

SHA Membership Meeting

August 3, 2016

Minutes

1. Cherry Oakley, SHA Board of Trustees Chair, opened the meeting at 10 AM and introduced Kerrie Kelly from Med A Quest who gave an overview of the agencies multi-facted work. Cherry thanked Kerrie and her colleagues for sponsoring the early morning coffee networking session.
2. Cherry requested, as is customary at SHA, that everyone introduce themselves by name and affiliation. She reminded those in attendance of the vast diversity in participation in the room and encouraged all to meet and greet and develop business opportunities.
3. The minutes from the June Membership meeting were unanimously approved without change.
4. Gail Levinson, SHA Director, gave updates in the following areas:
 - a. Supportive Housing Conference is scheduled for December 2nd at the Renaissance Hotel in Woodbridge. Gail encouraged sponsorships, exhibitors and registration when it opens after Labor Day. The awards nominations have been extended through August 12th. All encouraged to submit for civic, staff, tenant, project and municipal nominees. Gail announced that Commissioner Chuck Richman, DCA, has been notified that he is the recipient of the SHA Cornerstone Award for lifetime career achievement. Hopefully all will come to support and applaud him at the conference.
 - b. SHA is involved in many advocacy efforts including Emergency Assistance, furthering the Mount Laurel Doctrine, some HMFA insurance policies (thanks to Rich Skorupski of Meeker Sharkey for his assistance in resolving Additional Insured issue), the Supportive Housing Connection, rental vouchers, capital funding and more.
 - c. Gail asked Renee Koubiadis to speak about efforts by APN, the Network, SHA and others to advocate for proper EA from the DHS. Renee asked for examples of individuals who are caught in the cycle of homelessness because of lack of EA. Advocates wish to take these examples to state officials to better communicate how people are living in desperate conditions.

- d. Gail mentioned the very successful and recent congressional reception in DC, which SHA joined with over 350 New Jerseyans, hosted by Monarch Housing the Network (HCDNNJ).
 - e. Annie Hamlin of HMFA has again graciously offered to provide a more in depth training on the LIHTC during the week of September 12 (tentative). More to follow.
 - f. Examples of networking that happens at SHA: Maria Maio – NJ HUD Director came to a SHA meeting which featured supportive housing needs and opportunities at the DCF. Maria followed up and secured HUD approval for Lakewood PHA to participate in the Family Unification Program (FUP) and Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Demonstration (FUP Demonstration).
 - g. NJ Council on DD approved SHA for a 3rd year grant to expand training of its Housing Guide – The Journey to Community Housing and Supports.
5. Jonathan Seifried, Director of Community Transitions gave a DDD update to include the supports program and transition of DDD vouchers to the Supportive Housing Connection. Both programs are expanding to include more people.
 6. Harry Reyes, Deputy Director, DMHAS gave an update on new RFPs and transition to FFS with the new CSS (supportive housing) regs that will be promulgated in August.
 7. Ellen Nalven, Executive Director of Plan/NJ gave an overview of the organization with specific references to what families and consumers can do to contribute personal resources while protecting public entitlements and planning for the future. Special Needs Trusts and ABLE Act were reviewed. See posted slides on SHA website for specific information presented by Ellen.
- Steve Durham, Assistant Director of DCA the Division of Housing and Community Resources gave an overview of recent activities at the agency.
- Housing First, a 5.4M state sponsored rental assistance initiative targeted towards the chronically homeless, announced that 12 awards totaling 500 vouchers. List of awardees is available at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/>
 - Statewide HCV (Sec 8) waiting list opening and lottery was successfully conducted in June 2016. Final statistics associated with applicants are still being evaluated.
 - DCA's Proposed National Housing Trust Fund and corresponding substantial amendments to the Agency 5-year Action Plan and Annual plan were also noticed. The program is designed for the acquisition or rehabilitation of units targeted for the special needs populations with preference points given to projects that target the re-entry population. The public comment period closed on July 31, 2016.
 - Lead Safe Program RFP is posted on the DCA website with a Sept 9. Deadline to submit a proposal. 10M if funding has been made available to address the ongoing threat of child lead poisoning
 - Statewide Homeless Prevention Program RFP is posted on DCA's website. The deadline for proposal submission is August 15, 2016.

- Statewide Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program RFP is posted on DCA's website. The deadline for proposal submission is August 26, 2016. A technical assistance session for proposers is scheduled for August 4, 2016 at 11:00am
 - Statewide Shelter Support Housing Program RFP is posted on DCA's website. The deadline for proposal submission is August 26, 2016. A technical assistance session for proposers is scheduled for August 4, 2016 at 11:00am
8. Arnold Cohen of the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ spoke briefly to request that SHA members volunteer to write Op Eds and letters to the editor about the importance of affordable housing and the Mt Laurel Doctrine. Sign up sheet passed around. The Network will provide TA and follow up.
 9. Lunch break and networking
 10. Cherry Oakley announced the retirement of Gail Levinson, Executive Director. Gail will conclude her employment at SHA on December 31st. In the interim there is much she will be working on with SHA members. The SHA Board of Trustees has formed a search committee, which will communicate shortly about opportunities for applications by interested candidates.
 11. Afternoon panel: The panel spoke about needs of and opportunities for NJ seniors in housing and services from a policy, health care and supportive housing perspective.
Panel: Grace Egan, NJ Foundation on Aging; Tina Zsenak, NJ DHS, Division of Aging; Jennifer Langer Jacobs, Amerigroup; Noah Freiberg, Pennrose Development; Krystal Odell, Pennreach Inc.
See selected slides for content posted on SHA website.
 12. Meeting adjourned at 1 PM.
 13. Advocacy Committee met and reviewed Advocacy grid and selected key issues for current advocacy work: Reach out to DDD for updates on how new rental vouchers are being disseminated;
A Team sign ups, Mt Laurel advocacy; adequate rates and safety net as Fee For Service is implemented; SHA commentary on Medicaid Waiver renewal application and State Transition Plan (STP) will be forthcoming.

Next Meeting of the SHA Membership will be on Tuesday (not Wednesday), October 4th at 20 West State Street (Mary Roebling Building), Rooms 219/220. 10 AM – 1 PM with early morning coffee klatch at 9 AM.