

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.

MEETING SUMMARY

January 24, 2005

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
Chrissie Budd	Sarasota County Coalition for the Homeless (for Colleen Reardon)
Sandy Caplan	Vocational Interagency Council
Vanessa Carusone	City of North Port
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Cathy Emmett	Senior Friendship Centers (for Bob Carter)
Sarah Gorman	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Eva Goodwin	STAR
Sally Graham	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (for Dale Lux)
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Marvin Huskey	United Way of South Sarasota County
Frank Kovach	School Board of Sarasota County
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Linda Mason	School Readiness Coalition of Sarasota County (for Janet Kahn)
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Lois Natiello	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region (for Kim Kutch)
Lisa Phillips	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse
Shannon Staub	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Beverly Stockton	SunCoast Workforce Development Board
Bert Tanner	Salvation Army--Sarasota Corps

Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare (for Christine Cauffield)
Jessica Ventimiglia	Mental Health Community Centers
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Sheriff Bill Balkwill	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Luis Baron	<i>Sieté Dias</i>
David English	Continuum of Care Leadership Council
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Don Hadsell	Office of Housing and Community Development
Jim Myers	City of Venice
Carl Penxa	Loveland Center
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity
Millicent Puleo	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Brett Rees	Northern Trust Bank
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryLee Bussard	SCOPE
Diana French	Volunteer Connections of Sarasota County
Patty Allan-Jones	<i>Sarasota Herald Tribune</i>
Christie Lewis	Nonprofit Resource Center
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Joe Naroditsky	SCOPE

STAFF PRESENT:

Nancy DeLoach	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Becky Oliver	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
James Schulz	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on January 24, 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.

Family Violence Implementation Task Force Update

MaryLee Bussard distributed cards announcing an event on improving race relations by Dr. Deborah Plummer called “Changing Race Relations Through Friendship” scheduled for Tuesday, February 1 at 7 p.m. at the Flanzer Jewish Community Center and asked members for help in advertising this event.

Marylee and Joe Naroditsky gave an update and distributed flyers that listed the community successes for family violence prevention implemented by the SCOPE Family Violence Task Force.

Marylee and Joe reported on upcoming activities, including an elder abuse training program with local service providers and the Department of Elder Affairs, a family violence web page with links to helpful community resources, and an ongoing community awareness campaign.

Joe requested that members contact him with suggestions on what groups might benefit from the elder abuse training.

COMMITTEE AND WORK GROUP UPDATES

Health Care for Uninsured Children Committee

Sarah Gorman reported that the committee is watching closely the evolution of Medicaid reform and will be considering their role as it pertains to consumer education and health issues.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders’ Consortium

Bill Little reported that Consortium members have met several times to look at mental health and substance abuse issues and the connections to the criminal justice system.

Bill stated that a Mental Health Coordinator position is being created using anticipated grant funding from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice and the Community Foundation of Sarasota, with additional funding to be provided by Sarasota County. The position—first recommended by SCOPE in its report on the community’s mental health system last year—will provide full-time staff support for the activities of the Stakeholders’ Consortium and its numerous committees.

The Consortium's Planning Committee is developing a matrix of existing substance abuse and mental health services in Sarasota County that will assist the Consortium in identifying gaps and developing a true community-based plan for mental health and substance abuse.

A joint work group of the Criminal Justice Commission and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium has met four times over the past two months to explore the need for and determine the feasibility of developing a secure adult addictions receiving facility (ARF) in Sarasota County. First Step of Sarasota has space available and could incorporate 15 beds in addition to its 15 existing detoxification beds.

Bill reported that the need for transitional housing for homeless persons with mental health/substance abuse issues is also being addressed and recommendations are being developed on the best use of \$1.2 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and SHIP funds that are available through the Office of Housing and Community Development.

The Criminal Justice Symposium held on Friday, January 21 was attended by over 100 people, including all of the County Commissioners, representatives of all municipalities, law enforcement officials, staff from offices of the State Attorney and Public Defender, court officials and many key stakeholders from throughout the community. Bill noted that this symposium brought new approaches and ideas for getting those with substance abuse problems out of the jail and into programs that might help them.

Chip Taylor observed that the synergy developed between the Stakeholders' Consortium and the Criminal Justice Commission has been remarkable and that both groups recognize the importance and significance of their continue to work together to resolve interrelated community problems. The next combined meeting of both groups is Friday, February 4, and recommendations will be developed on how the CDBG/SHIP funds could best be utilized in the community.

Planning and Outcomes Work Group

Chip Taylor reported that a year ago the Alliance adopted 35+ Community Outcome Targets for human services in conjunction with the Board of County Commissioners. Because the Human Services Advisory Council advises the Board on outcome targets, a joint work group was formed with members of the Advisory Council and the Community Alliance's Planning and Outcomes Work Group. Every year, the community outcome targets are reviewed and recommendations are made for three years out. This joint work group met and reviewed targets for FY 2008 and these will presented to the Board on March 15 for adoption, then presented to the Alliance at the March 21 Steering Committee meeting. Chip noted that benchmarks were set last year for protective and risk factors based on the "Communities That Care" survey administered in 2003 to

high school students in Sarasota County. The same survey was administered again to Sarasota County high school students last month and results will be available in three months, which may allow the group to set outcome targets instead of benchmarks. In addition, this survey was given to 1,860 Sarasota County middle school students in the 6th and 8th grades in 2004. After comparing the data with that for high school students, it is evident that there is a significant change that takes place between the 6th and 8th grade. This data will help create intervention programs that might alleviate these problems.

Governor's Medicaid Reform Proposal

Bill Little reported that if the Governor's recent proposal to privatize the Medicaid Program in Florida is successful, the funding for many agencies, including the Health Department, would be seriously impacted. Bill noted that because decisions will be made by the Legislature in the upcoming session, continuous monitoring of this issue is imperative.

Sarah Gorman volunteered the Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee as the committee within the Alliance to monitor the Medicaid Reform effort and to disseminate information on this topic.

Community Plan for Health and Human Services Disaster Response and Recovery

Bill Little reported that in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley, those involved in the response realized that although some remarkable things were accomplished, there was a lack of coordination among health and human service agencies. Bill stated that to remedy this problem, a community-based health and human services disaster response plan needs to be created. Bill stated that the proposal is to expand the County's Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, which currently only covers health and medical services, to include human services as well, and to coordinate the disaster plans of key human service and faith-based organizations with those of the County. The Health Department facility on Ringling Blvd. will be retrofitted to withstand hurricane-force winds and can then be used to host an Emergency Operations Center for health and human services. This plan would be shared with surrounding counties in hopes of getting all in this region to participate.

Discussion ensued regarding establishing a committee to coordinate the disaster response plan. Alex Young agreed to chair the committee and he plans to have the first phase completed by the start of the 2005 hurricane season.

Alliance members viewed a short video provided by Diana French that highlighted the work that volunteers accomplished during the 2004 hurricane season. Diana reported that the Volunteer Reception Centers recruited 2,600

volunteers following Hurricane Charley. Workshops to train volunteer managers in nonprofit agencies will be held through the Nonprofit Resource Center.

Community Alliance Satisfaction Survey

Pauline Tracy announced that a satisfaction survey that asks questions about staff support for the Alliance and how members feel about the performance of the Alliance was included in the packages that were distributed. Pauline noted that this survey will also be e-mailed to members.

New Business

Linda Mason announced that the School Readiness Coalition of Sarasota County (now called the Early Learning Coalition) has scholarships available for child care and emphasized how important early intervention is for children.

Beverly Stockton distributed a list of the locations for free Federal Income Tax e-filing and requested that this information be shared with any persons who might benefit from the E.I.T.C.

Major Bert Tanner announced the annual "Point-in-Time" survey of homeless persons will be conducted at various locations throughout Sarasota County on January 29, from 10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m., and asked for volunteers to assist with the survey.

Lisa Phillips distributed the Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse resource pamphlet that now has a screening tool for substance abuse. The pamphlet is bilingual and has recommendations on what to do (and what not to do) if you have a substance abuser in your life. Lisa noted that additional copies for distribution are available by contacting her.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

NEXT MEETING:

February 21, 2005, 1:30 p.m. at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road [note different location]