

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY
Children and Youth Services Strategic Planning Work Group

Meeting Summary for August 6, 2007

Present:

Mike Bigner	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Karen Bogues	CYD
PJ Brooks	First Step of Sarasota
Lee Byron	Human Services Advisory Council
Rose Chapman	Jewish Family and Children's Services
Kay Glasser	Human Services Center
Hal Hedley	Child Protection Center
Jennifer Highland	Healthy Start Coalition
Lee Johnson	Sarasota Family YMCA
Edwina Jones	Community Haven for Adults and Children
Kim Kutch	DCF
Carolyn Marchbank	Community Haven for Adults and Children
Joy Mahler	Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Janice Mee	Child Advocate
Mark Porter	Sarasota Family YMCA
Paul Shaffer	DJJ
Kathryn Shea	The Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Nancy Shoemaker	Catholic Charities
Caroline Zucker	Sarasota County School Board

Staff:

Jamie Mahadeo	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Summary

Karen Bogues asked that the purpose of the work group be repeated. Rose Chapman responded that the purpose is to come up with three to five priorities for the Community Alliance to focus on. PJ Brooks added that the Community Alliance has several work groups also doing the same. The Alliance will review all the priorities for areas of commonality and move forward. The questionnaire developed was to gather and prioritize community needs looking into the future. Karen questioned which part of the children and youth community the work group should look at. PJ responded that the original intent was for children and families. It is up to the committee to decide where the focus should be.

Jamie Mahadeo distributed and reviewed with the committee the weighted evaluation of responses received to the Zoomerang questionnaire. [That report follows with one revision - the parenting education category has been separated from quality/affordable child care as requested by the committee.]

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UNMET SERVICE NEEDS	weighted
<i>questions 1-3</i>	<i>points</i>
quality/affordable child care	16
safe/affordable housing	16
substance abuse/mental health	15
access to services/continuum of care	11
evaluation of needs of children	8
financial stability	8
medical care/insurance	8
lack of collaboration	6
meaningful activities for youth	4
mentoring	4
assistance from VR at 16	2
caregiver training	2
parent education	2
adequate transportation	1

UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS	weighted
<i>questions 4-6</i>	<i>points</i>
teens	19
low income	16
working poor	13
minorities	8
homeless children	7
middle school students	5
immigrant families/non-citizens	4
alcoholics/drug addicts	3
children needing medical care	3
special needs children	3
infants	1
south county children	1
young children	1

It was explained that some of the responses could be categorized differently depending on your perspective. The raw data was provided to the committee for their interpretation of the responses. Rose explained that the last three questions were community issues and need to be recognized and addressed individually.

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Karen asked how the other committees were progressing. PJ explained that, based on one meeting with the other committee chairs, the standing committees such as Health and Substance Abuse/Mental Health may be further along than the ad hoc committees. There is a possibility that this committee could ask for additional time to respond fully to the task. Rose noted that there is an issue of bias on the part of agencies responding who will rank the population that they serve as most in need. This could bias the survey if individuals representing the same population responded in overwhelming numbers. PJ noted that the committee may need to take more time reviewing the results of the survey and discuss the issue at the next meeting. Extensive discussion ensued regarding the survey results and how they can be prioritized and interpreted. The committee requested that Parenting Education have its own category in the evaluation provided.

Several people in the group expressed concern that particular age groups could be left out of the process if the committee proceeds without addressing the issue. Karen introduced the "Success by 21" format that has been developed so, by age 21, children will be academically prepared, emotionally healthy, etc. It provides a framework that evaluates needs by age group. Discussion ensued regarding the "Success by 21" format and how it may enhance the process. Karen pointed out that this is an extensive evaluation taking up to two years to fully complete the model.

Chip Taylor agreed that, at the will of the committee, "Success by 21" may be a way to move forward. He suggested that the committee take a hard look at the model to determine exactly what services are needed in the community. He also suggested that the committee may want to have additional meetings to evaluate the framework. In the meantime, the committee needs to focus on finding the three to five most important issues regarding children, youth and families. Karen explained that "Success by 21" is a tool that provides vision and context in identifying variables in each age group. Without the support of the School Board, the funders, and the nonprofit agencies, the model won't succeed in providing the framework the committee is looking for. Jamie will send out the model by e-mail as soon as possible so all committee members will have a chance to review it and provide comments at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Children and Youth Services Strategic Planning Work Group is August 27, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the Jewish Family and Children's Services office on Fruitville Road.