

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.

MEETING SUMMARY

October 16, 2006

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Evelyn Barritt	CHIP
Dave Beesley	First Step of Sarasota
Samantha Berkey	STAR
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers
Wendy Effron	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties (for Rose Chapman)
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Patrick Kilbane	Young Professionals Group (YPG)
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
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Scott Moore	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Daniel Schmelzinger	Office of Housing and Community Development
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Shannon Staub	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
Beverly Stockton	SunCoast Workforce Development Board
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Laura Yahres	Community Youth Development (for Karen Bogues)
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County
Caroline Zucker	School Board of Sarasota County (for Kathy Kleinlein)

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Janis Alberti	Loveland Center
Steve Brett	United Way of South Sarasota County
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Jennifer Highland	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County

Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Richard Lockhart	City of North Port
Ann McArdle	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Raul E. Rivero	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
Bert Tanner	Salvation Army--Sarasota Corps
Vicki Taylor	City of Venice
Tammy Zappa	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

OTHERS PRESENT:

Greg Clark	Take Stock in Children of Sarasota
Lee Johnson	Sarasota YMCA
Marion R. Sortore	Friendship Volunteer Center
Ann Voorhees	Department of Children and Families

STAFF PRESENT:

Nancy DeLoach	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Kathleen Marie Hall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Cher McGuirk	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pam Meunier	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 October 16, 2006 at the Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd. at 1:30 p.m.

Elliott Metcalfe welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and guests and introductions were made.

Young Professionals Group (YPG)

Patrick Kilbane explained that the Young Professionals Group (YPG) is a networking Sarasota County organization of dedicated young professionals ranging in age from 21 to 40 with approximately 800 members. Patrick pointed out that the mission of the group is to create a platform to build relationships, develop professionally, become politically and philanthropically active, and contribute to the economic development and high quality of life in Sarasota County. Patrick mentioned that Gretchen Miscik, the Volunteer Chair for YPG, has been working closely with Dennis Stover of the Friendship Volunteer Center on a joint volunteer program that will provide volunteer opportunities for the YPG members within the community.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disaster (Sarasota COAD)

Cher McGuirk reported that the Sarasota COAD met on October 9 and discussed the updated 2006 Action Plan. Cher pointed out that the current plan shows a listing of the committee

chairs and the support staff (second column) that are positioned with the various sub-committees from Health and Human Services and the status column shows the up-to-date information on the actions that each of the sub-committees is currently working on. Cher mentioned that the primary challenge that the committee is facing is the sharing of information during a disaster and is currently attempting to couple with CAN to move their communication effort through the process. Cher McQuirk announced the new committee chair for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Strike Team will be Marian Lacher.

Planning and Outcomes Work Group

Chip Taylor reported that the committee recently met and reviewed the 2003 and 2005 Middle School Communities That Care (CTC) surveys that Bert Rothenbach, a private consultant (previous Channing-Bete employee) corrected and updated based on the new national norm data that is available by grade level. Chip mentioned that the 2002 and 2004 High School CTC surveys have also been recalculated by Bert and the information will be reviewed by the work group members. The final recommendations will be brought back to the Community Alliance for approval as well as to the Board of County Commissioners to update the outcome targets within the Human Services Policy Framework for Fiscal Year 2010. Chip pointed out that several of the outcome targets (including infant mortality, teen birth rate, new AIDS and HIV cases) that were set three years ago have been met and the bar will therefore be raised to a higher level. Chip announced that the work group will contract directly with Bert Rothenbach to complete future surveys which will include the third High School CTC survey in late November.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Bill Little reported that in the members' packet there was a handout for review on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium and its sub-committees. Bill pointed out that the Criminal Justice Commission and SAMHSC have both endorsed the enhancements to Phase 2 of the VIP-ER Program. These enhancements will focus on improving vocational/educational support services and case management for the VIP-ER Program graduates and will make a significant difference to the program in the future.

Chip explained that the VIP-ER Program completed its first year with 98 out of 135 individuals successfully completing the 10-week program, but 75% of these individuals had no place to live after graduation. The Salvation Army has accepted 50 VIP-ER Program graduates into their TLC program for temporary housing. Chip pointed out that the true measure of success for this program will come 6-12 months down the road, when statistics should show whether or not the graduates are still sober, maintaining stable housing, able to get and hold a decent paying job, and the potential for reunification with their family. Chip explained that it is crucial that Phase 3 create additional transitional housing as Coastal Renaissance's grant from OHCD will only assist 18 graduates. If housing is not available for the other graduates, they likely will relapse and spiral down to the same level as before.

Bill reported that the Transitional Housing Committee met on October 3 and invited several individuals from Manatee County who currently provide "Sober Housing" in their community using a variation of the "Oxford House" model. Chip stated that this model is used throughout the United States and makes available housing to recovering individuals who live together within the community under the stipulation that they must work and pay rent/utilities. Chip explained that there is no paid staff within these homes, but each home provides free housing to one individual who has been in recovery for several years and acts as the "house manager" and a role model to the other residents. Chip stated that the VIP-ER Program Project

Management Team has proposed a way to initiate the “Sober Housing” program in Sarasota County with an initial funding of approximately \$300,000:

- o Grant funding in the amount \$150,000 for start-up costs; \$10,000 per house x 15 properties, with 5 beds available in each home to house the 75 graduates.
- o Voucher funding in the amount of \$150,000 to subsidize the rent for up to 13 weeks for VIP-ER Program graduates who do not have a job when they first come out of the program or who lose their job for a short period of time after being accepted into a house.

Several members noted that they are familiar with this model and that it really does work. Bill stated that since this meeting, staff presented the recommendation to the Consortium, which endorsed it at their October 13 meeting.

Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership

Pauline Tracy reported that the National Evaluation site visit for the Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership will be on October 18-19 and will offer technical assistance to the Partnership. The next Governance Board meeting will be on Friday, October 20 and will be facilitated by Shelly Robertson to look at roles, responsibilities, and structure. The project is in the process of interviewing for the Communications Coordinator position. Karen Bogues is assisting the project in developing a position description for the Youth Coordinator and by recruiting youth who will be involved in the interviewing process. The Family Advocates and Family Support Network are in the process of filing their incorporation papers and applying for their first grant through the Selby Foundation.

Juvenile Assessment Center

James Schulz explained that the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) contracts with Sarasota County to operate the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC). The Sheriff’s Office provides the space at the jail and security, with assessment services provided by Coastal Behavioral Healthcare. Up until October 1, law enforcement officers would transport arrested juveniles to the JAC to be screened and to make a determination whether the youth could be released to their parents or should remain under the custody of DJJ. Following the death of Martin Lee Anderson boot camp in North Florida, the Legislature passed the “Martin Lee Anderson Act,” which places certain restrictions on security personnel at juvenile facilities. DJJ has determined that this act includes the JAC facilities and contacted the Sarasota County Sheriff to request that he comply by sending security staff to specific training and no longer allowing the use of any type of protective devices (such as mace) by the staff. The Sheriff’s general counsel reviewed DJJ’s interpretation of the act and determined that every staff member who works within the jail (approximately 180 personnel) would be required to go to the training and that all correctional officers would literally have to remove all forms of personal protective devices while in the jail. As of October 1, the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office stopped providing the JAC security but contacts the JAC staff through a telephonic screening to determine if the juveniles can be released to the parents or if there is a need for the youth to go to the DJJ Regional Detention Center in Bradenton. Shortly, representatives of DJJ, the Sarasota County’s Sheriff Office, Sarasota County, and Coastal Behavioral Healthcare will explore solutions that will be mutually beneficial to all parties.

Legislative Update

Elliott Metcalfe reported that he has only received one legislative proposal and requested members to forward their proposals as soon as possible to Chip Taylor.

Strategic Planning Retreat

Chip Taylor reported that the Community Alliance's Strategic Planning Retreat will be held on January 22 at the Health Department from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the auditorium and will be facilitated by Shelly Robertson. The Executive Committee is in the process of completing the draft of a survey that will be available shortly through an electronic program called Zoomerang. The results of this survey will be used in planning for the focus of the retreat.

November Meeting Date

The members decided to combine the November and December meetings in a single meeting on December 4 at the Sarasota County School Board chambers.

New Business

Dennis Stover introduced Marion Sortore as the new Disaster Volunteer Manager. Dennis announced that October 20–23 is "Make-a-Difference Weekend," with 107 projects to be completed throughout the county.

Public Comment

None

Next Meeting: December 4, 2006, 1:30 p.m. at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd (please note the change in the date of the meeting).