officers who are CIT-trained. The fifth class is scheduled to begin shortly. The next step is to go beyond just having CIT-trained officers by implementing a CIT program in which law enforcement will send out a trained CIT officer to any calls involving persons with mental illness instead of calling the closest officer to the scene. This is not in place yet, but many CIT-trained officers have been called to these types of situations. The next effort beyond this will be getting more law enforcement officers from the various municipalities trained in CIT. Currently, most of those trained have been Sarasota County Sheriff Officers.

Chip Taylor mentioned that at the last CIT class there were four or five North Port Police Department officers scheduled, but due to scheduling conflicts they were unable to attend. They plan to get more involved in future trainings.

Stewart Stearns stated that the officers are very thankful for this training as it is a valuable tool that they can use day to day in their job.

NEW BUSINESS

Florida Family Day

James Schulz commented on the Florida Family Day flyer. He stated that through the Suncoast Workforce Board, the SCOPE Dropout Implementation Team and several other groups, efforts are being made to promote this effort locally. There is bountiful evidence that shows that families are not spending enough quality time together, which is evident with the current difficulties in the juvenile justice system and schools. In the past, the juvenile justice system, school board, health department and law enforcement were the ones that were expected to fix all the problems, but the data indicates that this needs to start at home. On September 26, everyone is asked to spend time with their family by having dinner together. This flyer also shows a link to a website where one can download flyers to help promote this day. Sarasota County will internally be supporting this day by informing all county employees through an internet flyer, the Board of County Commissioners have placed this item on their agenda on September 26 to proclaim that day as Florida Family Day in Sarasota and the hope is that the Community Alliance support this effort.

Karen Bogues mentioned that the Community Youth Development program has been doing this type of family dinner night for a couple of years. There was one in July in North Port, Venice, Laurel, and two locations in Sarasota and it was very successful. The parents' response to this event was wonderful as they find it hard to find the time to connect and communicate with their teenagers and feel that any help they can receive to bring them together or give them a reason to share a time together is very valuable. Karen stated that they are hoping to have another dinner at the end of September.

2-1-1 Open House

Alberto Suarez invited everyone to the 2-1-1 Open House on Friday, August 19 at 11:30 a.m. to recognize the efforts and new enhancements of the program. Congressman Katherine Harris will be their special guest for this event.

Orientation

Pauline Tracy announced that there would be an orientation for new Community Alliance members immediately following the meeting.

Sarasota United For Responsibility of Equity (SURE)

Tom Pfaff mentioned that the organization that he represents is called Sarasota United for Responsibility of Equity. They try to be proactive for those who often do not have a voice. They will be going before the Sarasota City Commission affirming their belief that the City needs to provide more affordable housing. Tom mentioned that he had a petition with him if anyone was interested in signing it.

Students Taking Active Roles (STAR)

Karen Bogues mentioned that the Students Taking Active Roles (STAR) Leadership training is getting ready for its fall season. If anyone knows of any high school students who would be interested in this program, they may call her office at 922-5126 or go to their website to download an application at <http://cydonline.org/>.

Workshop: Board Excellence -- The Responsibilities & Roles of Serving on a Nonprofit Board

Christie Lewis mentioned that there will be a workshop sponsored by the Nonprofit Resource Center and the Sarasota County Bar Association on September 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. The workshop is on the systems approach to nonprofit management, how to improve your efficiency and reduce your risk. She stated that she has flyers available if anyone is interested in this workshop.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

NEXT MEETING:

September 19, 2005, 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be at the Sarasota School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.