

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

The Community Foundation, 2635 Fruitville Road

MEETING SUMMARY

May 16, 2005

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Vanessa Carusone	City of North Port
Maria Garcia-Casellas	Hispanic Latino Coalition (proxy for Millicent Puleo)
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Eva Goodwin	STAR
Sarah Gorman	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Janet Kahn	School Readiness Coalition of Sarasota County
Kim Kutch	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council
Paul Mercier	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners (for Shannon Staub)
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Jessica Ventimiglia	Mental Health Community Centers

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Luis Baron	<i>Sieté Dias</i>
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
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
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council

Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Frank Kovach	School Board of Sarasota County
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Dale Lux	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Jim Myers	City of Venice
Carl Penxa	Loveland Center
Lisa Phillips	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse
Colleen Reardon	Sarasota County Coalition for the Homeless
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Dan Schmelzinger	Office of Housing and Community Development
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Beverly Stockton	Suncoast Workforce Development Board
Bert Tanner	Salvation Army--Sarasota
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Danielle Glaysher-Cobian Goodwill Industries

STAFF PRESENT:

Kathleen Hall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Jeanne Hodaian	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
James Schulz	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Michael Theall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on May 16, 2005 at the Community Foundation at 12:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE AND WORK GROUP UPDATES

Nominating and Membership Committee

Pauline Tracy reported that the Nominating and Membership Committee met to discuss vacant positions and to review attendance of members.

Three appointments have been made since the last meeting of the Steering Committee:

- Dan Schmelzinger, Office of Housing and Community Development

- Tony Cornish, Jr., NAACP
- Lynore Dickinson, Loveland Center

The following vacant seats were discussed:

1. *City of Sarasota*: Steve Queior offered to contact the City Manager, Mike McNees, to encourage their participation on the Steering Committee.
2. *Council of Neighborhood Associations*: Pauline has contacted the County and City Neighborhood Associations and they have both tried unsuccessfully to find someone who would be interested in the seat. The committee discussed the possibility that Manasota 2-1-1 could represent the community in place of a neighborhood association. The Steering Committee discussed the issue and, although they did not want to permanently exclude a neighborhood association from being part of the Steering Committee, at this time it was agreed that Manasota 2-1-1 should have a seat under Community Representatives.

Bob Carter motioned, Vanessa Carusone seconded, motion passed unanimously, to replace the Council of Neighborhood Associations with Manasota 2-1-1 on the Steering Committee.

3. *SCOPE*: Pauline has corresponded with Tim Dutton, who stated his Board was scheduled to meet the previous Tuesday evening and that he would bring the vacant seat to their attention. Stewart Stearns reported that he and a few other Steering Committee members, who also happen to be SCOPE Board members, have offered to provide an overview of the Community Alliance at one of their future meetings.
4. *Business/Economic Development*: The committee discussed the problem of retaining business representatives in an active role on the Steering Committee. Steve Queior offered to make some contacts with a few semi-retired business persons to see if they would be interested. Kirstin Fulkerson offered to make contacts in the southern part of the county and with the Venice Chamber of Commerce to see if there was someone who would be interested.

The committee discussed whether the location of the meetings was a hindrance for some to attend Steering Committee meetings. It was suggested that other more centrally located meeting rooms be explored. Pauline will inquire whether Twin Lakes Community Center is currently being used as it had been under extensive renovations. The Fruitville Library was also mentioned as a location that would be more accessible for members traveling from the north or the south. The Steering Committee agreed to look further into holding meetings in a more central location or rotating meetings around the County to encourage members to attend.

The Attendance Report was reviewed by the Nominating and Membership Committee and those members who have missed more than three consecutive meetings will be contacted to determine their continued level of interest on the Steering Committee.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

The Consortium continues to work on the three phases discussed at length last month (building a Marchman Act facility, expanding the VIP program, and providing long-term supportive housing.) The last phase continues to be the most difficult but the Consortium is committed to trying to work out solutions. The CIT Subcommittee is working to revamp the CIT training and the SAMHSA Subcommittee received approval from the Board of County Commissioners to submit the SAMHSA System of Care grant application. This grant, if received, will provide \$9 million over the next six years for infant and children's mental health services.

Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC)

Jeanne Hodiain reported that the CDPC has been actively meeting to pull together the Human Services Annex to the Disaster Preparedness Plan. Sarasota County is the only county which has involved the Human Services community in the EOC process to this extent. The faith-based community has become more involved in the planning process and the Committee hopes to bring in other groups, such as businesses, as well.

Health Care for Uninsured Children (HCUC) Subcommittee

Sarah Gorman reported that based on direction from the Steering Committee last month, the HCUC has begun working on a forum on the community's responsibility to the uninsured in Sarasota County. She will attend the CHIP meeting on May 23 to discuss the possibility of the HCUC and CHIP partnering to sponsor the forum. The target date for the forum is November, 2005. It has come to Sarah's attention that Lee Memorial Hospital received a small grant to support their efforts to make health care available to the uninsured population. HCUC will discuss the possibility of including Lee Memorial Hospital as well as the Charlotte County CHIP as partners as well.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Medicaid Reform Bill establishes pilot projects in Broward and Duval counties with the expectation that the concept will be expanded statewide over the next three years. The bill did include a requirement that the Florida Legislature will have to approve the waiver request prior to submission to Washington.

Other legislation passed included: Healthy Families received the full amount requested; the Foster Care Auto Insurance Pilot Project legislation passed; and

effective July 1, 2005, counties will be required to pay for detention predisposition costs.

Discussion was held regarding how we need to hold our local legislators more accountable for legislation passed that affects Sarasota County. Paul Mercier stressed that we need to know what bills they will be sponsoring ahead of time and discuss how to prevent so many last minute revisions to existing bills, which does not allow us time to react. It was suggested that the local delegation be invited to the Community Alliance to talk about the bills already passed and those that they will sponsor in future sessions. Some of the issues the Alliance would like to hear addressed include revising the current sales tax exemptions and the lack of enforcement of internet sales tax, which together cost the State of Florida millions of dollars in lost revenue each year.

Steering Committee members felt they had made a difference in some areas, such as Medicaid Reform, but next year they need to regroup and be more aggressive in advocating for human services.

Steve Quieor suggested that human services agencies could join the Chamber on their annual Suncoast Days in Tallahassee which would show a community-wide united front to the legislators. Similarly, Chamber members could attend organized human services days in Tallahassee. Human services legislative goals and priorities should be included in every governmental agencies' legislative priorities as well as private organizations.

NEXT MEETING:

June 20, 2005, 1:30 p.m. at Sarasota School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.