

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.

MEETING SUMMARY

September 18, 2006

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Janis Alberti	Loveland Center
Evelyn Barritt	CHIP
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
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Lynne Johnston	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region (for Kim Kutch)
Janet Kahn	Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Patrick Kilbane	Young Professionals Group (YPG)
Curtis Lavarello	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCOSA)
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Ann McArdle	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Paul Mercier	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners (for Shannon Staub)
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Tom Pfaff	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Daniel Schmelzinger	Office of Housing and Community Development
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Beverly Stockton	SunCoast Workforce Development Board
Dennis Stover	Friendship Volunteer Center
Alberto Suarez	Manasota 2-1-1
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
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
Carolyn Eagen	Mental Health Community Centers

Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Kathy Kleinlein	School Board of Sarasota County
Richard Lockhart	City of North Port
Capt. Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Scott Moore	Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Raul E. Rivero	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Bert Tanner	Salvation Army--Sarasota Corps
Vicki Taylor	City of Venice
Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Tammy Zappa	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Eber Davis	Karen Eber Davis Consulting
Lee Johnson	Sarasota YMCA
Cheryl Koppman	Easter Seals
Bob Mitchell	Mass Mutual Financial Group
Cindie St. George	Mass Mutual Financial Group

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 September 18, 2006 at the Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd. at 1:30 p.m.

Stewart Stearns welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and guests, and introductions were made. Stewart announced that a letter of resignation was received from Sarah Gorman, who has relocated to Michigan. Stewart asked the members to approve a letter of appreciation to Sarah for all her contributions to the Community Alliance over the past four years.

Karen Bogues moved, Evelyn Barritt seconded, the motion passed unanimously that the Community Alliance Steering Committee approve a letter of appreciation to Sarah for all her contributions to the Community Alliance over the past four years.

LifeBridge Program Presentations

Cheryl Kopmann of Easter Seals introduced Bob Mitchell and Cindie St. George from Mass Mutual Financial Group. Bob Mitchell explained that LifeBridge is a very unique program that Mass Mutual Financial Group and Easter Seals have partnered together on a national level to offer free life insurance to qualified parents.

Cindie St. George showed a short overview of the LifeBridge program offered within the United States and funded by Mass Mutual agents who pay the premium on these policies. Each policy is issued for \$50,000 with a ten-year term, which covers a free safety net for parents between the ages of 19-42, with children under 18 who are in good health and meet the income and legal resident criteria. If the parent dies, the death benefit would be used solely for the child's education including preschool, private school, college, university, trade school, student loans, night school, room and board, etc. and paid directly to the educational institution. Cindie stated that Mass Mutual's goal is to give away 20,000 policies. To date, they have given away 5,694, which is approximately \$285 million dollars worth of coverage. Cindie pointed out that parents would need to go through a pre-qualifying, three-step process before going on to the final interview step to qualify for the free life insurance.

Cindie pointed out that on Saturday, November 4, Easter Seals and Mass Mutual will hold an open house by appointment only for pre-qualified parents, to complete the final 15-minute interview step. The event will take place at the Easter Seals Southwest Florida headquarters, 350 Braden Avenue in Sarasota from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To receive further information, flyers, or assistance, please call Bob at 941-351-6130 or email him at rhmitchell@finsvcs.com or Cindie at 860-562-4188 or email her at cstgeorge@massmutual.com. Parents may also receive forms by going on-line at www.massmutual.com/lifebridge or by calling 800-272-2216.

Committee and Work Group Updates

Planning and Outcomes Work Group (POWG)

Chip Taylor reported that the last scheduled POWG meeting was canceled due to not receiving the corrected version of the CTC Middle School Survey. Chip explained that Channing Bete completed the prior CTC surveys for the middle/high school students but since then, the company sold their copyrights to SAMHSA. USF was then contracted to continue writing the most recent survey report for the middle school students, but discovered that they did not have all the software protocols to run the data correctly. Therefore, when the report came back to the work group, some of the numbers were totally off the mark. USF then arranged to contract with Bert Rothenbach, a former Channing Bete employee, who is in the process of running the survey report again. Once the report is finalized, the work group will make the appropriate recommendations and outcome targets for Fiscal Year 2009 and report back to the Community Alliance and then to the Board of County Commissioners for approval as part of the Human Services Policy Framework.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Bill Little reported that a summary of the Consortium's activities was in the members' packet for their review. Chip announced that recently, the Board of County Commissioners issued a proclamation for National Alcohol and Substance Abuse Recovery Month in honor and recognition of the efforts of the partnering agencies in the CART Initiative.

David Beesley reported that as of September 12, the Addictions Receiving Facility (ARF) has seen 177 clients. On September 14, the facility held its formal open house ceremony. David stated that he recently attended an encouraging meeting with emergency room doctors on the criteria for admission and the handling of this type of patient. David mentioned that the facility is making great progress to become a critical component for the county's system of care. Chip mentioned that Manatee County announced that they will begin the development of an ARF

based partly on the Sarasota County model and the Stakeholders' Consortium has offered guidance and assistance in the process of developing their facility.

David reported that the Phase 2 VIP-ER Program continues to graduate adults (18 and over) at the 75% completion rate and he is very encouraged by the 22% rate of reunification of families. The next step is the coordination of placing the Phase 1 patients into Phase 2. Chip mentioned that the Project Management Team (PMT) submitted two grants for enhancements to the VIP-ER Program. PMT received notification that they were not a recipient of the SAMHSA grant. If the BJA grant is not approved for Sarasota County, the Stakeholders' Consortium and the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) will go back before the Board of County Commissioners for additional funding to enhance the VIP-ER Program in hiring two support employment counselors through Coastal Behavioral Healthcare and provide after-care case management resources. Chip announced that Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI) has officially become a partner in the project and will be working closely with Coastal Behavioral Healthcare.

Bill Little reported that the Transitional Housing Committee (Phase 3) would meet on October 3 at the Health Department.

James Schulz reported that the CIT Committee has scheduled its seventh class for October 23 through October 27 at SCTI's Criminal Justice Academy, where the class will be integrated into SCTI's officer training schedule. James stated that the ultimate goal is to have the CIT training on a level of specialized training, such as SWAT, in order for the officers to receive an increase in their pay.

Bill Little reported that recently there was a meeting with local providers regarding funding issues and the changes in Medicaid reimbursement and were told that the Southwest Region's capitation rate will be much lower than the rest of the state. Sarasota County's capitation rate will be \$12-\$13 per person per month, whereas the average capitation rate around the state is \$20-\$25, with the highest being \$50. Sarasota County will be significantly under funded for mental health services and providers will be unable to deliver the same level of service as the rest of the state. Subsequently, DCF has raised questions with AHCA at the state level regarding the rate. AHCA has acknowledged that there is a problem and is currently reviewing the capitation rate in Sarasota County but cannot guarantee any changes this coming year. Bill stated that he would keep the Community Alliance informed on the outcome of this issue.

Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership

Chip Taylor reported that the next Logic Model meeting is on September 26 to further refine the model. The Governance Board members are on the verge of formally constituting the board. The next meeting will be held on September 22 at Twin Lakes Park. Shelly Robertson will facilitate a Governance Board meeting on October 20 at the Fruitville Library from 1:30 to 4:30. The lead agency, The Florida Center for Child and Family Development, is in the process of completing contracts with providers who will deliver wraparound coordination services (First Step, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Jewish Family and Children Services, Sarasota Memorial Hospital and Children First). Chip stated that the approach of having wrap coordinators in various parts of the county with different agencies is very different from other system of care projects and we are anxious to see the result. Chip pointed out that the Partnership has begun enrolling children.

Chip mentioned that several members, including Bill Little, Peter Howard, Chip Taylor and Celeste Putman (FSU Consultant) recently traveled to Buffalo for a three-day workshop on fiscal sustainability. It was discovered that successful projects began planning a sustainable strategy early in their process, whereas unsuccessful projects waited until the 5th year to begin a strategy. Chip pointed out that originally, the Partnership's plan was to combine County funding with a great deal of Medicaid billing but because of the current situation with Medicaid, this plan will no longer be feasible and we will need to find alternative, creative means to make this project sustainable. Bill Little pointed out that the SAMHSA grant is a huge gift to Sarasota County to serve a small number of children. The future opportunity will be to address all children in the 0-8 age group, regardless of their eligibility, and to continue the same concept as those children grow older, as this could someday have an impact on the broader-based system of care.

Legislative Update

Elliott Metcalfe reported that the Legislative Committee requested members to forward legislative topics to Chip Taylor or Elliott Metcalfe. The committee will meet shortly to discuss the issues and create a plan for the upcoming County Legislative session. It was mentioned that one issue that will be addressed is the Sarasota County capitation rate.

Strategic Planning Session

Stewart Stearns reported that last month there was a discussion on the strategic planning session and Steve Queior volunteered to draft an agenda for the members to review. Steve Queior distributed the draft of the agenda and briefly went over the format with the members. Steve suggested a facilitated afternoon session in a different location, beginning with introductions, a preview of the process, initial thoughts, and expectations. The agenda would have two main topics, multiple sub-topics with participant discussion, and small group activities.

Stewart Stearns thanked Steve for his effort and stated that this session tentatively will be set for Monday, January 22 at the Health Department Auditorium from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

New Business

Family Day

Karen Bogues announced that "Family Day" will be September 25 and CYD is offering a series of family dinner nights for middle/high school youth and their families. The first dinner will be on September 25 at the Lee Wetherington Boys and Girls Club and the event is free.

Gang Awareness Workshop

Sherri Reynolds announced that throughout the month of October, the School Board in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department will offer gang awareness workshops at various high schools within community. For further information please contact Larry Leon at 927-9000 ext. 31128.

Community Connections

Steve Queior announced that on October 17 at 5:00 p.m. the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and the Young Professionals Group (YPG) will hold a forum, "Community Connections" with a variety of topics on the quality future for the community. For further information, contact Nikki Taylor, nikki.taylor@ritzcarlton.com.

Public Comment

*Next Meeting: October 16, 2006, 1:30 p.m. at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers,
1980 Landings Blvd.*