

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.

MEETING SUMMARY

August 21, 2006

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Samantha Berkey	STAR
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
P.J. Brooks	Tri-County Safe Children Coalition Advisory Committee
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Sarah Gorman	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
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
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Scott Moore	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
Bert Tanner	Salvation Army--Sarasota Corps
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Janis Alberti	Loveland Center
Evelyn Barritt	CHIP
Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Patrick Kilbane	Young Professionals Group (YPG)
Kathy Kleinlein	School Board of Sarasota County
Richard Lockhart	City of North Port
Ann McArdle	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office

Raul E. Rivero	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Daniel Schmelzinger	Office of Housing and Community Development
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Shannon Staub	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Beverly Stockton	SunCoast Workforce Development Board
Vicki Taylor	City of Venice
Bill Wallace	Mental Health Community Centers
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County
Tammy Zappa	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

OTHERS PRESENT:

Phyllis Drehouse	Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership
Marsha Hosack	Sarasota County Legislative Liaison
Lee Johnson	Sarasota YMCA
Lisa Preston	Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership
Debbie Spellman	DCF/Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Dorothy Zech	Sarasota County Legislative Liaison

STAFF PRESENT:

Kathleen Marie Hall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
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The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on August 21, 2006 at the Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd. at 1:30 p.m.

Bill Little welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and guests and introductions were made.

Legislative Update

Dorothy Zech, Sarasota County's Legislative Liaison, distributed to the members a summary of the final votes on legislation that passed on health care, children and families, and appropriations. Dorothy gave a brief overview of the last session which focused on growth management, transportation funding, existing infrastructure, affordable housing, property rights, and property tax revenues. Dorothy mentioned that the Senate Committee did make minor modifications to the existing law in order to implement the Medicaid Reform Waiver. House Bill 55019, the Martin Lee Anderson Act, passed to address the issues associated with the boot camp death within the Department of Juvenile Justice. There was also reform legislation passed regarding mobile home parks.

Dorothy mentioned that early voting has begun for the primary elections on September 5 and will be followed by the general election on November 7. If the elections go as anticipated, Senator Ken Pruitt from Port St. Lucie will be the next Senate President and Representative Marco Rubio from Miami will serve as the House Speaker. Representative Rubio, along with two other representatives, Ray Samson and Dean Cannon, are currently creating a plan for the vision for Florida's future which can be found on <http://100ideas.org>.

The local delegation will meet after the November 7 general election and prior to November 24. The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) is currently preparing for its legislative discussions

in September and the approval of legislative priorities in December. In preparation for the next legislative session, County staff is putting together their agenda for discussion with the Board of County Commissioners and they look forward to receiving input from the Community Alliance on their focus of needs for the community.

Bill Little mentioned that the Community Alliance Legislative Committee will need to prepare for the upcoming session. If anyone is interested in being part of this committee, please email Bill Little or Chip Taylor.

Some of the issues that were brought up during the presentation:

- Taking action for the restoration of the middle school and high school prevention services by identifying the effects that these cuts have had on the community.
- The effect on the changes to property/wind insurance for the community, along with the effect this will have on rental properties and how to relieve the pressure from all citizens of the community.
- Approval of the statewide fetal alcohol service delivery system.
- Create a list of agencies that are on the Community Alliance, showing the results of the loss of services from the Medicaid Reform.

Bill Little requested that Dorothy forward the list of issues that the County is tracking to Pauline Tracy, in order to circulate it to the Community Alliance for review and to add to as necessary. Dorothy stated that the entire listing was available on the Online Sunshine website.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC)

Dennis Stover reported that the August meeting was held at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation in Venice and a decision was made to change the committee's name to Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disaster (Sarasota COAD). Dennis stated that the sub-committees are meeting on a regular basis and doing a lot of preventative preparation. Dennis mentioned that the Volunteer Task Force sub-committee that he and Pauline co-chair has completed 7 out of the 8 action items on their action plan to date. Their task force is continually recruiting volunteers and referring them to agencies such as the Salvation Army and American Red Cross for training. They have discovered that by keeping the registered volunteers' information updated they will always have a ready force of volunteers. Dennis pointed out that he is in the process of scheduling training with the EOC in late August or early September for the faith-based and neighborhood communities.

Alberto Suarez reported on the Data Sharing Committee and their objective of finding common ground regarding what information can and cannot be shared among the various agencies in Sarasota County and what system should be used for this database. The committee has made some progress in creating a default data base system in agreement with key leaders in the community. Alberto mentioned that there is a possibility that Sarasota County may become a pilot program for utilization of the CAN system at the local level. Bill Little stated that the struggle with the data base is with the HIPAA regulations that protect medical records and with the refusal of the CAN participating agencies to share client information with "government agencies". They view agencies like the health department as "governmental entities" rather than publicly-funded service providers and apparently fear that the information would end up with Homeland Security or other "law enforcement" agencies.

Planning and Outcomes Work Group

Ken Alexander reported that the work group finally received the report on the middle school Communities That Care survey from the Florida Prevention Research Center after an extensive delay, but soon discovered that there were significant problems with the data. The center is in the process of re-analyzing the data and it will be approximately six weeks before the work group receives a corrected report. These results will be essential to move forward and set the community outcome targets for FY 2009.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

David Beesley reported that the Addictions Receiving Facility opened on August 1 and has had 31 involuntary admissions to date. David pointed out that staff has begun reviewing the demographics of the clients coming into the facility to determine whether they match the population expected to be served. David stated that their first hearing to extend a stay was successful and they have done well in finding placement for clients once they leave the facility.

Major Bert Tanner reported that the success of the VIP-ER Program is touching more and more of the young adults in the community and continually improving with a successful program completion rate of 75%.

Jerry Thompson reported that there have been recent changes to Medicaid reimbursement that will continue to impact the delivery of community-based mental health services. Jerry stated that Coastal Behavioral Healthcare will see a 75% reduction in Medicaid funding next year, resulting in a loss of about \$1.3 million. The capitation rate for this area is so low (\$13 per person per month) that services will be seriously curtailed and services such as in-school, day treatment and other programs will no longer be available except through the court system. The only services that will be provided will be inpatient and core services as of October 1.

Discussion on the Medicaid Reimbursement update included:

- Sarasota County will sustain a huge loss. This issue should be brought before the Community Alliance Legislative Committee to find a way to influence the legislative delegation to insist on a better formula for establishing capitation rates in the region.
- Managed care for children in the child welfare system will be implemented on January 1.
- The Florida Center's clinic for children and families will not be able to meet the new criteria, which will cause a loss of \$30,000 to \$40,000 per month. Florida Center will be phasing out a lot of its services but will continue to provide services funded by Sarasota County and the United Way.
- The Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership will likely be impacted as well.
- Aging services will see an impact as Medicaid moves against funding community-based organizations for Florida senior care and it will eventually come down to what the community is willing to fund and how to redefine services provided to the community.
- Department of Children and Families (DCF) foster care population will be going to the child welfare pre-paid plan in 4 out of 6 counties in this region.
- DCF's receives \$8 million dollars for children's mental health in this region and half of this funding goes toward crisis stabilization services.
- Catholic Charities is inundated with calls due to this impact and now has a long waiting list that never existed prior to the changes in Medicaid reimbursement.
- Oak Park School will see long-term ramifications once their monthly behavior management clinics and prescription program are phased out.

Jerry stated that at the last Stakeholders' Consortium meeting it was recommended that Coastal Behavioral Healthcare bring staff from Value Options together with local providers and other counties in AHCA Area 8 (Lee, Collier, Charlotte) to have a solution-based discussion. Jerry announced that on August 29 Mary Watson from Florida Health Partners will make a presentation at the Health Department on the impact to AHCA Area 8 providers.

Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership

Phyllis Drehouse reported on the Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership. Phyllis stated that the partnership now has contracts in place with the Florida Center as the lead agency, the University of South Florida, and SEDNET. There will be additional contracts implemented in the new fiscal year beginning October 1. The Project Director interviews are proceeding in a timely manner and will be completed by August 31, with a selection being made shortly thereafter. Sherry Crelin, formerly the Communications Coordinator, has transferred into the Training Coordinator position as of August 11. The Communications Coordinator position has been advertised, the selection criteria are being set, and interviews will follow by mid-September with a selection made by the end of September. The partnership has identified two families to enroll in the program. Two Wraparound Coordinators have been hired, one housed at the Florida Center and one at First Step. As more families are enrolled, additional Wrap Coordinators will be hired through Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Jewish Family and Children Services, Sarasota Memorial Hospital and Children First.

Phyllis mentioned that there were several handouts in the members' packet for review, one on the Governance Board and Executive Committee, showing the current makeup of the committee and the workgroups, and another on the Logic Model showing the vision and mission statements. Phyllis asked the members to forward any comments to Pauline Tracy either by email Pauline_tracy@doh.state.fl.us or by telephone 684-0090 extension 1250. The next Governance Board meeting will be on September 22 at Twin Lakes Park. Over the next two meetings, the Governance Board will begin to refine its roles and responsibilities. The next Logic Model meeting will be on Tuesday, September 26.

Strategic Planning Session

Bill Little reported that at the August 16 Executive Committee meeting there was a conversation on moving forward on the strategic planning session and asked the Steering Committee to voice their suggestions. The members requested that the session be held in a different setting/location and that it focus on coordination and communication within the Community Alliance. It was mentioned that strategic planning is a unique opportunity to take a leadership role in the community to help educate or form a county-wide response to services being cut and a time of true reflection on what has been completed, what worked well, what was a good idea but never got initiated, and how to follow through on new initiatives. It would also be a time to readdress the bylaws, membership, and attendance of the Steering Committee along with reviewing goals, objectives, targeted outcomes, long-term issues and what the next steps should be.

Some of the other suggestions made at the table:

- Create a 4 step process and choose 3 members for each step to come up with several issues in each area. Step 1: accomplishments or an after action analysis of activities, projects progressed to date; Step 2: trends, challenges and opportunities (information about devolution, funding and changes in the local demographics); Step 3: positioning in

the community (community relations, political, lobbying, and the governance); and Step 4: future objectives.

- Initiate a Grant Writing Committee of approximately 10 to 12 members who can create a good coordination system for a grants readiness alliance. This committee would review multiple sites on the internet for upcoming grants, come together with a variety of grants to apply for, and take turns applying for these grants either separately or as a collaborative effort.

Steve Queior asked to be placed on the September 13 Executive Committee agenda to assist with different facilitating tools that the committee could use during the strategic planning session.

New Business

Sarah Gorman distributed a reminder on the Community Solutions Work Group's plenary session scheduled for August 25 at Twin Lakes Park. The issues that will be discussed will include health insurance, health coverage, the recent changes to Medicaid, and the recent progress of the work group. Sarah also announced that she will be retiring as the Executive Director of the Healthy Start Coalition and had information on her position if anyone was interested in pursuing it. Sarah acknowledged how much she has treasured the Community Alliance. Bill Little thanked Sarah for her work with the Community Alliance and the Healthy Start Coalition and stated that she would be missed by all.

Karen Bogues announced that on August 26 a group of community agencies will hold the First Annual Boys Summit for middle school boys at the Lee Wetherington's Boys & Girls Club. The speaker for this event will be Sarasota Police Chief Peter Abbott. For further information call 922-5126.

Dennis Stover announced that on September 20 from 9:00 a.m. to noon, Wendy Spencer, Chief Executive Officer of the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida) will facilitate a free training at the Community Foundation in Sarasota. One of the highlights of this training will be disaster management volunteers. Dennis also announced that the county-wide "Make a Difference" weekend will be October 20 – 22 for individuals and groups to participate in service projects to make Sarasota County a better place. Some of the planned activities will include painting houses, delivering meals, beach cleanups, etc. For further information go to <http://www.friendshipvolunteer.com>.

Public Comment

Next Meeting: September 18, 2006, 1:30 p.m. at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.