

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

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

Members Present

Bob Carter, Chair
Dennis Stover
Stewart Stearns
Stanley Godleski
Rose Chapman
Barb Bainbridge
Stephen Brett

Staff Present

Rik Jimison

Members Absent

None

At 2:00 PM Bob Carter called the meeting to order and requested each person introduce him or herself.

Items the work group discussed included the following:

- Any issue presented to the Community Alliance on September 17, if it includes added funding, has to be very well documented. No issue should simply be an increase in funding.
- Issues need to recognize that we are talking about at least two generations, with each generation having many needs.
- Community planning needs to account for local demographics, the percentage of older adults in the County (es. g., the oldest county with more than 250,000 population in the nation; 38% 60 years of age and older; and continued rapid growth of this demographic).
- The Suncoast Workforce Board is conducting a survey of employers regarding what accommodations they are making for an older work force, and prospective older employees as to how they are preparing to be older workers.
- Stanley Godleski read a passage from the correspondence dated 04/16/2007 to the Board of County Commissioners from the Seniors Advisory Council regarding priority recommendations from the Seniors Advisory Council as follows:

While we know few details about what facilities or services are included in your numbered priorities, we want to point out the high degree of interest Seniors have in several of them, specifically Emergency Food Assistance, Services for Disabled People, Health Care and Education, Housing and Support Living, Employment Services, Transportation, Financial/Legal Counseling and Information and Referral.

It would be our hope that each of these categories could be examined from the perspective: What does it do for Seniors?

At the same time, it is our hope you would examine all your priority items from the perspective: What can Seniors do for other residents of the county?

Seniors are not just a constituency with needs. They are a constituency with talent----a great deal of talent.

- Need for sensitivity to older adults at businesses.
- The group itemized major issues on the white board as follows:
 - Multiple Generations Of Older Adults With Multiple Needs.
 - Prevention / Intervention Services.
 - Work Force Issues.
 - Health Insurance – Uninsured Adults 50 Years of Age and Older
 - Long Term Care – Medicaid
 - Public Policy Advocacy – Planning and “Communities For A Lifetime”
 - Transportation
 - Nutrition
 - Care Giving
 - Depression
 - Social Isolation
 - Purposeful Life (Volunteerism)
 - I&R – Lack of Information
 - Healthy Aging
 - Livable Communities
 - Elder Abuse, including Scams
 - Points of Intersection with the Topics of other Strategic Planning Work Groups