

## COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

*“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”*

*Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.*

### MEETING SUMMARY

October 17, 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
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Lynore Dickinson	Loveland Center
Cathy Emmett	Senior Friendship Centers (for Bob Carter)
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Maria Garcia-Casellas	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Eva Goodwin	STAR
Sarah Gorman	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Kim Kutch	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Miriam Lacher	Sarasota Memorial Hospital (for Ken Alexander)
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Pauline Macdonald	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare (for Christine Cauffield)
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Daniel Schmelzinger	Office of Housing and Community Development
Mike Schneiderman	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness (SPEH)
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
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
Bert Tanner	Salvation Army--Sarasota Corps
Tammy Zappa	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
Vanessa Carusone	City of North Port
Tony Cornish, Jr.	NAACP
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Frank Kovach	School Board of Sarasota County
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Scott Moore	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Vicki Taylor	City of Venice
Jessica Ventimiglia	Mental Health Community Centers
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Lee Johnson	YMCA
Christie Lewis	Non-Profit Resource Center
Kathryn Shea	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Eileen Welch	Early Steps
Shelia Zelonis	SEDNET

**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
Michael Theall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on October 17, 2005 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.

**Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership Project**

Chip Taylor reported that Sarasota County was one of 24 recipients that received a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) Grant in the amount of \$9 million over a six year period. This grant will allow the county to develop a system of care for young children (ages 0-8) who have severe emotional disturbances.

Sarasota is the only county in Florida that will be operating this type of system of care. The strengths of this application focus on:

- Providing young children with core services, intensive treatment services for mental health issues, and other wraparound services.
- Many of the pieces necessary to implement a system of care project are already in place in Sarasota County.
- Partners in the community include:
  - Coastal Behavioral Healthcare – assist with initial assessments and provide direct mental health services for children and their families.
  - First Step of Sarasota – provide substance abuse services and care coordination services.
  - Sarasota Memorial Hospital – provide Early Steps services.
  - Bayside Center for Behavioral Health – provide psychiatric services and assessments.
  - Jewish Family and Children’s Services - provide care coordination to the families and assist in developing the continuous needs, wraparound, and school-based services.
  - Severely Emotionally Disturbed Network (SEDNET) – work with the school board by addressing children with serious emotional disturbances through their parent network.
  - Early Learning Coalition - training for day care operators who typically have first contact with children of this age.
  - Hispanic Latino Coalition - provide cultural competency training throughout the project.
  - The Florida Mental Health Institute – conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the project.

During the first year, the federal funding will be \$1 million, escalating the second year to \$2.5 million and then tapering off in the coming years thereafter, for a total of \$9 million. Along with the federal funding there is a required local match which will come from cash match provided by Sarasota County and The Florida Center for Child and Family Development in the first year, followed by in-kind match in the subsequent years. Following the initial 6 years, the core project should cost approximately \$1.4 million annually to operate, with systems set up to bill Medicaid along with other sources to continue the project.

Steps are underway now to fill some of the key administrative team positions, including a project director, clinical director, and other positions. The Community Alliance will be made aware of the available positions during the advertisement period.

The Florida Center will serve as the lead agency on this project in terms of service and service development because of their involvement in infant mental health for the last 10 years or more. They will be handling the initial assessments for the children to meet the eligibility criteria for being enrolled in this project.

Unlike the typical medically-driven system, this system will be a family-driven system in which the family will play a major role in the service development. This will be accomplished through family navigators, care coordinators, or family advocates who will work with the families to establish their needs, identify strengths and cultural issues, and then develop an individual service plan specific to that family. They will also look at the extended family and community supports to help meet the child's needs.

It is anticipated that there will be 100 children enrolled in the project annually. Children will be referred through day care centers, providers, the school system, pediatricians, and self-referrals.

Chip mentioned that presently the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium has four active committees. The Consortium will form a fifth committee which will serve as the governing board for the system of care system and will provide advice and guidance to the project. This board will include approximately 15 organizations, some that are partners in the project and some that are not. Once this board is selected, the Board of County Commissioners will pass a resolution to establish this advisory board.

## **COMMITTEE AND WORK GROUP UPDATES**

### **Legislative Advocacy Committee**

Elliott Metcalfe reported that on November 10 there was a legislative committee meeting where they reviewed six proposals. It was recommended that the Community Alliance support all six items for the next legislative session. They are as follows:

- Request for Equitable Funding for Community-Based Care Lead Agencies
- Foster Family Care Rate Increase
- Support State Funding of a Complete, Community-Based Array of Comprehensive and Quality Services for Senior Recipients
- Support for Statewide expansion of 2-1-1
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
- Medicaid Reform Initiatives

***Elliott Metcalfe moved, Sherri Reynolds seconded, motion passed unanimously, that the six legislative proposals be supported by the Community Alliance.***

These six proposals will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on October 25 and to the legislative delegation on November 3 at their annual public hearing.

Stanley Godleski asked to recognize Rik Jimison and the County support staff on behalf of the Seniors Advisory Council for their active role in advising their council on various legislative proposals.

## **Health Coverage for Uninsured Children Subcommittee (HCUC)**

Sarah Gorman reported that their forum will be on November 10 at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. All Steering Committee members are invited to this event. Sarah read a statement to explain what they will be trying to accomplish at this forum. The sponsors of this event are the Non-Profit Resource Center, The Community Foundation, Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, CHIP Program, Healthy Start Coalition and the University of South Florida Center for Research on Health Care Systems and Policies. The event will accommodate 100 participants. Sarah acknowledged the work group members who have been working on this event.

## **Nominating and Membership Committee**

Sherri Reynolds reported that due to the reorganization of the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness and their occupying a seat in the homelessness category, the committee is recommending that the Salvation Army be moved to the vacant seat under the Homeless Persons category. In doing so, a vacancy would come available under Housing and the recommendation for this vacant seat would be to pursue someone from the Sarasota Housing Authority or Community Housing Trust to fill that future seat.

***Sherri Reynolds moved, Stanley Godleski seconded, motion passed unanimously, that Salvation Army be moved to the Homeless Persons category.***

Sherri Reynolds stated that they are still searching to fill the vacancy under the Business category and asked that anyone who has ideas of who they could contact for this seat to contact her.

## **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium (SAMHSC)**

Bill Little reported that the Consortium's Planning Committee recently had a meeting to begin development of the community-based mental health and substance abuse plan. Part of the concept is to ensure this plan is included in the regional plan that Department of Children and Families (DCF) will be submitting to their headquarters office. As soon as DCF is aware of the final publication date of their plan, the committee will be able to set a target date in creating their plan in conjunction with that. The committee reviewed a side-by-side comparison of the Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence (SCOPE) mental health study conducted in 2003 and the current DCF regional plan that enabled them to see similarities and differences between the two. With the new SAMHSA grant in place and the work that has been done through the Community Alternatives Residential Treatment (CART) program, the committee is beginning to see progress in some of those areas. Over the next few months the committee will have community forums to validate the key issues, what progress has been made, and where we need to go in the future.

Bill reported that the Acute Care Task Force has been meeting to discuss the Marchman Act facility, the CART Initiative and the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. A recent CIT class was cancelled, but another class will be scheduled in early 2006.

Bill commented that the contract for the renovation of the secure Marchman Act Facility will be going before the Board of County Commissioners for approval in a couple of weeks. Phase II began on October 1. Phase III is still a challenge and they are in the process of negotiating to find an interested party to provide transitional housing. There is approximately \$750,000 in funding available. Recently, Judge Bennett, Cheri Coryea and Bill Little made a joint presentation to the Sarasota City Commission on the CART Initiative's first two phases and the need for transitional housing as the third phase. There was discussion of having a workshop on the transitional housing issue. The City Commission made a suggestion that this workshop should also include the City of North Port and the City of Venice. Therefore, the same presentation will be brought before the City of North Port and City of Venice in the next few weeks so that they can become a part of our community conversation on transitional housing.

Michael Theall mentioned that they were still working on researching other venues to gain opportunities to receive and utilize other additional funding instead of tapping into county funds for this project.

A question that arose during this discussion was whether there were any best practices around the country that have utilized a centralized intake system for a Marchman Act facility or Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU).

Chip Taylor stated that the Acute Care Task Force recently discussed this issue with Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, First Step of Sarasota, and Sarasota Memorial Hospital and felt that the existing protocols could be modified to incorporate the Marchman Act facility as a new resource. In addition, the committee reviewed whether or not better assessments need to be completed upfront. The Acute Care Task Force will continue to research this issue in finding ways to provide a more intensive assessment upfront, which will lead to a faster decision on where the best treatment would be. There are other models around, but Manatee County is a specific example of where they put significantly more resources into their assessments and are receiving better results. There is no reason that Sarasota County cannot do this on a virtual basis, where there would be a representative from the Marchman Act facility, CSU and Bayside Center who would collectively decide where to send an individual for treatment.

Michael Theall reported that Coastal Behavioral recently received additional dollars that have been allocated to support the Family Emergency Treatment Center (FETC) by providing a mobile assessment team on weekend hours (up to 53 hours) when the FETC is closed. They have disseminated information to law enforcement informing them that if there are any situations where Coastal Behavioral is needed to assist that they can call FETC. FETC would then dispatch someone in their group to work with the officers to resolve the situation.

It was mentioned that there is an organization called The Palm Club, which is a community resource service for individuals 18 or older who have mental difficulties such as bipolar, severe depression, etc. It is a clubhouse type model where people can come and go as they please and support each other.

SCOPE has just completed a presentation for lawyers and judges regarding mental health and the judicial system which was well-attended. They are planning to have another presentation in the near future.

### **Katrina Assistance Center Update**

Pauline Tracy reported that the Katrina Assistance Center closed on Friday, November 14. The Center's goal was to try and fill the gaps for displaced persons from Louisiana and Mississippi who were falling through the cracks. County staff and volunteers provided case management services until it appeared that the need was met. They had many displaced persons whose basic needs were met but they were coming back with more complicated issues and those needs were addressed as well. The case managers assisted 84 families and a total of 214 persons. The success of the center was primarily due to the ground work already established by the Community Alliance's Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC). They have been meeting over the last year, laying the foundation and establishing the relationships. No matter who the committee called, they were there to assist and support in whatever way possible and this is why the center was up and running in less than 24 working hours.

Chip Taylor noted that Pauline supervised the center the first week and James Schulz supervised the center during the second week. County employees from the Human Services Unit were drafted to staff the center along with staff from other departments within the county and they did a terrific job. Sarasota County was one of the first counties in the state to open an assistance center along with Escambia and Duval Counties. Significantly, Hillsborough County opened their center last week just as Sarasota County was getting ready to close.

Chip recognized the contributions of numerous organizations that assisted in this effort:

- SCAT provided bus passes.
- Churches provided Publix gift cards.
- The Community Foundation provided Wal-Mart gift cards.
- All-Faiths Food Bank provided boxes of food.
- American Red Cross provided a volunteer to answer questions.
- Salvation Army had food available if needed.
- DCF provided training to the case managers to assist the displaced persons in applying for TANF, food stamps and Medicaid.
- Jobs Etc. provided staff to provide employment services.

Bill Little reported that everything we have done in the last year with this community-based disaster planning has been absolutely on target by building connections and relationships and knowing who to call, what to ask, and confident that the support would be there.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Kay Glasser announced that all Community Alliance Steering Committee members were invited to attend a reception at the Glasser-Schoenbaum Human Services Center on November 17. There will be a celebration of the new partnership between the University of South Florida and the center which will provide opportunities for internship and research.

Pauline Tracy mentioned that the next Steering Committee meeting will be on November 21, which is the week of Thanksgiving and wanted to make sure that everyone would be able to attend. It was unanimously decided that there would be a regular meeting on November 21 as previously planned.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

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

***November 21, 2005, 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be at the Sarasota School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.***