

Community Alliance of Sarasota County

www.sarasotaalliance.net

Developmental Disabilities Strategic Planning Work Group

October 29, 2007

Meeting Summary

Members present

Kathy Coiro	Children's Medical Services
Peggy Connell	Community Haven
Joann Gepfert	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Sarah Hickey	Sarasota County School Board
Theresa Johnson	Sarasota County Parent Liaison
Edwina Jones	Whole Child Project at Community Haven
Susan Magers	Sarasota County Parent Liaison
Ann McArdle	Easter Seals
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council
Rich Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Mary Smith	Family Network on Disabilities
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Eileen Welch	Early Steps

Staff

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

Welcome and Introductions

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

Work Group Presentations

Chip Taylor reported that at the last Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting (October 15) the Economic Self Sufficiency Work Group gave a presentation on their top priorities and set a standard for the other work groups by bringing forth a model with supporting data and recommendations. Chip stated that the Health Work Group will give their presentation at the November 19 meeting and the Aging Services, Children/Youth, Mental Health/Substance Abuse, and Developmental Disabilities work groups will present at the December 17 meeting.

Chip pointed out that once all 6 groups have given their reports the Community Alliance will discuss what issues could be combined and consolidated into the 5 or 6 top priorities for the community.

Discussion on Refining Top Priorities

Benny Weaver reported that the focus for the meeting was to refine the group's overall statement of support and the five priorities for the December 17 Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting. Chip stated that the group will need to parallel with the Economic Self Sufficiency's report by giving significant/specific data on developmental disabilities but at the same time not pitch age groups against each other. Instead, the group should present a realistic view of the needs by stating a description for each priority and then list the current level of effort in the community, who is/who is not being served, what services are not in place, the extent of the unmet needs, and how the needs change over the various stages of a life span. Chip mentioned that the more data/statistics is provided in the explanation of each priority, the more meaningful to the audience. Chip stated that staff could assist with putting the data together once the participants forward the data by email.

Benny reviewed the overall statement of support and the five priorities with the participants. A discussion ensued on gathering the data/statistics. Members felt that a framework should be developed for the data collection in order that all members report their data in the same format. Benny drew a sample chart for members to visualize and suggested that staff duplicate this chart and forward it to all participants.

Service	Description	How many are being served	How much it costs	How many are not being served/met
Housing				
Transportation				
Respite				
Supported Employment				
Early Intervention				

Participants stated that they would report the county-wide data/statistics on all ages and all levels. Benny noted that there may be overlaps but that this is expected from all the work groups. Chip mentioned that this report should be a collective agency effort on a community level on what is missing and asked the group to refrain from speaking to the specific needs of individual agencies. Chip further explained the process that the group should use by providing an example to follow:

- *Example:* Respite Services are provided by "X" number of organizations in the community. These agencies were able to serve "X" number of people and it cost "X" amount of dollars. Based on the projection of "X" number of persons in the community with this need, services are falling short by "X"%.

A discussion ensued on whether a narrow or broad definition should be used for developmentally disabled persons. Chip reminded the group that the audience will be the Community Alliance. The goal will be to educate the Community Alliance on every aspect of developmental disabilities and how to impact the issues for individuals who need the assistance. After much discussion it was agreed to use a definition offered by Ann McArdle.

- There are an estimated “X” number of individuals in Sarasota County who are considered “developmentally disabled.” That is, individuals who developed a condition prior to age 18 years old that limits one or more life functions.

Members requested to develop a flow chart on how people enter and exit the system; this opened a discussion on Sarasota County’s One-stop Center issue. Benny stated that if Sarasota County could create a one-stop center it would be a tremendous accomplishment for the community. Benny noted that he plans to approach this issue with the Community Alliance before presenting the five priorities. Members mentioned that 2-1-1 should be tied into the mix by enhancing the existing system that is already in place without duplicating services.

Benny Weaver asked staff to forward the data template to all participants in the work group and requested that participants forward their completed templates back to staff by the close of business on November 12. Chip Taylor stated that staff would develop a draft report to present at the next meeting for discussion, before finalizing it for presentation at the December 17 Community Alliance meeting.

Chip invited the work group members to the November 19 Community Alliance Steering Committee meeting at the Health Department Auditorium at 1:30 p.m. to better understand the format of the group. ***[Please note: the November 19 meeting of the Community Alliance has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on December 17 at the Sarasota County School Board Chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.]***

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 26 at 2:00 p.m. at the Health Department in Room 226.