

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.

MEETING SUMMARY

July 17, 2006

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Evelyn Barritt	CHIP
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
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
Patrick Kilbane	Young Professionals Group (YPG)
Kim Kutch	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Erin McLeod	Senior Friendship Centers (for Bob Carter)
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Pam Meunier	Sarasota County Health Department (for Bill Little)
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office
Scott Moore	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Raul E. Rivero	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Beverly Stockton	SunCoast Workforce Development Board
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Kim Vorias	Manasota 2-1-1 (for Alberto Suarez)
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Samantha Berkey	STAR
Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
Lynore Dickinson	Loveland Center
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Kathy Kleinlein	School Board of Sarasota County

Richard Lockhart	City of North Port
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Daniel Schmelzinger	Office of Housing and Community Development
Shannon Staub	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
Bert Tanner	Salvation Army--Sarasota Corps
Vicki Taylor	City of Venice
Bill Wallace	Mental Health Community Centers
Tammy Zappa	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rue S. Berryman	City Commission of North Port
Elizabeth Cuevas-Neunder	Candidate – Florida House District 70
Mark Flanagan	Candidate – U.S. Congress – FL 13
Jon Kleiber	Candidate – State House of Representatives District 70
Chief Lawrence J. Leon	Sarasota School District Police Department
Norm Lupo	Citizen
Marie L. Nisco	Sarasota County Charter Review Board – District 5
Kirk A. Reid	Candidate –Sarasota School Board District 1
Carl Weinrich	Sarasota YMCA

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
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on July 17, 2006 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

Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC)

Alex Young reported on the July 10 CDPC meeting. Updates were given by the various sub-committees (Vulnerable Populations, Elder Care, Youth and Families, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and Volunteer Task Force) where they are diligently working to prepare Sarasota County in the event of a disaster with coordinated linkages between government, volunteer, and community-based organizations. Alex mentioned that an updated version of the CDPC 2006 Action Plan was in the members’ packet for review and would be placed on the Community Alliance website. Chip Taylor mentioned that the action plan’s status column will continue to be updated on a regular basis with a link to view a more detailed report for each action step.

Chip Taylor reported on the Coordinated Action Network (CAN) symposium in Washington, DC that he, Bill Little, Boban Pesic and Marion Sortore were invited to attend due to Sarasota County's local accomplishments after Hurricane Katrina. CAN is designed as an "open" system available to organizations that are active in disaster response and recovery efforts and is currently being used by the United Way of America, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, FEMA, and others. During the conference it was noted that this system was written by a private proprietary company, has been in existence for approximately 2 years, and is similar to the County's HSIS system. Chip addressed the difficulty of receiving CAN's shared information following Hurricane Katrina because of HIPAA restrictions. CAN representatives stated that they are currently working on linking their system with other similar systems and in the near future Sarasota County may be able to access their network. In the meantime, FEMA forwarded a HIPAA directive which will be in effect after a disaster and the CDPC is presently reviewing this directive and will present it at their next meeting and then to the Community Alliance. Chip pointed out that at the conference it was apparent that Sarasota County is more advanced than most other counties in the country in the area of disaster preparedness.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium (SAMHSC)

Pam Meunier reported that the next SAMHSC meeting will be a joint meeting with the Acute Care System Task Force on Tuesday, July 18 at the Health Department. There will be presentations by Martha Lenderman on the Marchman Act and Dr. Kenneth Mroz from Coastal Behavioral on the FETC/Mobile Crisis Unit.

Pam reported that the Addictions Receiving Facility (Phase 1 of the CART Initiative) is scheduled to open on July 31 with an additional 15 secure beds. David Beesley reported that the facility is now fully staffed. The Medical Director will be Dr. David Camping, a psychiatrist with expertise in behavioral health substance abuse who will be in the facility every day for 3 hours. The initial individual assessment will be completed by a team including a physician, lead nurse and clinical staff. A court liaison is on board and has made the arrangements through the court system and judges. Staff, community providers, and court administration are receiving extensive training and education prior to the opening of the facility. David pointed out that First Step of Sarasota's website (www.fsos.org) will initiate a listing of up-to-date real time bed availability. The official grand opening will be September 14 at 12:30 p.m., with First Lady Columba Bush the scheduled guest speaker.

Pam reported that the VIP-ER 10-week residential treatment program (Phase 2 of the CART Initiative) has now graduated 7 classes with 15 participants in each class, with 75% of the participants successfully completing the program. The Project Management Team (PMT) continues to meet weekly and has applied for two grants, from SAMHSA and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, to enhance the program. The Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI) interim evaluation and VIP-ER program performance reports both show very positive results for the first six months of operations.

Pam reported that as part of Phase 3 of the CART Initiative, \$750,000 was awarded to Coastal Renaissance, Inc. to develop transitional housing specifically for VIP-ER graduates. Scott Eller has met with the PMT and a site will need to be acquired by December 31, 2006. PMT has agreed to allow clients to begin their job search earlier in the 10-week program in order for clients to be able to pay rent immediately or shortly after they move into transitional housing. Currently, graduates who have no housing (80%) are staying at Salvation Army's TLC program, which is running out of space. Jerry Thompson reported that the contract

language issue has been ironed out and the Board of County Commissioners approved the CDBG/SCHIP grant and it should be up and running shortly.

Pam reported that the CIT Committee is in the process of training their 6th class, bringing the total number of trained law enforcement officers in Sarasota County to 162. The 2006 goal is to have 3 CIT classes this year (1 is completed, 1 is in progress, and 1 is to be scheduled for the fall). A CIT brochure is being created for marketing, advertising, and education purposes.

Pauline Tracy reported that the Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership (ECMHP) is in the process of developing their logic model and searching for a logo for the partnership. The administrative team has one vacancy, the Training Coordinator. Discussion is still underway regarding how to utilize a youth coordinator in the project. SEDNET has hired three part-time parent advocates and will be hiring a fourth soon. The contract for respite care is being negotiated through the lead agency, the Florida Center for Child and Family Development. Several other contracts will not be in place until the new fiscal year which begins in October. The plan is to begin serving children and their families by the end of July.

Pauline mentioned that the staff recently visited another early childhood project, Project Bloom, based in Denver, Colorado. Staff also attended a very intensive national mental health conference in Orlando conducted by Georgetown University with other systems of care projects and found that their partnership is much further ahead than they thought. Chip Taylor mentioned that through the Community Alliance, the Consortium partnerships, and the linkages already in place, this partnership has flowed together whereas, in other areas, projects had to start from scratch.

Chip Taylor addressed the resignation of Ann Kelley and Pauline Tracy stepping in as the interim Project Director. Chip observed that Pauline has done a terrific job in pulling the staff together, moving the project forward, and may set a record with SAMHSA in getting services initiated before the end of the first year. An advertisement for the Project Director position will begin on Wednesday, July 19 and will run approximately two weeks through the State of Florida's People First portal at <https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com/logon.htm>. Once the applications are submitted, a panel will be selected to facilitate the interviewing process. It is anticipated that a selection will be made by mid-August and the new Project Director will be on board in September.

Planning and Outcomes Work Group (POWG)

Chip Taylor reported that the group has met and refined the existing set of community outcome targets for FY 2009 with the exception of one or two that are awaiting information. The work group has replaced obsolete measures and added new measures from the education perspective based on commitments that were made by the school board to the community. Next month the group will present the 2009 targets to the Community Alliance and then will go before the Board of County Commissioners in September.

Strategic Planning Session Update

Stewart Stearns reported that an Executive Committee meeting was not held this past month but that he did meet with Deborah Jacobs to discuss the strategic planning session. The plan is to have the session in September or October and the focus will be on the history of the Community Alliance, the accomplishments, the future steps, who is at table, who else should

be at the table, and an evaluation of the structure of the organization. In addition, the committee may look at the higher use of this committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Round-Table Forum

Stewart Stearns mentioned that there will be a roundtable forum on Tuesday, August 1 at the Community Foundation on Frutiville Road. This forum will look at the future of insurance in Florida with Rep. Dennis Ross, Chair of the Insurance Commission. If anyone is interested, please call Donna Clarke's office at 455-8077.

DCF Project

Kim Kutch announced that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is forming a project pertaining to children who have died in Sarasota County (from birth to 17 years of age from 1991 to 2005) to see where DCF can go with prevention efforts. Manatee County in conjunction with Manatee County Sheriff's office completed this project and received support from the Children's Advisory Board, focusing on the primary target areas of SIDS, suffocation and drowning. Manatee County now has a task force that is associated with All Children's Hospital.

CYD Leadership Breakfast

Karen Bagues announced that invitations are being sent out for their CYD Leadership Breakfast on Thursday, August 3 at the Boys and Girls Club where seven community leaders will be honored for assisting in propelling youth to be leaders in our community. Those being honored are Commissioner David Mills, Commissioner Shannon Staub, Wendy Hopkins (Community Foundation), Sandra Terry (World Civil Association), Mac Reed (Boys and Girls Club), Carl Weiner (YMCA), and Henry Rodriquez a local businessman.

Communities Solutions Initiative (CSI)

Sarah Gorman announced that the Child Health Insurance Group that is staffed by CHIP has changed its name to Communities Solutions Initiative (CSI). The next breakfast meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 25, 8:00 a.m. in Twin Lakes auditorium with an update on the initiative and the next steps. Post cards were sent out to all Community Alliance members.

Public Comment

Foster Care in Sarasota County

Kirk Reid requested assistance from the Community Alliance regarding his concerns about foster care in Sarasota County. Mr. Reid mentioned that there are services in place that he feels are not being properly utilized, as children are being removed from their homes and not being returned. He pointed out that according to statistics it is never better to remove a child from the biological home but instead services should be brought into the home for assistance in keeping the family together. Mr. Reid stated that in Sarasota County children are removed from the home 78% of the time, which is 28% above the state average, and children are only reunified 42% of the time, which is 13% below the state average. He stated that Governor Bush has endorsed a program implementation plan that is in place but foster care is not

complying in many cases. Mr. Reid stressed that in his opinion reunification should always be the preferred outcome rather than adoption.

Foreign Exchange Students and Children's Mental Health Issues

Elizabeth Cuevas-Neunder requested support from the Community Alliance on two issues of concern to her: the protection and security of foreign exchange students coming into the states with no families available to support them and children's mental health issues. Ms. Cuevas-Neunder commented that the Community Alliance has focused a lot of attention on mental health services and she wanted to know how many children within Sarasota County currently receive these services. She also pointed that in order to protect our children there should be an investigation to make sure that mental health providers are licensed and background checks are completed on those who provide housing and support to foreign exchange students in this country.

NEXT MEETING:

August 21, 2006, 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be at the Sarasota School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.