

# SHA

## *The Supportive Housing Association of NJ*

### **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting**

**January 4, 2011**

**Krystal Odell Chairperson** called the meeting to order. Minutes of the November meeting were approved as presented.

New SHA Member: **Patty Kowalchuk, Director**, presented the mission and purpose and services of **Values into Action**, a Pennsylvania and NJ (Central/Southern regions) based Support Coordination organization which she described as “matchmaking” for a variety of services for persons through Olmstead, Returning home to NJ, CPEP, Wait List and Go Team (self-advocates from DD Centers).

#### **Nominations Report**

**Deborah Wehrlan** (for Carolyn Davis) on behalf of the Nominating Committee moved that the following be elected to the SHA Board for a Second two year term: Melody Federico and Carol Dougherty. These names were approved unanimously. The continuing members of the board were also read: Tim Doherty, Krystal Odell, Carolyn Davis, Debra Wehrlan, Cherry Oakley, Bob Gauthier, Anna Payanzo, Michelle Wernsing, Sangeeta Prasad Benbow.

**Gail Levinson, new director of SHA**, gave a brief organizational update. She is delighted to serve as SHA Director. Ed Murphy will continue to work with the organization part time. Priorities are to maintain the high level of services currently in place (including membership meetings, developer meetings, interactive website, annual conference). Goals this year will be to connect more closely to families and consumers, enhance SHA’s training arm and advocacy initiatives. She welcomed feedback and encouraged members to contact her by email or phone.

Legislative Update – **Arnold Cohen, Policy Coordinator, HCDNNJ** - Arnold indicated that we are in challenging times – working together is the key to getting things done. SHA, HCDNNJ, Monarch and CSH are working together to build a coalition that will ultimately push for the replenishing of the Special Needs Housing Trust Fund. More to come on that. Face sheet enclosed in member packets. HCDN is also working on applying pressure (No Empty Homes) so that municipalities use their local trust funds for affordable housing and not have that money returned to the state. DCA will shortly publish regulations.

**Peter Stahl, CSPNJ** presented information on the **VITA program** (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program) – Free Income Tax Preparation designed to serve low income neighborhoods and individuals, hosted by CSPNJ but also available to replicate in other counties.

**For the entire PowerPoint presentation click [here](#)**

#### **New Jersey Excellence in Housing Award 2001 Recipient**

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**Mary Rossettini**, Executive Director of **Advance Housing** gave a presentation on the award winning Phase I development, Demarest Farms of Lafayette.

*For the entire PowerPoint presentation click [here](#)*

**Steve Schoch** of the architectural firm, **Kitchen & Associates** provided members with an overview of recommendations for rehab of 2 – 3 bedroom ranch style housing that will comply with regulations and meet budget caps for the new Special Needs Partnership program sponsored by DCS and DHS/DDD for the supportive housing of people with developmental disabilities.

*For Steve's presentation pdf file click [here](#)*

**Dawn Apgar, Deputy Commissioner and Janel Winter, Director of Housing**, presented information on **DDD's** initiatives and priorities for the upcoming year. They emphasized the desire to keep housing and services separate in line with the elements of pure supportive housing, discussed a priority on cross agency collaboration and partnership and highlighted individuals who will be leaving institutions via Olmstead and through the Special Needs Partnership.

*For the entire PowerPoint presentation click [here](#)*

**Lynn Kovich, Assistant Commissioner, DMHAS**, presented priorities and updates on the state agency's activities for the New Year. The 3 priorities she highlighted were the merger of Mental Health with Addiction Services, the Closure of Hagedorn and the Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver (over half of entire system) transitioning to Managed Care Fee for Service for both physical and behavioral health with development of new ASO. She reviewed upcoming regulations for supportive housing and the Involuntary Outpatient Commitment law announcing that an RFP for services will be coming out this month.

*For the entire PowerPoint presentation click [here](#)*