

Community Alliance of Sarasota County

(www.sarasotaalliance.net)

Developmental Disabilities Strategic Planning Work Group

May 22, 2008

Meeting Summary

Members present:

Joann Gepfert	Agency for Person with Disabilities (APD)
Ellen Hepner	Children's Medical Services (CMS)
Sarah Hickey	Sarasota County School Board
Peter Howard	The Florida Center
Teresa Johnson	Sarasota County School Board Parent Liaison
Edwina Jones	Whole Child Project at Community Haven
Susan Magers	Sarasota County School Board Parent Liaison
Richard Montemagno	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Renee McQueen	Vocational Interagency Council
Carissa Potts	Sarasota County Parks and Recreation (for Andrea King)
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Darleen Zimmerman	Goodwill Academy

Staff:

Kathleen Marie Hall	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Chip 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.

Work Group Priorities – Next Step

Pauline Tracy reported on the results of the [priority chart](#) and explained that the 11 priorities were rated by increments of 7. The top priority was "Centralization of Services", with "*Pro Bono* services" as the last priority. Peter Howard asked participants to review the chart.

A discussion ensued on the criteria for prioritization, centralization of services within the Tapestry software project, creation of a PSA for the diaper priority, making a case of value through concrete fact finding, educating the community on developmental disabilities, having a voice in the community, and what priorities might be legislative issues.

Members commented on the following priorities:

- Respite is vitally important for caregivers of the developmental disabled and should be intertwined into aftercare services.
- Aftercare services should be partnered with university students, along with training parents/guardians on how to build support networks for themselves (ex. phone bank for parents to call). Services should include access to the Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, and other centers.
- Transportation services should eliminate the \$1.50 fee and provide transport to Tampa facilities.
- Guardianship and *Pro Bono* attorneys go hand-in-hand and should be addressed together. It was noted that there is a *pro bono* model in the Brandon area that may be willing to expand services to Sarasota County.

Pauline explained that at the last Community Alliance Executive Committee meeting it was decided that the work groups should use the following criteria in determining their top “low-hanging fruit” priorities: magnitude of the problem, feasibility, and seriousness of the consequences if the problem were not addressed. Participants suggested taking the current chart and identifying three to five issues, then assigning a subgroup to each priority that would gather information to present at the next meeting. The participants agreed on the following priorities: diaper donations, aftercare services, transportation, respite, and advocacy. Peter asked the participants to volunteer for one of the five priority areas:

- Diaper donations – Peter Howard
- Aftercare – Joann Gepfert, Ellen Hepner, Sarah Hickey, Andrea King, and Benny Weaver
- Transportation – Renee McQueen, Richard Montemagno, and Darleen Zimmerman
- Respite – Edwina Jones and Mary Smith
- Advocacy – Sarah Hickey, Teresa Johnson, and Susan Magers

Pauline Tracy explained that the Community Information Exchange/Tapestry Project will be put in place for 2-1-1 and the disaster modules during the latter part of the current year. In order for the developmental disabilities agency resources to be included in the Tapestry Project for the following year a case will need to be developed to present to the Community Alliance. It was suggested that a parent/guardian contact directory for children with developmental disabilities in Sarasota County be created for the project.

New Business

Police Department Training

Teresa Johnson questioned whether or not the local police departments receive any training on dealing with persons with developmental disabilities. Richard Montemagno noted that the departments have received Crisis Intervention Team

(CIT) training, but was not sure if this included training specifically on developmental disabilities. Chip Taylor suggested that Teresa contact Pam Meunier, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Policy Coordinator, to discuss this issue.

Hurricane Preparedness Discussion

Participants asked whether or not there was any type of case management set up within Sarasota County to instruct persons with developmental disabilities on what to do in case of a hurricane. Pauline noted that this is a topic that needs to be addressed at one of the upcoming Sarasota COAD meetings. Members are encouraged to attend and participate in a core group or strike team within this committee. The next meeting for Sarasota COAD will be on June 9 at 3:30 at the Health Department. It was suggested that the Developmental Disabilities Strategic Work Group have a representative at these meetings.

Next Meeting

Pauline stated that the next meeting will be on Thursday, June 26. Members discussed the idea of not having the summer meetings in order to give the subgroups enough time to gather information on the priorities. Pauline stated that she would send out an email to request who could attend the June 26 meeting and ways to increase the participation at the meetings (parents and professionals, such as school board members and representatives from the YMCA, and the Boys and Girls Club). Sarah Hickey suggested sending out an email to the 52 agencies that were at the recent agency fair. Susan Magers pointed out that the work group needs to stay focused on their mission statement in order to be all inclusive. Peter mentioned that he will formally request that the Developmental Disabilities Strategic Planning Work Group become a sub-committee of the Community Alliance at the June 16 meeting.