

SHA Membership Meeting
October 4, 2017
Mary Roebling Building, Trenton NJ

1. Meeting was called to order at 10 AM by SHA Board of Trustees Chairperson, Melody Federico.
2. Everyone introduced themselves around the room by name and affiliation. 69 people were in attendance representing housing developers, supportive services providers, advocates, government representatives, corporate vendors and families.
3. Minutes of the August 2017 meeting were approved. Motion: Tom Toronto; Renee Koubiadis seconded.
4. Melody thanked Bergen County's United Way for sponsoring the morning coffee and networking session. Tom Toronto, President of BCUW ttoronto@bergenunityway.org spoke about the 211 call center which is a statewide call center where calls for help are answered 24 -7. Begun in NJ in 2002 and taken statewide in 2005, 2-1-1 is a universally respected and growing national model. In 2016 over 200,000 people used 211 in NJ. In addition to supporting people, 211 collects valuable data which helps to inform public and private services.
5. Diane Riley, SHA Executive Director gave a presentation reviewing the upcoming SHA conference on Dec. 1. A few noteworthy highlights include: Diane Yentel who is President of National Low Income Housing Coalition will be the keynote speaker; Richard Brown will be honored with the Cornerstone Lifetime Achievement Award; Early Bird Registration is officially open; Workshops include Cybersecurity, Property Management, Long-term Funding, Mapping Community Assets, Healthcare trends; and more, sponsorships are encouraged. The DOL training grant was submitted with 7 organizations joining the consortium. Lorna Runkle of Act-Cess, USA actcessusa@comcast.net reviewed some of the topics which include: Conflict Resolution, Performance Management, Retention strategies, Medicaid compliance, medication error-proofing, 2 LEAN certified courses and a dozen more. There is still time to be included and people should contact Lorna if interested. On the advocacy front - The latest Affordable Care Act repeal effort led by Senators Graham and Cassidy was defeated. However, major cuts to Medicaid have

been proposed in the Republican FY2018 Budget Resolution. Medicaid would be slashed by \$1.5 trillion over the next ten yrs. In addition included in the proposal is a 13.2 percent cut for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, including elimination of the Community Development Block Grant. Continued work with Congressional Delegation is needed through budget and tax reform in order to preserve funds for existing programs. SHA along with Monarch and other organizations will sponsor an event with Matthew Desmond, author of “Evicted” and Sen. Cory Booker on Oct. 12 at Drew. Registration and attendance is encouraged. The book highlights the alarming trend in evictions across the nation.

6. Harry Reyes, harry.reyes@dhs.state.nj.us Assistant Division Director, gave a DMHAS update. Mr. Reyes emphasized CSS transition agencies must register people in order for them to be admitted into the program. The down billing rates have been approved. There are regular weekly calls on Tuesday (CSS), Wednesday (NJMAPPS) and Thursday (FFS). FFS ticketing system monitors questions and problems. There has been a decrease in the number of tickets. Some CSS programs (Forensic, DDMI, and Medically Enhanced) will be extended 6 months under contract. Governor Christie has announced increased funding towards the Opioid crisis which includes \$36 million for housing. There will be an RFP and a mandatory bidder’s conference. The Division has officially moved under the Department of Health. There is a new website: <http://nj.gov/health/integratedhealth/>. DMHAS employees will move to Hamilton later in the month and DDD employees will move to Trenton location essentially switching offices.
7. Voter Registration – The Governor as well as every seat in the state legislature will be up for election on November 7. It is critical that everyone vote. Diane Riley reviewed a few key points regarding voter registration. NJ is a vote by mail state. Everyone who is registered (which also can be done by mail) can request an absentee ballot and vote by mail. This is particularly important for people who have difficulty with mobility or transportation. Registration deadline for this election is October 17. Registration forms and vote by mail applications are available on the NJ Division of Elections website, www.elections.nj.gov. Organizations are encouraged to help people register to vote.

Mary Ciccone, Managing Attorney for Disability Rights NJ (DRNJ) continued the presentation. Reiterating that you can vote as long as you are: a US citizen, 18 and currently not serving a sentence, probation or parole because of a felony conviction. DRNJ will have attorneys available by telephone to answer questions concerning any disability related voting problem all day (7a.m. – 8 pm) on Election Day. 800-922-7233 or 609-633-7106 (TTY). Please reach out to her with questions mciccone@drnj.org. DRNJ has a booklet on Voter's Rights that is user friendly for Individuals with disabilities available online: <http://www.drnj.org/pdf/VotingGuide-ENG-Rev2016-04-FINAL.pdf>

The booklet was distributed at the meeting.

8. Arnold Cohen, Housing and Community Development Network of NJ (HCDNNJ) gave a further update on policy issues. Federal Policy and concerns around tax reform: Under tax reform framework recently released NJ would be one of the hardest hit states with the 2nd highest share (26%) of taxpayers receiving a tax increase. By far the greatest tax reductions would be in the top 1% receiving 82% of the tax cuts with bottom 40% of NJ residents receiving just 8%. National Housing Trust Fund mortgage interest deduction as part of tax reform could fund the National Housing Trust Fund should be pursued; <http://nlihc.org/unitedforhomes>. HCDNNJ is meeting with gubernatorial candidates to discuss - Building a Thriving NJ <http://www.hcdnnj.org/buildathrivingnj> State Campaign to fund housing needs of New Jersey.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 19-20: Network Conference, New Brunswick Hyatt.

Homelessness session to discuss a homeless agenda for the new Administration.

Oct. 27, 9-3: Anti-Poverty Network Conference

9. Jim Hill, Business Development Manager for Cardinal Capital Management gave an informative presentation on the innovative supportive housing projects they have completed. Cardinal is devoted primarily to developing and managing affordable and special needs housing with a portfolio that consists of more than 8,600 units of housing across Wisconsin, Iowa, Colorado and Arizona. Projects include serving veterans, persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf/blind, individual and families who are

homeless or at risk of homelessness using a Housing First approach, and Housing First/harm reduction model serving persons with alcohol and substance use issues. A new project in New Jersey will work with the senior/deaf community.

10. All presentations can be found at

<http://www.shanj.org/members/meeting-presentations>

11. Break for boxed lunches

12. The panel discussion focused on the Opioid Crisis, the recent trends and current NJ landscape, state and federal investments and the targeted response strategy.

Panel:

Jessica Campbell, Database Manager

NJ 2-1-1 Partnership, jcampbell@nj211.org

Suzanne Borys, Assistant Division Director

NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Office of Planning, Research, Evaluation and Prevention

Suzanne.borys@dhs.state.nj.us

Kristin Colangelo, Director, Camden Supportive Housing,

Resources for Human Development

kristin.colangelo@rhd.org

Jessica Campbell from NJ 211 began the panel and gave an overview of 211 services. A new initiative “ReachNJ” was presented to 211 by the governor in January and launched later that month. Through Reach NJ, NJ 2-1-1 works in partnership with the Department of Human Services - Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services, as well as, the Office of the Governor to serve as the first point of entry for individuals and families looking for information and assistance regarding addictions of all kind. It provides a seamless entry into the system to effectively connect them to treatment and other resources quickly and effectively. Not all calls are from the individual but also from parents, friends, caregivers, treatment, providers, etc. looking to get connected with resources and treatment. For the first 8 months of the year, Reach had had 1,683 contacts 66% of which were from individuals directly. The top referrals were for Addictions Access Center (Rutgers Behavioral Healthcare), NJ Connect for Recovery (Mental Health Association of NJ (MHA)), Nar0Anon Support Group (Nar-Anon of NJ), NJ Mental Health Hotline (MHA), Perform Care, (NJ Children’s System of Care).

Suzanne Borys, Ed.D continued with an impressive and detailed description of the funds that have become available to NJ to

combat opioid addiction. The 21st Century Cures Act designated \$1 billion in grants for states over two years to fight the opioid epidemic. Funds may be used to: improve prescription drug monitoring programs, make treatment programs more accessible, train healthcare professionals in best practices of addiction treatment, and research the most effective approaches to prevent dependency. New Jersey's allocation is \$12,995,621 annually for two years. The goals and objectives of New Jersey's project, called the State Targeted Opioid Response Initiative (STORI) are to: address the opioid crisis confronting the state using a variety of strategies which include increase access to treatment, reduce unmet treatment need and reduce opioid related deaths. Anticipated outcomes of the STORI include: Reduction/abstinence from drugs and alcohol, increase in employment, reduced criminal justice involvement, increase in stable housing, increased social connectedness, and increased percentage of individuals completing treatment at the recommended level of care. Additional outcomes include: reducing opioid overdoses, increasing retention in treatment, reducing length of time to relapse and prolonging recovery, and increasing number of individuals receiving MAT. It is estimated that STORI will serve 8,671 individuals annually and 17,342 individuals over the two-year project. Suzanne also discussed the \$200 million in new funding \$100 million of which will be for DMHAS and incentive based opioid reduction. Clinical outcomes

Kristin Colangelo of Resources for Human Development (RHD) discussed the programs that have worked in the past. RHD has been a leader in fighting opioid addiction since 1972. Their approach has included counseling, provider treatment and stable housing. Camden Supportive Housing has 97% housing retention, 82% participants have maintained recovery, 98% saw family reunification, and 47% maintained employment. In 10 years the program has not had anyone overdose.

The meeting concluded at 1 PM.

13. SHA Advocacy and Policy Committee met after the formal meeting. Briefing on current issues were discussed with a focus on the fee for service transitions and current housing legislation.

Submitted by Diane Riley, Executive Director