

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

Monday, 1:30 P.M., August 20, 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	Barb Bainbridge
Rose Chapman	Stephen Brett
	Guests
	Monica Strunk

At 1:30 PM Bob Carter called the meeting to order and requested each person introduce him or herself.

Stewart Stearns mentioned how critical it was to choose issues correctly, as issues that are deemed to not have a significant impact may not be selected.

Bob Carter pointed out that any discussion regarding unmet needs, the need for information and referral services, and that currently all of the providers and area agencies on aging are working diligently to establish aging resource centers (ARCs). The ARCs will be dealing with:

- Access
- Information and Referral
- Screening
- Triaging
- Eligibility
- Long Term care Options Counseling
- Fiscal Control, and
- Quality Assurance.

Needs assessments will be dealt with by AAAs. Bob mentioned that Kathleen Houseweart, on the “Aging in Place Action Team” of “Sarasota: A Community for All Generations,” and employed as the Coordinator of the SMH Memory Disorder Clinic has been instrumental in ARC development. She will be working on how Sarasota County directly interfaces with the ARCs.

At the FCOA conference in Miami the Governor braced the aging network for further funding reductions due to the economic downturn. At the conference the American Assembly on Aging focused on:

- ✎ Aging in Place
- ✎ Transportation, and
- ✎ Civic Engagement.

Interestingly these are areas of local focus as well.

One of the most impressive initiatives out there is **Life: Act 2**. It is a pro-active response to the opportunities and challenges of an exploding senior population in Duval County funded by the United Way of Northeast Florida. The Website is: http://www.uwnefl.org/Partnerships_LA2.asp

This program has, among other things, funded 2 or 3 children's books to place older adults in a positive perspective. The initiative has a Bridging Elder Care Networks Task Force with primary roles to:

- Increase health and long term care systems elder appropriateness.
- Improve knowledge of, and access to the health and long term care systems for frail elders.
- Bridge the health and long-term care systems through integrated technology and policies and procedures.

Jacksonville was the original model for SCOPE.

The question was raised as to why a much younger community such as Duval County and Jacksonville would be undertaking such an initiative when Sarasota's population is much older. It was noted that the older population locally is viewed as so much more affluent that local older residents may be more able to meet their own needs.

Some of the types of initiatives that Jacksonville Duval County have undertaken may stem to some degree to the fact that some 30 years ago the county and the city merged. This may engender creativity and not simply administrative savings and economies of scale.

The paucity of older adult outcome indicators was commented on; and the idea of contracting with the USF Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging to uncover some appropriate indicators. The website is: <http://www.fpeca.cas.usf.edu/>

Bob Carter reported out on the ad hoc committee that was to look at collaborations and issues identification.

Questions regarding the appropriateness of ITN for either Orange or Sarasota Counties were raised. This ITN initiative is focused on a very limited area, and perhaps there are other alternatives. Subsidized rides through cab companies may be possible.

Concern was expressed that human and health service systems might collapse, and senior centers may have to be independent financially, generating revenue in new and unique ways to remain viable. As there are fewer resources for non-profits, civic engagement, volunteerism and systems change regarding the employment of experience capable retirees (including, but not limited to, baby-boomers) on a part-time basis needs to be considered.

When service systems are enhanced or developed, it was considered key to insure the diversity of all populations involved in bringing these service systems about.

The workgroup began to focus in on developing their final list of issues to present to the Community Alliance. After exchanging several ideas the final list included:

- Social isolation/ self-neglect/ mental health
- Caregiver and Elder abuse intervention
- Health and wellness intervention
- Capacity building through civic engagement.

The meeting was adjourned. No added meetings were scheduled at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Rik Jimison