

## Community Alliance of Sarasota County

[www.sarasotaalliance.net](http://www.sarasotaalliance.net)

### Developmental Disabilities Strategic Planning Work Group

October 1, 2007

### Meeting Summary

#### Members present:

Margie Genter	Goodwill Industries
Joann Gepfert	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Sarah Hickey	Sarasota County School Board
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Theresa Johnson	Sarasota County Parent Liaison
Edwina Jones	Whole Child Project at Community Haven
Susan Magers	Sarasota County Parent Liaison
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council
Mary Smith	Family Network on Disabilities
Ryan Stoyles	Community Haven
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center

#### Staff:

Kathleen Marie Hall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Charles Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

#### Welcome and Introductions

Peter Howard and Benny Weaver welcomed members and guests to the meeting and introductions were made.

#### Discussion on Prioritization of Top Issues

Peter Howard and Benny Weaver reviewed the preceding work group meetings and the recent Zoomerang Survey results. Peter reminded the participants that a consensus needed to be finalized on the top priorities to present to the Community Alliance.

A discussion ensued on the many areas of developmental disabilities including:

- Separating the categories into youth, teens, and adults to determine the top issues to address
- Addressing at least five top issues that are credible for all age groups since many issues are overlapping between youth and adults with limited funding.

- Addressing that respite and transportation cross all age groups and should be a high priority in all stages of the developmentally disabled.
- Funding for transition from high school to adulthood.
- Educating funders, Board of County Commissioners, and the community on lifelong developmental disabilities that include diverse needs at different stages of life.
- Addressing the County's definition of *Persons with Disabilities* that does not include the words, "developmental disabilities."
- Exploring the idea of replacing 2-1-1/HMIS software and adding disaster/emergency services software with a web-based program that would be accessible to other community agencies.

### **Sarasota County Priorities for Persons with Disabilities**

A discussion ensued on the current county priorities that identified persons with disabilities. Chip Taylor explained the Sarasota County's Human Services Policy Framework and Community Outcome Targets that guide the Human Services Advisory Council recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Chip pointed out that the *Persons with Disabilities* category was ranked No. 5 out of the 17 categories for FY 2008. Chip stated that ten requests were submitted for funding in the *Persons with Disabilities* category; six received a decrease in funding and four were flat-funded for a total of \$129,000. In other categories there was approximately \$600,000 in funding for persons with disabilities (such as Early Intervention at the Florida Center, Easter Seals, health and alcohol syndrome projects, UCP Housing, and Community Haven).

### **Next Steps**

Chip Taylor pointed out that the core message for the developmental disabled should be that this type of disability affects each person uniquely with diverse needs at different stages of their life span. Chip suggested naming one main category with sub-categories that include the different needs at each stage of life and specifying the issues with both common and unique disability needs. Participants commented:

- Identify three simple issues with little cost that are easily implemented and three others that don't cost anything that various agencies could supply.
- Issues don't always evolve around funding; some evolve around coordination issues.
- Educate the people that don't live or work in the developmental disabled trenches every day by supplying greater public awareness.
- Emphasize the increase in the number of developmental disabilities.

Peter Howard directed the participants to review the Zoomerang survey results and begin the process of identifying priorities. The participants discussed the survey and agreed on the following 6 categories:

- Family Professional Resources - Centralization of Information/One-Stop Resource Center
- Housing
- Transportation
- Respite
- Supportive Employment - Functional living
- Early Intervention

Participants agreed to create a definition for each category and that all categories would be presented with equal value. It was also agreed to not pitch age groups against each other but rather show the reality of the needs and how the needs change over various stages of a developmentally disabled person's lifespan. Peter requested staff to wordsmith the list and email it to the participants.

### **Work Group Presentations**

Pauline Tracy mentioned that the Economic Self-Sufficiency Strategic Planning Work Group would present their priorities at the October 15 Steering Committee meeting and that several other work groups would present at the November 19 meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The participants agreed to hold another meeting to define the selected categories. Pauline Tracy mentioned that if anyone had suggestions for the definitions, to please email staff.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 29 at 1:00 p.m. at the Health Department in Room 2063.