

**COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY**

***“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”***

**Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2565 Fruitville Road**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**February 21, 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
John George	Salvation Army--Sarasota Corps (for Bert Tanner)
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Janet Kahn	School Readiness Coalition of Sarasota County
Kim Kutch	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Dale Lux	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity
Millicent Puleo	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Lisa Phillips	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Beverly Stockton	SunCoast Workforce Development Board

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Luis Baron	<i>Sieté Dias</i>
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Sandy Caplan	Vocational Interagency Council
Vanessa Carusone	City of North Port
Christine Cauffield	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
David English	Continuum of Care Leadership Council
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Eva Goodwin	STAR
Sarah Gorman	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Don Hadsell	Office of Housing and Community Development
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Marvin Huskey	United Way of South Sarasota County
Frank Kovach	School Board of Sarasota County

Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Jim Myers	City of Venice
Carl Penxa	Loveland Center
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Colleen Reardon	Sarasota County Coalition for the Homeless
Brett Rees	Northern Trust Bank
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Shannon Staub	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
Jessica Ventimiglia	Mental Health Community Centers
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Elaine Charyn	DCF Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program - SunCoast Region
Pam Dorwarth	State Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged
Jeannie Hodaian	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Janice Mee	SCOPE

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Nancy DeLoach	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Becky Oliver	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on February 21, 2005 at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road, at 1:30 p.m.

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

**COMMITTEE AND WORK GROUP UPDATES**

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

Bill Little reported that the Stakeholders' Consortium and the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) held a joint meeting on February 4 and unanimously adopted the following three proposals that were recommended by joint work groups of the two entities:

1. Convert First Step of Sarasota's existing 15-bed detoxification unit into a 30-bed secure adult addictions receiving facility for Marchman Act patients to divert these persons from the County Jail.

2. Expand the Salvation Army's 60-day "VIP" residential treatment program from 15 to 45 beds and increase treatment time to more than 10 hours.
3. Develop expanded transitional housing for persons exiting the VIP program.

Rose Chapman noted that when a person enters a program such as the Detoxification Unit or the VIP Program, there are usually two to five individuals that are affected. Case managers from Jewish Family and Children's Services could assist these families.

Beverly Stockton reported that JOBS Etc. has a Mobile One-Stop Unit that has eleven stations for customers to run job searches, prepare resumes, and use assessment tools, and this unit could be made available for use by participants in the VIP Program at the Salvation Army.

Chip Taylor announced that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Policy Coordinator position that will provide staff support for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium has been posted on the "Myflorida.com" website and can be accessed through People First. The position closes on February 22. A five-person community panel that includes representatives from the Stakeholders' Consortium and SCOPE's Mental Health Implementation Task Force will screen applications. The panel members are Debbie Spellman, DCF; Bob Piper, First Step of Sarasota; Jerry Thompson, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare; Don Ottinger, SCOPE; and Lt. Paul Sutton, Sarasota Police Department. The panel members will meet on March 7 to interview the top candidates and provide their recommendations to Bill Little and Chip Taylor, who will then interview the final two to three candidates. Although the person who is hired will report to Chip, they will be working for the Consortium.

### **Medicaid Reform Update**

Chip Taylor reported that Governor Bush's sweeping proposal for Medicaid Reform is being considered by the House and Senate. Both chambers have identified Medicaid reform as their top priority this session and the concern that a proposal might be pushed through the Legislature rapidly is no longer an issue. A public hearing was held by the two chambers' select committees in Tampa on February 11. Senator Lisa Carlton of Sarasota is the chair of the Senate's Select Committee. Approximately 250 people attended, but only two-thirds of the nearly one hundred registered speakers were allotted time to speak. The legislators made it clear that the Governor's proposal is not necessarily their proposal and they are willing to entertain other ideas and suggestions for reform as well. Any bills proposed for Medicaid reform will probably be in a special session held in May or June.

### **Human Services Disaster Response and Recovery Committee**

Stewart Stearns reported that efforts to develop a community-based health and human services disaster response and recovery plan are underway. Stewart noted that there was an article in the Monday, February 21, edition of the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* regarding the Alliance's plan.

Bill Little introduced Jeannie Hodaian, who has been hired to work on the disaster response and recovery plan, and announced that the first work group meeting would be held later that day.

Bill reported that several groups have asked to present their disaster plans to the Alliance and announced that the University of Miami has been invited to present their mental health crisis intervention program at the March 21 Steering Committee meeting.

Kim Kutch reported that FEMA has hired a person to organize a regional long-term recovery effort for Manatee and Sarasota counties. This could possibly include Hardee County as well, but not Charlotte County. Kim noted that she had provided the FEMA representative with information about the Community Alliance.

### **School Readiness Coalition Waiver Request**

Janet Kahn explained that the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County (formerly the School Readiness Coalition) is requesting an official waiver from a merger requirement by the state's Office of Early Learning. Janet described the reasons for the waiver request, gave a brief overview of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education (VPE) Program legislation, and requested a formal letter of support from the Alliance.

***Janet Kahn moved and Bob Carter seconded, motion passed unanimously, to support the Early Learning Coalition's request for an official waiver from a merger requirement by the Office of Early Learning, and to remain an independent, single-county coalition.***

### **New Business**

Dale Lux announced that May has been designated as Mental Health Education Month. Sarasota County libraries will have tables of literature dedicated to mental health awareness, a speaker's bureau is being organized, and a fashion show is planned for May 14. Anyone interested in participating or donating was urged to contact Dale at [dluxe1@webtv.net](mailto:dluxe1@webtv.net). Dale noted that participation from Westfield Shopping Center for exhibits and non-profit organizations had been difficult.

Dale noted that a grant from the Selby Foundation has enabled NAMI to present "Journey of the Mind" at the Players Theatre on December 12.

Pam Dorwarth suggested that Dale contact someone at the State level to declare May as "Mental Health Education Month".

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### ***NEXT MEETING:***

***March 21, 2005, 1:30 p.m. at Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Boulevard.***