

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.

MEETING SUMMARY

March 21, 2005

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Maria Garcia-Casellas	Hispanic Latino Coalition (for Millicent Puleo)
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Eva Goodwin	STAR
Sarah Gorman	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Marvin Huskey	United Way of South Sarasota County
Janet Kahn	School Readiness Coalition of Sarasota County
Frank Kovach	School Board of Sarasota County
Katie Knight	United Way of Sarasota County (for Alex Young)
Kim Kutch	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Dale Lux	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
William Newell	Salvation Army--Sarasota Corps (for Bert Tanner)
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity
Sandra Figueroa	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (for Lisa Phillips)
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Kathryn Shea	Florida Center for Child and Family Development (for Peter Howard)
Sherrri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
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

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Luis Baron	<i>Sieté Dias</i>
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
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Don Hadsell	Office of Housing and Community Development
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Jim Myers	City of Venice
Carl Penxa	Loveland Center
Colleen Reardon	Sarasota County Coalition for the Homeless
Jessica Ventimiglia	Mental Health Community Centers

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Eber Davis	Karen Eber Davis Consulting
Zelda Espinel	University of Miami
Diana French	Volunteer Connections
Jeanne Hodaian	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Christie Lewis	Nonprofit Resource Center
Janice Mee	Human Services Advisory Council
David Mills	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
Lois Natiello	DCF - SunCoast Region
Susan Nunnally	DCF Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program - SunCoast Region
Dr. James Schultz	University of Miami
Dan Schwendeman	Citizen
Heather Sniffen	DCF Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program - SunCoast Region

STAFF PRESENT:

Pam Meunier	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 March 21, 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.

Community Alliance Satisfaction Survey

Pauline Tracy announced that the Community Alliance satisfaction survey was redistributed with a question about membership added. The survey form has also been reformatted so that answers can be entered into the spreadsheet directly. Pauline emphasized that those who had completed the survey earlier did not need to complete it

again and, although a copy was included in the packages, it would also be distributed through e-mail.

COMMITTEE AND WORK GROUP UPDATES

Health Care for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

Sarah Gorman reported that a bill initiated by Senator Nan Rich of Broward County allowing for year-round enrollment for KidCare had passed in the Senate.

Sarah stated that the subcommittee's focus has expanded beyond KidCare to consider the needs of all children without health insurance. She noted that the subcommittee has some overlap with the activities of the CHIP project and would possibly be interested in participating with the CHIP in its community information-gathering process for helping not just children, but all citizens who are without health coverage.

The needs of the uninsured are being addressed through research by the subcommittee. Three potential options are:

- Sovereign immunity for volunteer providers
- Social HMOs that exist for the well-being of those served and not as profit for the shareholders
- Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)

Sarah agreed to present a completed overview of the committee's research to date and noted that Leslie Clarke, CHIP coordinator will present an overview of the CHIP project at the May 16 Steering Committee meeting.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Chip Taylor reported that the Consortium's next meeting is scheduled for March 24 when a presentation of the proposed expansion of the VIP program will be given for final approval.

Chip noted that the Consortium now has five active committees and has grown to be as large as the Alliance.

Chip announced that the next Criminal Justice Commission meeting is scheduled for April 6, and its members will also vote on the VIP proposal at that time.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Policy Coordinator position has been filled by Michael Theall. Michael will attend the Consortium meeting on March 24 and will officially start work on March 28. He can be contacted at 861-2558 or by e-mail at mtheall@scgov.net.

James Schulz reported that the next C.I.T. training begins on April 11, two other classes are scheduled for later in the year.

Consultants are working with the Criminal Justice Commission and the Stakeholders' Consortium to find the most efficient use of the current jail and to ensure that those that don't need to be in jail have another option for help.

Pam Meunier reported that the matrix of existing substance abuse and mental health services in Sarasota County is currently being updated by provider agencies and will be completed by faith-based agencies next.

Community Disaster Preparedness Committee

Jeanne Hodaian distributed a meeting summary of the Community Disaster Preparedness Committee's (CDPC) first meeting and explained the purpose of the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for April 1 in the County's Emergency Operating Center (EOC). Staff will present an overview of how the EOC operates. Jeanne noted that establishing linkages between agencies which have plans and the County's master plan will be an ongoing effort.

Disaster Preparedness/Mental Health Training

Stewart Stearns introduced Dr. James Schultz of the University of Miami's Department of Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness Center (DEEP), who presented an overview of the "Behavioral Health Awareness Training for Terrorism and Disasters". This full day of training is funded by the Center for Disease Control, was developed in Florida and is available at no-charge to Alliance members.

Dr. Shultz presented the following items that could be included in the training:

- Behavioral Health Overview
- Terrorism
- Disaster
- Community Response to Disaster
- Stress Response in Disasters
- Survivor Intervention
- Self-Care Strategies
- Disaster/Emergency Worker Support
- Issues for Special Populations
- Cross-Cultural Considerations

After a general discussion, members selected May 16 (the regularly scheduled day for the Alliance meeting) for the training, which will be held at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road.

New Business

Dale Lux announced that May has been designated as Mental Health Education Month. On every Thursday during May, local libraries will have booths with representatives from NAMI available. A speaker's bureau is available and anyone needing additional information about the events for the month should contact Dale at dluxe1@webtv.net.

Eva Goodwin announced that on April 7 the Community Youth Development program will celebrate the youth involved in the program at the Chelsea Center. Admission is \$5.00. For additional information contact Eva through e-mail at eggbertthemidget@aol.com.

Sherri Reynolds announced that SCoSA is holding their second annual Bike Ride Fundraiser on April 16 at Siesta Beach and raffle tickets are available.

Stewart Stearns announced that the main agenda for the March Alliance meeting will be to discuss legislative issues. Members should be prepared to discuss pending legislation that will affect Sarasota County.

Steve Queior announced that there are sixty hotel rooms reserved in Tallahassee for April 5-7 and a bus traveling from Sarasota to Tallahassee with staff from area Chambers. He welcomed community representatives to join them as well.

Chip Taylor announced that links to the weekly summaries on legislative issues will be sent to Alliance members as they are received.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

NEXT MEETING:

April 18, 2005, 1:30 p.m. at Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Boulevard .