

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Blvd.

MEETING SUMMARY

February 20, 2006

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Samantha Berkey	STAR
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Maria Garcia-Casellas	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Sarah Gorman	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
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)
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Bob Piper	First Step of Sarasota (for Dave Beesley)
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Mike Schneiderman	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Beverly Stockton	SunCoast Workforce Board
Bert Tanner	Salvation Army--Sarasota Corps

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Karen Bagues	Community Youth Development
Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
Lynore Dickinson	Loveland Center
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Frank Kovach	School Board of Sarasota County
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Richard A. Lockhart	City of North Port
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office

Scott Moore	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Daniel Schmelzinger	Office of Housing and Community Development
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Shannon Staub	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
Vicki Taylor	City of Venice
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Bill Wallace	Mental Health Community Centers
Tammy Zappa	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Leslie Clark	CHIP
Lee Johnson	Sarasota YMCA
Judy Jones	Project H.O.P.E.
Ted Quigley	Project H.O.P.E.
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Ann Voorhees	Department of Children and Families—SunCoast Region

STAFF PRESENT:

Kathleen Marie Hall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Kelly Lewin	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Boban Pesic	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Michael Theall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on February 20, 2006 at the Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Blvd., 2nd Floor Auditorium at 1:30 p.m.

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

Homeless Discussion

Mike Schneiderman, Executive Director of the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, gave a presentation on their organization. The mission of the partnership is to work together with existing agencies in Sarasota and Manatee counties to provide services for the homeless and to seek additional funding to address this problem. A panel discussion on homelessness was held recently at New College. Some of the issues addressed included the difference between affordable housing for the workforce and for the homeless and that funding for homeless services is based on the need 10 or 15 years ago. Mike mentioned that the community needs to address the issue of homelessness and find ways to provide subsidized housing for this subpopulation. The Partnership is presently working on several grants and initiatives. On February 28th there will be a presentation at the United Way on

the upcoming application for the HUD Super NOFA grant which will provide a small percentage of HUD funding for both Sarasota and Manatee counties. A grant writer has been hired to assist in this process and with other grants that may become available.

Rose Chapman stated that a prevention program such as *Season for Sharing* is an example of a program which can save the taxpayers money. Michael Theall pointed out that the average homeless person in the community currently costs Sarasota County up to \$14,000 a year to support. By investing \$5,000 to \$6,000 per person in prevention programs, people can obtain housing and a job which would be more cost efficient for the County.

Major Bert Tanner of the Salvation Army mentioned that his agency has a need to hire 2 full-time case management staff to work specifically with the homeless at their 10th Street facility.

Stewart mentioned that the Community Alliance members could have a role in this initiative and asked Mike Schneiderman to keep the Alliance informed on a regular basis on the progress of the Partnership.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Nominating and Membership Committee

Steve Queior reported that the committee met on January 30 and took the following actions:

- Under the Local Government category, there are two vacancies; one for Longboat Key and one for the City of Sarasota. No action was recommended at this time.
- Under the Housing category, there was a recommendation to fill the vacant seat with the Community Housing Trust of Sarasota County. Dr. Sarah Papas, Chair of the Community Housing Trust is currently identifying someone to fill this seat.
- Under the Business and Economic Development category, there is one vacancy. It was recommended that the Young Professionals Group (YPG) be assigned the seat.
- Under the Community Representatives category, there is a current vacancy for the NAACP and contacts are being made at this time.
- Under the Health category, it was recommended to add a representative from the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) as an additional seat. This would change the number of seats in this category from 2 to 3.
- Under the Community Planning category, it was recommended that the name be changed to Community Planning and Resources and a seat be added for Friendship Volunteer Center. This would change the number of seats in this category from 2 to 3.

Stewart Stearns explained that the suggested revisions to the By-Laws would be posted for 14 days and at the next scheduled meeting the Steering Committee will vote on the recommendations.

Steve Queior noted that a motion was made at the Nominating and Membership committee to have Patrick Kilbane of YPG fill the vacant Business and Economic Development seat. ***It was unanimously approved by the Steering Committee to accept Young Professionals Group (YPG) to fill the vacancy under the Business and Economic Development category and to approve Patrick Kilbane to fill this seat.***

Steve Queior reported that the committee is also making two additional recommendations:

- Develop a matrix that would show the level of diversity of the Steering Committee and identify gaps in the group's composition such as age, race, geographic location, etc.
- Conduct a strategic planning session to review the current structure and direction of the Community Alliance.

It was suggested that a strategic planning session could be conducted on Monday, April 17 (the regular Steering Committee meeting date) from noon until 5:00 p.m., with lunch and a short business meeting prior to the session. It was also suggested that the Executive Committee formulate 5 or 6 top priority questions and email them to members prior to this meeting. One suggested facilitator of the session was Barry Banther of St. Petersburg, who recently facilitated a similar session for the Suncoast Workforce Board.

Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Committee

Sarah Gorman reported that this would be their last update from their group as they have decided to disband the committee and ask members to join one of the three teams which formed after the recent community health forum. These teams will reach out to the business and faith-based community, along with health care providers, local government, and the larger group of advocates, to become active partners in this next wave of progress in addressing this community issue. Sarah stated that the next event will be held in May.

Stewart Stearns thanked the committee members for doing an outstanding job in exploring and informing the Steering Committee of many complex issues on health coverage.

Community Disaster Preparedness Committee

Boban Pesic gave a report on the Community Disaster Preparedness Committee's recent meeting on February 13. Boban distributed the committee's action plan, which included the following steps:

- Increase Public Awareness--Dianne Shipley will chair this committee.
- Advance and Expand Volunteer Utilization--Pauline Tracy and Dennis Stover will co-chair this committee.
- Sharing Client Information Among Agencies--Alberto Suarez will chair this committee.
- Identify Additional Human Services Partners--Phil Gorelick, Bryan Pope, Lois Natiello, Nancy Shoemaker and Marion Sortore will lead this committee.
- Establish Health & Human Services Communication Linkages and Alternative Recovery Plans--Bill Little, Cher McGuirk, Chip Taylor and Robert Day will lead this committee.
- Conduct Training and Exercises--Cher McGuirk and Boban Pesic will lead this committee.

Boban stated that the Emergency Operations Plan for the Human Services Annex will be completed by May 2006.

Chip Taylor mentioned that the ICS 100-200 systems training is available to all members of the CDPC and the Alliance. The times and dates are available on the CDPC report. The basic objective of this class is to provide a basic understanding of the Incident Command System (ICS) structure and terminology.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Michael Theall reported that Department of Children and Families (DCF) has dropped the initiative to direct some of the community's residential treatment beds for forensic use. DCF understands that there were valid community concerns and they are going back to the drawing board to come up with a different plan.

The Planning Committee has been meeting every week and their goal is to have their strategic plan completed by the end of March.

The Acute Care Task Force is planning the next Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training session on March 6-10. There are three CIT classes scheduled this year. The Task Force is currently developing training materials to assist officers in the field. Their goal is to have this material in the hands of every law enforcement officer in Sarasota County by the opening of the Marchman Act facility.

The Community Alternative Residential Treatment (CART) Initiative held the third VIP-ER Program graduation on February 17, with 11 out of 15 participants in the class graduating.

Ann Kelley has been hired as the Project Director for the Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership. Kelly Lewin has been hired as the Family Involvement Specialist. Ann is in the process of hiring the remainder of the administrative team which will be housed at the Florida Center complex pm 17th Street within the next couple of weeks.

New Business

The State of Florida Seeks Federal Waivers to CREATE Senior Care Program

Bob Carter commented on the article in members' packets: *The State of Florida Seeks Federal Waivers to Create Senior Care Program*. This program would move the present Medicaid system to a capitated managed care system and change the present entitlement program to a fixed benefit program in order to have some predictability in state spending. Bob stated that there is nothing that they can do to impact this program on a local level at this time. There are two pilot programs running at the moment and, as information is available, he will pass it on to the Community Alliance.

Purpose Prize Award

Chip Taylor announced that on February 21 the Board of County Commissioners will nominate Dr. Kay Glasser for the prestigious "Purpose Prize" award. This award will be given to five recipients in the country who have made significant and sustaining contributions late in their life and comes with a cash prize of \$100,000. Dr. Glasser stated that if she is selected for this honor, she plans to place the cash into her foundation within the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

Shining Star Scholarship and Award Banquet

Curtis Lavarello of the Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA) announced that they will hold their first annual "Shining Star Scholarship and Awards Banquet" on February 28 at the Municipal Auditorium. They will be granting ten \$1,000 scholarships to deserving youth in Sarasota County.

Senior Focus Program

On Friday, March 24, SCOSA will hold their Senior Focus Program at the Community Foundation from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. This program is based on the life of a local senior and will explain the services that are available to seniors who have addiction problems. For further information, you may go to their website: <http://www.scosa.org/>.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Flyers

Chip Taylor announced that the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) flyers were available for distribution. This credit is geared toward the workforce community who earn under a certain income.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

NEXT MEETING:

March 20, 2006, 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be at the Sarasota School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.