



INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

SARASOTA COUNTY



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”



SARASOTA'S COMMUNITY ALLIANCE MODEL

The Community Alliance was organized in August, 2001 in response to passage of enabling legislation (F.S. Chap. 20.19). By-Laws were adopted in January, 2002.

Sarasota's Alliance model is unlike any other community alliance in the state:

- Sarasota County Government was the catalyst in establishing the Alliance, rather than DCF**
 - DCF is a member of, but not the focus of the Alliance**
 - Sarasota County provides extensive staff support for the Alliance**
 - Focus of the Alliance is on the entire human services system, not just child welfare**
 - Membership on the Alliance is open, with broad representation of key stakeholders in the human services system**
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MISSION OF THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

“Provide a focal point for community participation, guidance and oversight of health and human services in Sarasota County by establishing a framework for the optimum achievement of an integrated health and human services delivery system which will enable citizens to achieve their maximum potential and improve their overall quality of life.”

PURPOSES OF THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

- **Facilitate collaboration among funders and service providers in solving problems in the human services delivery system which encourages shared decision-making and shared accountability**
 - **Serve as a catalyst for community resource development by responding to funding opportunities and using local funds to leverage state and federal dollars**
 - **Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on issues affecting the human services delivery system**
 - **Provide for community education and advocacy on human services issues**
 - **Improve issue-focused planning which is based on research and analysis**
 - **Determine community-wide priorities for human services and establish community indicators, benchmarks and outcome targets**
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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

The Steering Committee is comprised of 49 members of the Alliance who represent three broad categories:

- **Funders (12 seats)**

Local government, foundations, United Ways, state agencies

- **Human/Community Service Providers (22 seats)**

Children and youth agencies, criminal justice, education, court system, housing, homeless persons, health, substance abuse, mental health, aging, persons with disabilities

- **General Community (15 seats)**

Business/economic development, faith-based community, community planning, client/consumer representatives, community representatives

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE STRUCTURE

- **Steering Committee**
 - **Executive Committee**
 - **Nominating and Membership Committee**
 - **Education and Advocacy Work Group**
 - **Funding Catalyst Work Group**
 - **Legislative Advocacy Work Group**
 - **Planning and Outcomes Work Group**

 - **Health Care for Uninsured Children Committee**
 - **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium**
 - **Community Disaster Preparedness Committee**
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COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Planning and Analysis

- **Developed and adopted a set of community outcome targets for human services to provide direction and guidance to funders and service providers**
 - **Sponsored and funded an analysis of Sarasota's acute care system, leading to development of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium to address the issues identified**
 - **Secured funding for and provided three 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team training classes for 80 local law enforcement officers**
 - **Conducted an analysis of the availability of health care coverage for children in Sarasota County**
 - **Currently developing a community-wide plan for coordinating human services response in disasters and linking agencies to County's EOC.**
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COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Education and Advocacy

- Conducted monthly educational sessions on a variety of human services topics, such as Manasota 2-1-1, emerging needs of the Hispanic community, domestic violence, community health insurance programs, etc.
- Hosted Medicaid Reform Symposium for 150 community participants
- Hosted Behavioral Health Awareness Training related to disaster preparedness for 75 representatives of human service agencies.

Legislative Advocacy

- Adopted legislative platforms for FY 2003, FY 2004, and FY 2005 and advocated for passage of legislation with local delegation
 - Influenced state legislation on Healthy Kids, Medicaid Reform and revenue maximization
 - Successful in securing and/or saving funding for several local human services programs
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KEY FACTORS FOR SUCCESS

- **Strong support from the Board of County Commissioners and county administration, including commitment of support staff**
 - **Brings all key players to the table—including funders, service providers, and community representatives**
 - **Free-standing status maintains independence from DCF and any individual member organization [no longer a “FS 20.19” community alliance]**
 - **Lack of operating budget actually helps maintain autonomy**
 - **Strong linkages with other community umbrella organizations-- Continuum of Care Leadership Council, County Human Services Advisory Council, Community Action Agency, SCOPE, Early Learning Coalition, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders’ Consortium, Criminal Justice Commission, etc.**
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Visit the Community Alliance website at: “sarasotaalliance.net”



SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH STAKEHOLDERS' CONSORTIUM



ORIGINS OF STAKEHOLDERS' CONSORTIUM

- **The Community Alliance in late 2002 conducted a study of mental health acute care system.**
 - a shortage of acute care beds
 - the need to better coordinate elements of the system
 - Crisis intervention training
 - **SCOPE (a community planning organization) report on mental health system.**
 - Similar conclusions
 - recommended a “Stakeholders’ Consortium”
 - **Stakeholders’ Consortium as a standing committee of the Alliance in January, 2004.**
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MISSION OF STAKEHOLDERS' CONSORTIUM

“Develop and implement a strategic plan for the community which will improve and enhance the delivery of substance abuse and mental health services for citizens of Sarasota County”

VISION STATEMENT

Sarasota County is a community where:

- *State-of-the-art mental health and substance abuse services are provided to consumers in an integrated system that helps assure efficient use of resources and optimal outcomes for those consumers*
 - *Funders, providers and consumers work collaboratively to address the needs of the community*
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CONSORTIUM COMPOSITION

- **Funders**

DCF, Sarasota County, United Way, local foundations

- **Service Providers**

Substance abuse, mental health, aging, child welfare, homelessness, developmental disabilities, public health, school system, housing and community development

- **Consumers**

NAMI – Sarasota Chapter, SCOPE

- **Law Enforcement/Courts**

Sheriff, Sarasota Police Department, State Attorney, Public Defender

CONSORTIUM STRUCTURE

- **Planning Committee**
 - **Crisis Intervention Team Committee**
 - **Community Residential Alternatives Task Force**
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CONSORTIUM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Community-based plan for mental health and substance abuse services**
 - Matrix of available services and funding sources
 - Gap analysis
 - Meaningful input to DCF regional strategic plan
 - **Three Crisis Intervention Team training workshops for 80 local law enforcement officers, using “Memphis Model”**
 - Utilized Byrne Grant funds for trainer and participant costs
 - Supplemental grant from Florida Mental Health Institute
 - 2 additional workshops planned for FY 2005
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CONSORTIUM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Collaboration with Criminal Justice Commission for treatment alternatives**
 - Creation of a secure Marchman Act Adult Addictions Receiving Facility
 - Expansion of existing residential treatment programs for substance abusers
 - Creation of additional transitional housing capacity
 - Full utilization of Mental Health Court and Drug Court
 - **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Policy Coordinator**
 - Local foundations
 - County Government
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CONSORTIUM CHALLENGES

- **Sense of urgency/mobilize to action**
 - **Historical turf-guarding**
 - **Increase collaboration among key stakeholders**
 - **Changing the conversation: Systems vs. Agency**
 - **Maintaining the momentum**
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CONSORTIUM CHALLENGES

- **Leverage available funds to finance treatment alternatives to jail**
 - Sarasota County Grants-In-Aid Program/Strategic Initiatives and Opportunities Fund
 - Office of Housing and Community Development CDBG/SHIP Funds
 - Sheriff's Office
 - Department of Children and Families
 - Agency for Health Care Administration (Medicaid)
 - Florida Department of Law Enforcement
 - United Way
 - Local Foundations
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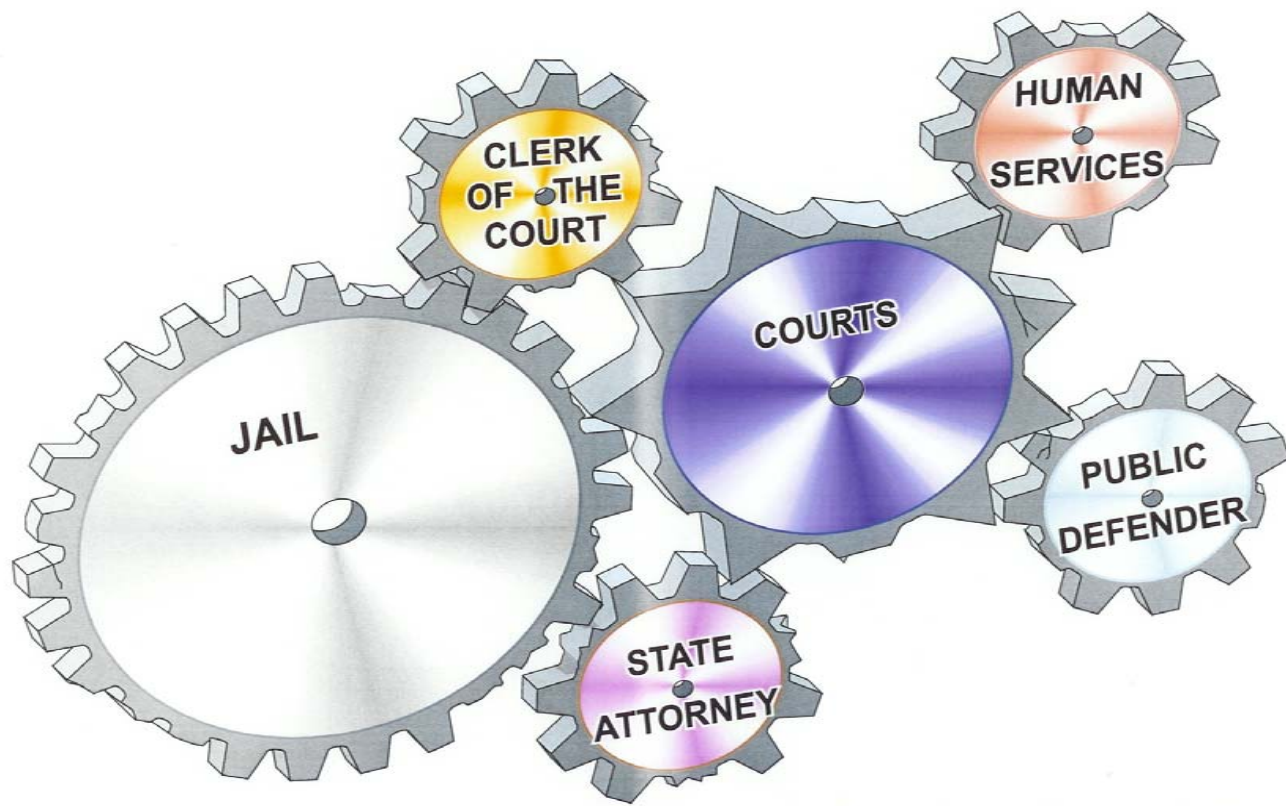
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CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION





Criminal Justice System

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

- What is it?
 - What does it do that makes the community a better place?
 - How is it different from the PSCC?
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CJC ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Recommend priorities and desired community outcomes for the county's criminal justice system
 - Coordinate the collection and management of all data and information related to the criminal justice system
 - Review and evaluate existing services and programs within the criminal justice system against desired community outcomes
 - Identify and prioritize needs and gaps in the criminal justice system and periodically make recommendations to the BCC on improvements
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CJC ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Implement and provide oversight of the requirements specified in Article V
 - Coordinate with the efforts of the PSCC
 - Provide recommendations to the BCC on the use of the Byrne, LLEBG and other grants available to the county for the criminal justice system
 - Make recommendations to the BCC regarding legislation, ordinances and comprehensive plans dealing with programs and services in the criminal justice system
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HOW IS THE CJC DIFFERENT?

- Started as Article V work group
 - Common enemy
 - Prioritize outcomes of criminal justice system
 - Evolved into something different
 - Groups willing to view criminal justice as a community system
 - The players
 - Chief Judge
 - County Commissioner
 - Sheriff
 - Clerk of the Circuit Court
 - Public Defender
 - State Attorney
 - Court Administrator
 - Deputy County Administrator
 - Executive Director of Health and Human Services
 - Department of Corrections Circuit Administrator
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KEY FACTORS FOR SUCCESS

- Focus on Community Outcomes
 - Committed Leadership at Key Positions
 - Overcome History and Turf
 - A Crisis Helps!
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CJC CHALLENGES

- Keep focus on community outcomes rather than programs
 - Maintain productive relationships
 - Better utilization of resources
 - jail staffing
 - Stakeholders' Consortium
 - evaluation of Article V programs
 - determine future system and facility needs
 - Integrate systems
 - criminal justice
 - mental health
 - substance abuse
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REASONS FOR CREATING THE CJC

- Membership: PSCC does not include Clerk, but requires others from outside of criminal justice system
 - Mission: PSCC focus is on jail capacity and a plan for construction needs
 - Designees: The PSCC legislation allows a designated person from each member organization to attend, therefore many designees attended
 - Size: It was difficult to have candid, meaningful discussions with 23 people
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CJC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Creation of a unified methodology to oversee the county's criminal justice system
 - Continued funding for essential court programs
 - Expanded Pretrial Services to a 24/7 operation
 - Reduced average daily population in jail by 100
 - Created work group to deal with those in jail who have substance abuse and mental health problems
 - Began development of a Criminal Justice Policy Framework
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CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY FRAMEWORK

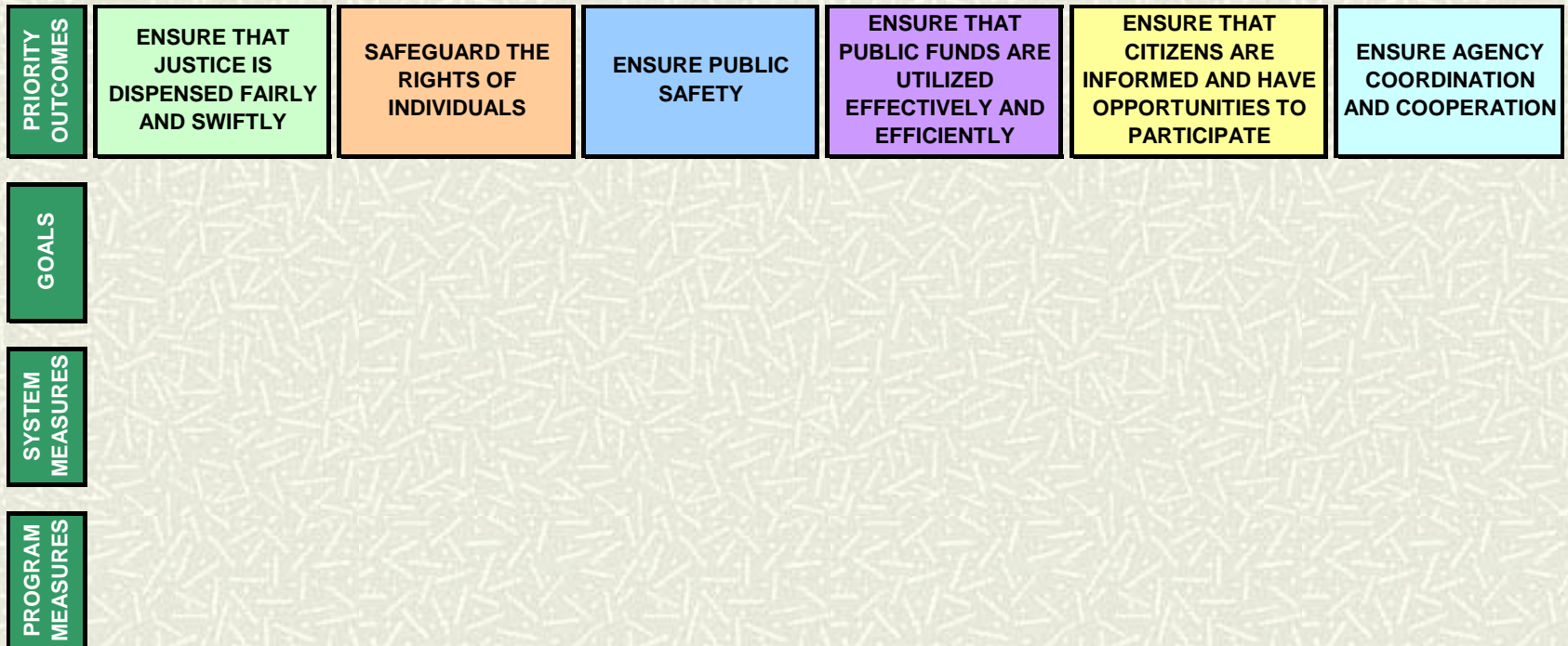
STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND FOCUS

Priority Outcomes
Goals

SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY

Outcome Targets
Program Benchmarks

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY FRAMEWORK



CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY FRAMEWORK

PRIORITY OUTCOMES	ENSURE THAT JUSTICE IS DISPENSED FAIRLY AND SWIFTLY	SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS	ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY	ENSURE THAT PUBLIC FUNDS ARE UTILIZED EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY	ENSURE THAT CITIZENS ARE INFORMED AND HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE	ENSURE AGENCY COORDINATION AND COOPERATION
GOALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support sound, evidence-based decision-making in the court system by providing judges with comprehensive information about defendants • Ensure that defendants who are low security risks are released before trial with appropriate conditions and in a timely manner • Ensure that defendants are treated equitably and consistently • Expedite the processing and disposition of cases in the court system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that legal representation is available to defendants • Ensure that legal resources are available and accessible to attorneys, pro se litigants, and the general public • Safeguard the rights of victims of crime • Ensure that offenders whose criminality is linked to mental health or substance abuse issues have access to treatment alternatives to traditional criminal prosecution when appropriate • Ensure that juveniles who engage in delinquent behavior have access to appropriate community-based treatment programs when appropriate • Provide fair, impartial, and dignified treatment to all people • Provide misdemeanor substance abuse treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce criminal and delinquent behaviors • Reduce recidivism • Provide professional, comprehensive law enforcement with appropriately equipped, highly trained, and dedicated personnel • Continually review standards and accountability at all levels • Lessen the impact of crime • Reduce fear of crime • Monitor sexual predators closely • Prepare for disasters • Increase public safety awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the effective and efficient utilization of existing facilities • Defer future expenditures for the design, construction and operation of new or expanded facilities • Effectively manage the population of the county jail • Reduce court caseloads • Reduce the operating costs of the criminal justice system • Leverage local funds through state and federal revenue maximization opportunities • Operate within budgetary limits • Develop alternatives to County Jail incarceration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide volunteer opportunities for citizens to participate in court-related programs (such as specialty courts and the Guardian ad Litem Program) • Provide opportunities for citizens to resolve legal disputes outside of the court system • Encourage proactive community involvement proactive in identifying needs and partnering with citizens to improve their safety and reduce crime • Develop strategies to meet the ever-changing needs of the community • Seek out joint ventures and community partnerships to address issues in an efficient and effective manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop targets and benchmarks • Enhance interagency cooperation

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