

SHA Membership Meeting
April 6, 2016
Minutes

1. Cherry Oakley, SHA Board President, called the meeting to order at 10 AM. Introductions were made by all present.
2. The minutes of the February Membership meeting were approved without objection.
3. Jonathan Seifried, Director of Community Transition for DHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities gave an update: Division has released (April 1st) a New Program Description/Policy for Single Family Development, which emphasizes accessibility. He noted that DDD has a Capital Funding committee, which will be reviewing capital requests with maximum of \$120K for acquisition and up to \$90K for renovation. An additional \$30K is available for sprinklers if required. He further stated that guidance will be forthcoming on shift to fee for service and use of HMFA's Supportive Housing Connection and how dollars will be distributed in licensed settings and how to access vouchers. DDD is currently managing 200 vouchers (from 2016 budget) and will be managing 500 new vouchers in Gov's proposed budget. There will also be an additional 500 vouchers for flipped group homes that move to FFS.
4. Sid Blanchard, CEO of Community Access Unlimited spoke about his agency's role and function as a housing developer and provider of services to over 7,000 people (see slides).
5. Arnold Cohen, Director of Policy for the Housing & Community Development Network of NJ reviewed federal initiatives and budget (reminder for July Congressional Reception), Governor Christie's signing of lead bill that will provide \$10M for testing and remediation, urging members to advocate for passage of bill that will provide exemptions for limits on temporary rental assistance for those with disabilities. Arnold spoke about the importance of getting people to vote, the upcoming June state legislative day, and Speaker Prieto's bill to add 1,000 new state rental assistance vouchers to the budget. He recognized the importance of new vouchers for I/DD of 500 in Gov proposed budget and recently announced 500 for the chronically homeless.
6. Harry Reyes spoke from the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – CSS regs should be out by May from the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and the work of the

- Supportive Housing Connection. Harry stressed that the SHC does the bidding of the DHS. A small adhoc group has been created (SHA sits on this group) to provide continued review of the SHC. Any individual issue about the SHC can be sent to Harry directly.
7. Karen Alexander – NJ TIP Director provided an overview of the program which provides individual and group coaching for seniors and people with disabilities on how to properly and effectively use NJ Transit and thereby expand mobility and independence. (see slides). Karen also encouraged completing the Northern Transportation Plan survey. She handed out her business card, mission of NJ Tip, a map and referral form.
 8. Gail announced that this would be Siobhan Barrington's (Rutgers student intern) last membership meeting and all applauded Siobhan's good work and future as a Master's level social worker. Siobhan briefly reviewed status of the SHA mapping project and encouraged all members to complete the survey so that locations and functions of all member agencies can be posted on the SHA website.
 9. Housing Guide Launch and press conference – Gail Levinson (SHA Director), Kevin Casey (NJCDD and grantor), Lorraine D'Sylva Lee (parent and SHA board member), Deb Wehrlen (author of the guide and president of DTW Housing Consultants) and Suzanne Buchanan, Executive Director of Autism New Jersey spoke. Copies of the guide were handed out to all participants including members of the media who were invited to the launch. Panelists spoke about the grant, the mission and purpose of the guide and its availability online, in hard copy and in a series of training sessions that will be conducted throughout the year. NJ.com, NJTV, The Record attended the press conference.
 10. Janel Winter, Director of the DCA, Division of Housing and Community Resources updated the membership about progress of removing 1,000 special needs on the DCA wait list and the announcement of 500 new rental vouchers for the chronically homeless.
 11. After the Membership meeting there was a Conference Kick-off meeting followed by an Advocacy/Policy Committee meeting. Next SHA membership meeting is June 1st.