

SPECIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND MARKET ANALYSIS

Introduction

The populations identified that have special needs are persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing. These include:

- The elderly;
- Frail elderly;
- Persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental);
- Persons with alcohol and/or drug addictions;
- Victims of domestic violence;
- Persons with HIV/AIDS and their families; and
- Persons living in public and assisted housing.

The Elderly

Elderly is defined by HUD as a person who is at least 62 years of age. Most Census data for the elderly, however, is for persons 65 and older.

Due in part to a large number of retirees, the elderly constitutes the largest category of special needs in Southwest Florida. According to the Florida Department of Elder Affairs in 2008, 41.6% of Sarasota County's housing stock is occupied by someone 65 years of age or older. There are 121,958 elderly individuals in Sarasota County or just over 30% of the total population.

2008 SARASOTA COUNTY ELDER POPULATION BY AGE GROUP		
	Number	Percent
65+	121,958	31.0%
70+	93,848	23.8%
75+	67,448	17.1%
80+	42,056	10.7%
85+	20,875	5.3%

Source: Florida County Profiles, Florida Department of Elder Affairs

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, by the year 2030 the elderly population in the United States will double from 35.6 million to an estimated 70 million as the baby boomer population ages. This will have a dramatic effect in Sarasota County where the elderly already account for over 31% of the population. The Bureau of Economic and Business Research predicts that the number of elderly (65+) in

Sarasota County will be 89,696 by 2030.

Data provided by HUD for the 2007 Sarasota County Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS), shows 49.2% of elderly renters and 21.2% of elderly homeowners in Sarasota County have a housing problem.

Households with housing problems include those that:

- Occupy units meeting the definition of physical defects;
- Meet the definition of overcrowded;
- Meet the definition of cost burden greater than 30%.

According to the CHAS data:

- 6,520 elderly renter households in Sarasota County have a housing problem;
- 20,140 elderly homeowners in Sarasota County have a housing problem;
- A total of 26,660 elderly households in Sarasota County have a housing problem.

The data makes no distinction between frail elderly and elderly, and is inclusive of both populations.

According to 2000 CHAS data, there are 7,796 elderly one- and two-member households who rent. In addition, according to 2007 CHAS data there are 6,260 elderly households who are very low income (earning less than 30% of MFI). It is likely nearly all of these households are in need of some level of support, with need increasing inversely with income.

According to the Florida Department of Elderly Affairs 2008 population profile for Sarasota County, 41.6% of Sarasota's housing stock is occupied by elders and of those 23% are paying more than 30% of their income towards housing expenses.

These numbers may be far worse due to the foreclosure crisis throughout the nation. As a result of the deflating housing bubble and economic recession, many elderly homeowners were pushed into foreclosure along with millions of other Americans. Housing that had once been secure became insecure and more elderly renters faced the tight rental market with their fixed incomes. At this time, there is no data that captures the full effects of the recession on the elderly in Sarasota County.

Another major concern is that as many as 50% of the elderly may suffer from depressive disorders resulting from increased dependency and isolation from family support systems following retirement and migration, according to the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. For many this has led to alcoholism, misuse of prescription drugs, and suicide. Few elderly persons with mental illness receive needed services since depressive disorders are often masked by physical symptoms. Mental health outreach is a need in the elderly community. As the county's population ages, both

mental and physical disorders become more important to address.

According to Sarasota Senior Friendship Center, there is an increase in unplanned forced retirement due to the economic recession. They are an entirely new class of elderly individuals who will never economically recover from early forced retirement. This will drive up housing and social services needs in the coming years.

Frail Elderly

Frail elderly is defined in HUD regulations as “an elderly person who is unable to perform at least three activities of daily living (i.e. eating, dressing, bathing, grooming, and household management activities)” - 24 CFR 889.109.

According to the Florida Department of Elder Affairs there are 16,370 elderly with two or more disabilities, while there are 6,534 more who have two or more disabilities including a self-care limitation. Therefore, there are at least 6,534 frail elderly in Sarasota County.

The CHAS data for elderly housing needs is inclusive of all elderly housing, including the frail elderly.

The frail elderly are particularly in need of decent, safe and sanitary independent living environments. For this reason, assistance is needed with cleaning, maintenance, housing rehabilitation and other services such as emergency alert/response. In order to maintain the elderly and frail elderly in decent, safe and sanitary independent living environments, about half of the homes rehabilitated by the Sarasota Office of Housing and Community Development each year are elderly occupied. Without such assistance, homes can fall into disrepair, resulting in health and safety hazards, code violations, property liens, foreclosures and ultimately premature institutionalization.

According to Sarasota’s Senior Friendship Center, their waiting list for Aging in Place services is exploding. Aging in Place services are those that allow the elderly to continue to live independently in their own homes, i.e. cleaning and meal delivery services. These programs are much less expensive to carry out than the cost of assisted living, but currently they are not able to meet the growing demand.

In addition, there are many elderly individuals and couples who require assisted living, but are unable to sell their homes to pay for the additional level of care. They are trapped in their homes not receiving the care that they require until the housing market improves.

Services and Facilities for the Elderly and Frail Elderly

According to the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the following services for seniors, retirement facilities, assisted living facilities (ALFs), adult family care homes (AFCHs), and nursing homes are available for the elderly and frail elderly populations who are not

homeless but require social services:

Services

- 211: One-stop information and referral service for all community, social and government services.
- The Assisted Living for the Elderly (ALE) is a home and community-based services program for recipients who reside in qualified assisted living facilities. Seniors in danger of being placed in a nursing home may apply for this waiver to help cover the cost of an ALF. According to Sarasota’s Senior Friendship Center, there is currently a 3-year waiting list for this state funded program.
- Senior Friendship Centers: Non-profit organization providing services to help individuals 60 and older. Provides numerous services including social, recreational, health and other activities.
- Community Mobile Meals of Sarasota: Provides home-delivered, well-prepared and nutritionally balanced meals six days a week to homebound elderly as well as disabled or ill residents of all ages.
- Venice Area Mobile Meals: Provides same service as Community Mobile Meals of Sarasota.
- Meals on Wheels of North Port: Delivers meals to North Port residents.
- Home Health Care: Provides skilled care and supportive services for persons living at home.
- Tidewell Hospice: Provides support system for patients and families with life-limiting illness.
- Area Agency on Aging of Southwest Florida: Provides seniors with a call center to determine solutions to their individual problems, particularly with access to long-term support options.

**Retirement Facilities
(Individually Owned)**

- Plymouth Harbor: 227 apartments, 10 assisted living apartments, 60-bed health center
- Bay Village: 400 residents
- Fountains at Lake Pointe Woods: 184 apartments
- Glenridge on Palmer Ranch: 301 units
- Sarasota Bay Club: 343 units
- Sunnyside Village: 38 duplexes, 66 villas, 122 garden apartments

- Waterside Retirement Estates: 164 units, 25 assisted living units
- Jacaranda Trace: 188 units, 201 units

Retirement Facilities (Rentals)

- Alderman Oaks: 48 apartments
- Beneva Oak Apartments: 40 units
- The Bayou: 120 apartments
- Casa Santa Marta: 78 units
- Casa Santa Marta II: 52 units
- Colonial Park Club: 90 apartments
- Elmar Guest Home: 12 residents
- J.H. Floyd Sunshine Village: 59 units
- Jefferson Center: 210 units
- Kobernick House: 191 apartments
- McCown Towers I and II: 176 units
- Palmer Club At Prestancia (The): 100 apartments
- Lakehouse West Retirement Estates: 25 units
- Willow Creek Phase I and II: 224 units
- Village on the Isle: 220 apartments, 100 assisted living apartments, and 60-bed nursing center
- Villa San Marco: 80 units
- Villas Of North Port: 37 units

Assisted Living Facilities (15 or more residents)

- Alterra Clare Bridge Of Sarasota: 40 beds
- Alterra Sterling House Of Venice: 60 beds
- Amberwood: 31 beds
- Anchin Pavilion: 109 beds
- Arden Courts: 56 beds
- Ashton Place: 40 beds
- Aspen Bella Vita: 115 beds
- Bahia Oaks Lodge: 100 beds

- Balmoral Court On Fruitville, Inc.: 16 beds
- Bay Village Of Sarasota, Inc.: 30 beds
- Beneva Park Club: 120 beds
- Bons Secours Place at Healthpark: 103 beds
- Cabot Reserve on the Green: 60 beds
- Claire Bridge of Sarasota: 36 beds
- Claire Bridge of Venice: 42 beds
- Colonial Park Club: 110 beds
- Crestwood Manor: 20 beds
- Cypress Gardens At Palmer Ranch: 130 beds
- Cypress Gardens At Sarasota: 100 beds
- Emeritus at Beneva Park: 120 beds
- Emeritus at Sarasota: 102 beds
- Englewood Meadows: 19 beds
- The Gardens of North Port: 75 beds
- The Gardens of Sarasota: 107 beds
- The Grand on Beneva: 44 beds
- Gulf Winds: 35 beds
- Harbor Inn of Venice: 10 beds
- Harbor Inn of Venice South: 6 beds
- Harborchase Of Venice: 108 beds
- Harmony Pavilion: 20 beds
- Heron East: 112 beds
- Heron House: 95 beds
- Highlands (The) At The Glenridge On Palmer Ranch: 80 beds
- Horizon Bay of Sarasota: 150 beds
- Inglenook: 16 beds
- Inn Aston Gardens at Pelican Pointe Venice: 50 beds
- Inn at Lake Pointe Woods: 110 beds
- Live Oak Manor: 67 beds
- McIntosh Manor: 16 beds
- Merrill Gardens at Sarasota: 173 beds
- North Port Retirement Center: 100 beds
- Lakehouse West: 32 beds

- Osprey Pointe on Palmer Ranch: 118 beds
- Palmer Ranch Healthcare & Rehabilitation ALF: 60 beds
- Park Place of Venice: 90 beds
- Pines of Sarasota: 72 beds
- Pinewood Gardens: 34 beds
- Renaissance Manor: 41 beds
- River Oaks: 216 apartments
- Riverpark Senior Residence: 92 beds
- Savannah Grand: 44 beds
- Siesta Assisted Living: 34 beds
- Springrove ALF: 15 beds
- Summerville of Venice: 89 beds
- Sunnyside Manor: 45 beds
- Sunset Lake Village: 110 beds
- Sunshine Meadows: 75 beds
- Village On The Isle: 100 apartments
- Waterside Retirement Estates: 185 beds

Assisted Living Facilities (Fewer Than 15 Residents)

- Arlington Manor: Six beds
- Aurora Manor, Inc: 10 beds
- Bayshore Guest Home: 10 beds
- Briggs III, Inc.: Six beds
- Carefree Living Of Sarasota, Inc.: Six beds
- Casona: Eight beds
- Coash Gardens: Six beds
- Croton Manor: Six beds
- Desoto Acres: Six beds
- Duyn's Place: Nine beds
- Excelsior Omega: 13 beds
- Family Traditions III: Six beds
- French Blossoms: Six beds
- French Blossoms II: Six beds
- Hacienda La Grande: Five beds
- Harbor Inn of Venice: 10 beds
- Harbor Inn of Venice South: Six beds
- Jacaranda Trace: 13 beds

- Joy of Living: Six beds
- La Paloma: Six beds
- Mary's On Bayshore: Six beds
- Marella House: 11 beds
- Oppidan, Inc.: 12 beds
- Palmetto Court Park: 12 beds
- Plymouth Harbor, Inc.: 10 beds
- SLC of Sorrento: Six beds
- Sea View Inn: Six beds
- Sunniland Retirement: Six beds

Adult Family Care Homes

These are set up for up to five residents and offer a personalized and home-like setting. They are regulated by the Adult Services Division of the Florida Department of Children and Families. According to the Florida Department of Elderly Affairs, there are 12 Adult Family Care Homes in Sarasota County serving up to 59 individuals.

Nursing Homes

- Bay Village Of Sarasota: 107 beds
- Beneva Lakes Healthcare: 120 beds
- Venice Regional Medical Center: 312 beds
- Consulate Healthcare: 80 beds
- Cypress Gardens At Palmer Ranch: 60 beds
- Englewood Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center: 120 beds
- Glenridge On Palmer Ranch: 37 beds
- Harborchase Of Venice: 45 beds
- Healthsouth Ridgelake Hospital: 40 beds
- Heartland Healthcare: 140 beds
- Heritage Health Care: 120 beds
- Inn At Sarasota Bay Club: 60 beds
- Kensington Manor: 87 beds
- Lakeside Terrace: 120 beds

- Life Care Center Of Sarasota: 120 beds
- Magnolia Health And Rehabilitation Center: 120 beds
- Manorcare Health Services: 178 beds
- Manorcare Health Services of Venice: 129 beds
- Palmer Ranch Healthcare and Rehabilitation: 60 beds
- Pines of Sarasota Nursing Home: 204 beds
- Pinebrook Rehabilitation and Nursing Center: 120 beds
- Plymouth Harbor Incorporated: 60 beds
- Quality Health Care Center: 120 beds
- Sarasota Health and Rehabilitation Center: 169 beds
- Sarasota Memorial Nursing and Rehabilitation Center: 120 beds
- Springs At Lake Pointe Woods: 119 beds
- Springwood Rehabilitation And Nursing Center: 120 beds
- Sunnyside Nursing Home: 60 beds
- Sunset Lake Health and Rehabilitation Center: 120 beds
- Tandem Health Care Of Sarasota: 81 beds
- Tarpon Point Nursing and Rehabilitation Center: 120 beds
- Village On The Isle: 60 beds

Persons with Disabilities

People with disabilities are in the midst of an increasingly acute affordable housing crisis. According to 2007 CHAS data, there are 17,535 disabled households in Sarasota County.

Data from the Social Security Administration reveals that there were a total of 3,559 persons receiving SSI benefits in Sarasota County in 2008.

Without affordable housing, people with disabilities live at home with aging parents, are homeless or in danger of being homeless, or must choose between substandard housing conditions or paying most of their income for rent. Advocates for disabled persons desire additional affordable homes in their community.

MAXIMUM SSI BENEFITS FOR INDIVIDUALS LIVING INDEPENDENTLY, 2010			
Location	Maximum Annual SSI Benefit	Maximum Monthly SSI Benefit	Maximum Affordable Housing Cost Per Month
Florida	\$8,088	\$674	\$202
Sarasota County	\$8,088	\$674	\$202

Source: National Low-Income Housing Coalition

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for an individual are \$674 in Sarasota County. If SSI represents an individual's sole source of income, \$202 in monthly rent is affordable while the Fair Market Rent for a one-bedroom is \$923.

Physical Disabilities

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons are viewed as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as walking, talking, hearing, seeing, breathing, learning, performing manual tasks, or caring for or managing oneself.

According to the 2000 Census, there are 68,356 disabled individuals in Sarasota County or roughly 20% of the total population. As the population continues to age, it is assumed that this part of the population will grow significantly.

According to the Social Security Office, there were 110,625 individuals receiving Social Security Benefits in Sarasota County in 2008. Of these individuals, 8,085 were disabled workers while 130 were spouses of disabled workers and 1,440 were children of disabled workers.

The Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing estimates that there are 52,492 households with a disabled individual who is at least 15 years of age. Of these households, 12,117 are below 80% AMI and are paying at more than 30% of their income towards housing costs and are cost-burdened. Due to the high cost of housing, as many as 12,117 affordable units may be required to meet the needs of this population.

It has been pointed out by Suncoast Center for Independent Living that most existing facilities for the disabled are in North County. There is a definite need for more affordable housing choices for the disabled in the South County area.

Also, to assist the physically disabled, rehabilitation therapies are available at in-patient rehab-hospitals as well as private therapy offices. Most programs participate in Medicare, health insurance plans and accept private payment. The goal of rehabilitation for patients of all ages is to restore and maintain capabilities to allow independence and pleasure to the fullest extent possible in the activities of daily living.

Mental Illness

According to an estimate from the National Institute of Health (NIMH), 26.2 percent of Americans ages 18 and older suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. Even though mental disorders are widespread in the population, 6 percent of our population suffers from a serious mental illness. While no widespread data exists on the number of individuals suffering from a serious mental illness in Sarasota County, there are widespread services available to help individuals suffering from mental illness.

Renaissance Manor is a leader in mental health services in Sarasota. Currently Renaissance Manner provides 160 beds for supportive housing, assisted living, and targeted case management. Their philosophy is to "... provide safe, affordable housing in very nice residential neighborhoods, which allow people to live as independently as possible."

Renaissance Manor believes that the decrease in rental prices in Sarasota County has allowed more mentally ill individuals to live independently. In 2005, they estimated that there were 500 individuals still in need of supported housing. Renaissance Manor now estimates that number has dropped to 250 low-income individuals. The remaining individuals require supportive housing, where the mentally disabled can live an independent life.

Another instrumental organization is Mental Health Community Center (MHCC), which provides provide support services to adults with mental illness and disabling emotional problems. MHCC offers daily programs and activities that bring individuals with mental illness into the mainstream.

MHCC has two main concerns for the mentally ill in Sarasota. The first is that they are living with elderly parents or are considerably rent burdened. This causes a high level of concern because mentally ill adults will be left with no place to live upon the death of their parents or be forced to spend most of their income on housing at the expense of being able to afford many activities which allow them to fully integrate into society.

MHCC is also troubled with the low amount of SSI income upon which many of the mentally ill were forced to live. As discussed previously, it is almost impossible for an individual to support himself/herself on SSI.

The following facilities are available to serve the mentally ill with housing issues in Sarasota County:

- Audubon program of Coastal Behavioral Healthcare: 10 beds for children; 20 beds for adults
- Alternative Family Program at Gulf Coast Community Care: 12 beds (left message)
- Renaissance Manor: 160 beds

Developmentally Disabled

According to the US Administration on Developmental Disabilities, there are nearly four million Americans with developmental disabilities. Developmental disabilities are severe, chronic disabilities attributable to mental and/or physical impairment, which manifest before age 22 and are likely to continue indefinitely. They result in substantial limitations in three or more areas: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency, as well as the continuous need for individually planned and coordinated services.

The State of Florida currently serves 450 developmentally disabled individuals in Sarasota County and has 324 individuals on a waiting list for Sarasota County. However, since the State estimates that 1% of the population has developmental disabilities, more than 3,000 individuals in Sarasota County may have developmental disabilities. Fortunately, a very strong partnership exists in Sarasota County to care and promote the independence of these men and women.

The largest provider of housing for this population is the Community Affordable Supported Living (CASL). In June 2009, CASL merged with Renaissance Manor and currently serves 80 individuals. While CASL cannot determine the full need for supportive housing, they believe there are not enough housing vouchers to serve people in community based settings.

They are concerned that individuals with developmental disabilities are inappropriately placed with aging parents, institutions such as skilled nursing homes or in a

substandard living situation. The organization is a strong advocate for expanding funding to serve persons with developmental disabilities and is willing to expand to serve more clients should additional funding become available.

A strong partner of CASL is Children's Haven and Adult Community Services (CHAC). Presently CHAC serves over 400 disabled adults in a variety of programs. They provide housing and living support for fewer than fifty. CHAC also provides job training services to clients who are supported in their living situation by other agencies. All others live in family homes and may need support in the future.

Currently, 85 people CHAC serves receive Medicaid Waiver funding and therefore are eligible for housing assistance. However, there is a state waiting list of over 20,000 individuals so it is unclear what the state's ability or willingness will be to provide the varied level of assistance needed by their clients when their parents can no longer be the caregivers.

CHAC expressed the ability to expand housing programs if funding is available.

An additional service provider is Easter Seals of Southwest Florida. One of the many programs that Easter Seals runs is an Adult Day Training (ADT) program for the developmentally disabled. The program offers relevant personal, social, therapeutic, and work skill training to adults with disabilities through community and center-based resources. The activities are designed to advance individual independence and expand participants' life choices at work, home, school, and in the community. Currently, Easter Seals is serving 15 Sarasota residents with this program.

Of their current Sarasota county clients, two are living independently, one is in assisted living, and a fourth lives in a group home. The other 11 clients are being cared for by their families. Easter Seals has expressed concerns over the aging of current caretakers and the future of their clients once they are no longer able to care for them.

OHCD held a special needs focus group with service providers. Two main concerns were brought to light as a result. The first is that due to lax licensing requirements many developmentally disabled individuals living in assisted care are becoming victims of abuse or improper care.

The second issue is that the developmentally disabled would benefit from a family village living scenario. When asked by providers, many clients would choose to live in apartments or houses with their fellow developmentally disabled friends. Providers point out that this kind of arrangement would cut service and transportation costs while maximizing benefits. Currently, the state of Florida will not allow this type of living arrangement since it is viewed as an institutional setting.

Persons with Alcohol or Drug Addictions

There is no Sarasota County data regarding the number of persons addicted to drugs and alcohol or the number of beds needed to address substance abuse addiction.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in 2008, an estimated 22.2 million persons aged 12 or older or 8.9% of the US population were classified with substance dependence or abuse. Of these, 3.1 million were classified with dependence on or abuse of both alcohol and illicit drugs, 3.9 million were dependent on or abused illicit drugs but not alcohol, and 15.2 million were dependent on or abused alcohol but not illicit drugs. Florida had the same rate of estimated abuse. Since Sarasota County had a population of 371,320 in 2009, there are an estimated 33,047 individuals in Sarasota County that may have a substance abuse problem.

There is a clear need for Sarasota County to determine both the need and the resources for individuals suffering from alcohol and drug addiction. A newly formed organization, the Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (coalition) hopes to fill this gap. Created in 2000, the coalition is just beginning to make its presence felt in Sarasota County. The coalition also estimates that there are between 8-10% of the population with an addiction problem or 26,000 to 32,000 individuals in Sarasota County.

According to the coalition, there is a definite need for safe, decent, and affordable housing for individuals who have completed treatment for substance abuse in Sarasota County. The coalition believes such housing should be substance free, near both work opportunities and public transportation and offer a sense of dignity for clients. In addition, since services do not yet exist, this housing should be developed gradually, but consistently.

First Step of Sarasota says its facility has about 128 treatment beds for alcohol and drug addicts. They have a detoxification program with 15 beds, residential treatment, programs for pregnant mothers with 20 beds, and fairly extensive programs for adults with substance abuse problems in the judicial system. In addition, they also offer individual therapy, open group therapy, outpatient psychiatric services, adolescent/teen programs, and recovery maintenance programs for individuals who have successfully stopped abusing alcohol or drugs.

The Salvation Army offers their VIP-ER Program, which is a 10-week drug and alcohol rehabilitation program for individuals with limited means. It serves both men and women and follows an AA model.

Many of the beds available for the mentally ill and homeless in Sarasota also treat substance abuse addictions since these vulnerable populations overlap.

Victims of Domestic Violence

According to Florida Law "Domestic violence" means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.

The initial six month data for 2009 released by FDLE reflected an alarming 8.9 percent increase in domestic violence homicides, a 100 percent increase in domestic violence manslaughters, and a 38 percent increase in stalking (a typical precursor to homicide). Many these homicides and manslaughters were some of the most brutal in Florida's history.¹

According to the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) in 2008, 113,123 incidents of domestic violence were reported to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and 67,615 arrests were made for domestic violence. In that same year, domestic violence offenses accounted for approximately 89 percent of violent crimes.² Many victims of domestic violence face the daunting task of finding affordable housing as they seek to rebuild their lives. If housing is not found, they may have little choice but to return to the abusive partners and homes. Many victims of domestic violence and their children can be found sleeping in their cars, doubled up with family and friends or even living on the streets. There are some short term remedies, such as emergency shelter; however, there remain few long term solutions to ease the housing crisis. Battered women are among the hardest hit in Florida's affordable housing crisis. A recent needs assessment by the Department of Children and families found that lack of housing was the number one problem facing women escaping violence.

Victims of domestic violence face unique barriers in seeking affordable housing. Often, leaving an abusive relationship means leaving stable housing and income provided by the abuser. Many victims of domestic violence have been unable to work due to injuries from the violence, or have been prevented from doing so by the batterer. They often require case management and resources to develop or strengthen the independent living skills necessary to rebuild their lives. These resources include childcare, job readiness training and placement, budget counseling and credit repair. Victims of domestic violence often face these overwhelming barriers with little or no support from immediate or extended family. They are often chastised for their choice in a partner, or their decisions to leave the batterer. These barriers can be significantly exacerbated without stable and affordable housing.

One study from Georgia State University in 2003 examined housing problems and homelessness after separation in a sample of 110 women who had experienced domestic violence. Of the sample, 38% reported homelessness. Similar percentages reported related problems (e.g., late paying rent, skipping meals, threatened with eviction). Predictors of more housing problems included experiencing a greater severity of violence, contacting fewer formal systems, having less informational support, and

receiving a negative response from welfare agencies. Women's odds of reporting homelessness were reduced by 30% if police officers responded negatively. These findings highlight the importance of changing system responses in an effort to reduce women's housing problems and risks for homelessness after separation.³

The extent of the need for social services and housing assistance for victims of domestic violence in Florida and Sarasota County is unknown. However, in response to the affordable housing crisis, the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) formed a planning group to take a statewide look at what could be done to address the housing needs of domestic violence survivors. The group made recommendations for significant expansion of efforts at the local and state level to address the housing needs.

Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) is the only state-certified center for domestic violence and sexual assault services for Sarasota. In 2008, SPARCC provided the following services:

- 5,284 shelter days to a total of 183 women and 149 children;
- Counseled 1,637 victims totaling 8,093 hours of individual and group counseling;
- 6,440 hotline callers were provided with crisis counseling and needs assessments and volunteers and staff responded to 29 emergency calls from area hospitals to meet with sexual and domestic violence victims in order to provide support and information regarding SPARCC services; and
- 618 presentations were provided in the community to more than 17,000 people.

SPARCC's priority goals in addressing community need include:

- Identifying gaps in service delivery to domestic violence victims and potential systemic breakdowns;
- Promoting training and cross-training to professionals; and
- Coordinating the activities of agencies involved to share and exchange information.

At a Special Needs Focus group held by OHCD, it was pointed out that the greatest need SPARCC would like to address is a lack of affordable housing for victims of domestic abuse through a dedicated affordable housing voucher program. In addition, SPARCC would like to offer domestic abuse rights education to public housing employees who have in the past threatened to deny housing rights to victims of domestic abuse.

¹ Tiffany Carr (FCADV President/CEO), Presidents Report, Florida Voice-Winter 2010, page 1.

² Florida Voice-Winter 2010, page 1.

³ Violence Against Women, Vol. 9, No. 7, 754-783 (2003) DOI: 10.1177/1077801203009007002

HIV/AIDS

In Sarasota, like many communities, persons living with HIV or AIDS risk losing their housing due to compounding factors, such as increased medical costs and limited incomes or reduced ability to keep working due to AIDS and related illnesses. Stable housing is the cornerstone of HIV/AIDS treatment, allowing persons with HIV/AIDS to access comprehensive healthcare and adhere to complex HIV/AIDS drug therapies. According to HUD, one-third to one-half of the persons with AIDS in the nation are either homeless or in imminent danger of losing their homes.

According to the CDC, there were approximately 1,056,400-1,156,400 persons living with HIV infection in the United States at the end of 2006. Florida has consistently reported 10–12% of the national AIDS morbidity and currently accounts for 11% of all persons living with AIDS in the U.S. In 2007, the Department of Health estimated that approximately 125,000 persons, or roughly 11.7% of the national total, were living with HIV infection in Florida.

According to the 2007 Florida Annual Report from the Florida Department of Health, Florida ranked second among states in the number of reported acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) cases. Florida also ranked fifth among the 38 states that reported human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cases in 2006.

The 2009-2011 Sarasota County HIV Prevention plan was released in late 2008 and closely examines HIV and AIDS in Sarasota County. The plan states that Sarasota County has had over 1382 people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS since reporting started by DOH in 1988. The plan also points out that as of June 2008, there were 304 persons living with HIV and 481 persons living with AIDS for a cumulative total of 769 persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Sarasota County.

HIV/AIDS cases by Sex, Sarasota County, June 2008

Diagnosis	Males	Females	Total
AIDS	891	180	1071
HIV	229	82	311
Total	1120	262	1382
PLWHA	596	173	769

PLWHA by Race and Sex, Sarasota County, June 2008.

Race	Male	Female	Total (%)
Black	105 (17.6)	82 (47.4)	187 (24.3)
White	429 (72)	85 (49.1)	514 (66.8)
Hispanic	62 (10.4)	6 (3.5)	68 (8.8)
Totals	596	173	769

As the figures above illustrate, white males suffer from a higher rate of both HIV and Aids than other racial groups, but according to the report, there is a growing increase in both black and Hispanic reported cases.

Sarasota County currently has a strong support system in place for HIV/AIDS patients. The HIV/AIDS Network of Sarasota (HANS) is the group that guides HIV/AIDS prevention in Sarasota County, along with the Sarasota County Health Department. Members of HANS are from local community based organizations and governments throughout Sarasota County.

Bethesda House and the Comprehensive Care Clinic are two such organizations in Sarasota County. Bethesda House is a day center providing services such as counseling, support groups, a food pantry, laundry and housing and benefit assistance. Bethesda House has 300 active clients and an additional 50 that are registered. They provide a housing safety net for HIV/AIDS patients who are in danger of becoming homeless once HOPWA funds are no longer available. When asked to estimate HIV/AIDS clients in imminent danger of becoming homeless, they responded more than 50% of all AIDS/HIV patients.

CCC provides medical services for 550 individuals in Sarasota County. They work in conjunction with Bethesda House to provide holistic care to individuals suffering from HIV/AIDS. Their focus is on therapy, case management and dental care for their patients.

The National Commission on AIDS reports that at any point in time, up to 50% of those living with HIV/AIDS are at imminent risk of homelessness. Persons with HIV/AIDS often are unable to work and must rely on SSI for their sole source of income. Housing assistance – including HOPWA funding – is time limited and often less than fair market value. Using the National Commission on AIDS reports and the estimated number of individuals living with the disease, it is estimated there are 385 individuals at risk of homelessness due to HIV/AIDS in Sarasota County.

According to local service providers, access to affordable housing is a critical need of people living with HIV/AIDS. Bethesda House claims that many persons with HIV/AIDS find themselves in need of housing assistance at some stage of the illness. A significant percentage of persons living with HIV have histories of previous homelessness or inadequate housing due to socioeconomic conditions preceding their diagnosis. Others living with the virus that had adequate housing are in danger of losing their homes in the latter stages of illness due to lack of income, lack of transportation, or being forced to leave home by partners or family due to their medical status.

The lack of affordable housing is problematic for individuals with HIV/AIDS receiving medical treatment and on complex medical dosing schedules. Studies demonstrate homeless and those marginally housed fail to be compliant with the complex HIV treatment regimens. The stress of homelessness and poverty exacerbates symptoms, accelerates disease progression and decreases compliance to medical schedules.

Stable housing helps individuals meet these requirements and provides the best chance for success for individuals following complex combination therapies.

According to the Special Needs Focus Group held by OHCD, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families are having trouble finding safe, affordable housing in the community. Clients are facing fair housing discrimination and HOPWA funds are not sufficient to meet their needs.

Foster Care Graduates

A new special need emerged as a result of the Special Needs Focus Group held by OHCD. It was pointed out by special needs advocates that as children leave the foster care system they are having severe trouble finding jobs and housing due to the current economic crisis. Little data is available concerning this issue, but it will be further explored in the coming months.

Public and Assisted Housing

Please refer to Section H entitled, “Public and Assisted Housing Needs and Market Analysis.”

Table 1B “Special Needs of the Non-Homeless” is located in the “HUD-Required and Optional Tables” Section.