

Community Alliance of Sarasota County
(www.sarasotaalliance.net)
Aging Services Strategic Planning Work Group

Monday, 3:00 P.M., July 17, 2007
2nd Floor Conference Room
Center for Healthy Aging, Campus of Senior Friendship Centers,
1900 Brother Geenen Way, Sarasota, Florida

The Aging Services Strategic Planning Work Group was created as a result of the Strategic Planning Retreat on January 22, 2007. The purposes of the work group are:

- ***to develop the top 3 – 5 older adult human services issues in Sarasota County that require community action and***
- ***to report these issues to the Community Alliance on Monday, September 17, 2007.***

Members Present	Staff Present
Bob Carter, Chair	Rik Jimison
Dennis Stover	
Stewart Stearns	Members Absent
Stanley Godleski	
Rose Chapman	
Barb Bainbridge	
Stephen Brett	

At 3:00 PM Bob Carter called the meeting to order and requested each person introduce him or herself.

Bob Carter briefed the work group on the results of the CHAT survey which indicated that 61% of the respondents indicated that aging problems were the number 1 health priority.

A question was raised as to how realistic it was to have a September deadline on this work group's assignment.

The group discussed the role of "Sarasota: A Community for All Generations" (SACAG) vis a vis this Strategic Planning Work Group, and should it not have been the role of SACAG to develop these recommendations?

Rose Chapman distributed questions based on the questions distributed at the Children's Services Strategic Planning Workgroup. Rose compared the "wrap around" service approach of the SAMHSA grant funding the Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health with the service approach needed for older adults, particularly frail older adults.

Bob Carter noted the Department of Elder Affairs has undertaken a new initiative designed to be the one-stop human services shop: Aging Resource Centers (ARCs). Florida began a few pilots, pulled back temporarily, and now is proceeding statewide. Website:

http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/english/ARC/Implementation_Plan_final.pdf

Bob Carter also briefly discussed transportation needs and services, mentioning both SCAT and SACT Plus and the newly proposed Independent Transportation Network (ITN) through SCOPE's Aging the Possibilities 3-year study. Related Websites:

<http://www.itnamerica.org/>

<http://www.itninc.org/>

<http://itnorlando.org/>

<http://itncharlestontrident.org/>

The group considered using a Zoomerang questionnaire / survey instrument to receive the public's input, except that the time frame was perceived as inadequate. The ultimate consensus was that those who work these issues all of the time would be better positioned to list the top three or four issues.

The following website was mentioned regarding social programs that work:

<http://www.evidencebasedprograms.org/>

In this context it was noted that the traditional congregate meals model may not work for boomer retirees. That which worked in the past, as culture evolves, may not work in the future.

Rose Chapman noted the importance of prioritizing the right issues for action with limited economic resources. Each work group needs to show the greatest bang for the buck with the issues elected.

Bob Carter said that the greatest impact may well be in providing medical care for those uninsured who are 50 and older, as these folks traditionally fall between the service cracks.

Rose Chapman noted the analogy of finding that issue which is causing the bleeding: i.e. , where are we able to place a tourniquet to stop the financial bleeding while providing a critical service / addressing a critical issue.

Dennis Stover noted that if we are talking "bang for the buck," then we should emphasize volunteering, and volunteer initiatives.

Rose Chapman said older adults are committing suicide at an unacceptable rate, and maybe some action here might be viewed as "stopping the bleeding."

Stewart Stearns asked several key questions:

- What are the major issues impacting older adults over the next 12 months?
- What are immediate short term system alterations that might address these issues?
- What collaborations might occur between JFCS and SFC or other service providers that might enhance existing services or the general welfare of older adults?

Bob Carter noted that such collaborations might be able to occur with caregiver services. Hospice is doing something in this area.

A brief discussion occurred related to the perception that aging issues are generally low priority locally. It was mentioned that one just needs to look at the size of this group relative to the size of other strategic planning work groups.

Bob Carter and Rose Chapman volunteered to serve on an ad hoc sub-committee which would make recommendations on important issues at the next meeting. The next regular meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 20 at 1:30 PM.