

Community Alliance of Sarasota County
www.sarasotaalliance.net
Developmental Disabilities Strategic Planning Work Group
June 18, 2007
Meeting Summary

Members present:

Peggy Connell	Community Haven
Margie Genter	Goodwill Industries - Manasota
Joann Gepfert	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Sarah Hickey	Sarasota County School Board
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Edwina Jones	Whole Child Project at Community Haven
Marie Markovich	Sarasota County School Board
Ann McArdle	Easter Seals
Ryan Stoyles	Community Haven
Joan Scudder	SCTI Parent
Mary Smith	Family Network on Disabilities
William Tracy	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office (for Capt. Richard Montemagno
Benny Weaver	Loveland Center
Laurel White	Vocational Rehabilitation

Staff:

Kathleen Marie Hall
Charles Taylor

Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Peter Howard and Benny Weaver welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Overview/Goals of the Work Group

Peter Howard explained that the mission of the work group is to identify the top three to five developmental disability issues facing the community to present to the Community Alliance Steering Committee on September 17.

A discussion ensued on the various areas of concern for developmental disabilities.

- Differentiation of problems/challenges facing the younger generation vs. older adults
- Shift the focus within the community by uniting with one voice
- Develop a broader plan to address special housing, transportation, funding, employment and health care needs
- Realistic number of persons within the community
- Services and eligibility are not transferable from state to state
- For many developmentally disabled persons, work is not a realistic goal

- More respite services are needed for caretakers
- Service coordination as case management withdraws
- Advocacy and lobbying on a local level
- Parental education on services and rights
- Reality is that for most developmentally disabled persons, this is usually a lifetime issue, not something that someone “recovers from”
- Agencies should collaborate on services instead of competing with each other for funds
- Create a snap-shot of the life cycle and discover the gaps and overlaps
- Socialization for older teenagers and young adults

Identification of Others Who Should be Involved in Work Group

Chip Taylor explained that the work group should be inclusive to include community funders, providers, consumers, and citizens. Chip stated that in order to engage others in this effort, the work group needs to reach out to the community.

A discussion ensued on other groups and individuals who should be at the table.

- Sarasota County Transition Leadership Team
- Parents and support groups
- Chambers of Commerce
- SCAT
- Workforce Development Board
- YMCA
- SCTI
- Sarasota and Manasota Buds
- Southwest Florida Autism Coalition
- Exceptional Student Advisory Committee (ESAP)
- CHADD Group through Sarasota Memorial Hospital
- Early Steps
- Early Success Program

Chip asked everyone to forward to him suggestions of additional persons who should be involved (charles_taylor@doh.state.fl.us). Email addresses and/or telephone numbers would be helpful if available.

Process for Developing Priorities

Peter Howard asked the participants for ideas on how to begin the process for developing the priorities to be presented to the Community Alliance. The members felt that a facilitator’s consensus-building activity would be a good way to begin the process. It was suggested that the media be made aware of the progress of the work group, perhaps by starting a campaign on untold stories of the many citizens in Sarasota County who require multiple services.

Timelines

Chip Taylor explained that the work group will hold multiple meetings over the next several months to identify the top concerns. On July 16, the work group will present an

update to the Community Alliance Steering Committee on what has been accomplished thus far. In August, the work group will hold additional meetings to address and finalize the top concerns. In September, the work group will present their recommended top concerns to the Community Alliance Steering Committee.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, July 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the Sarasota County Department of Health, 2200 Ringling Blvd., Conference Room 226, Sarasota.