

SHA Membership Meeting August 12, 2015

9:00 am – Early Morning Coffee

10:15 – Meeting Called to order

Introduction and Welcome – Cherry Oakley, Chairperson: Thanks to SHA member Community Quest for sponsoring the early morning coffee

- Brief introduction to Community Quest by Danielle Kelly

Approval of May meeting minutes

- Barbara Coppens – motion to approve minutes
 - Carol Dougherty – second
- All in favor

SHA Update – Gail Levinson

- Discussion of SHA's perspective of Transition Plan and article in Philadelphia Inquirer. Gail was quoted in article indicating that PWD may choose to live together. Quote needed to be expanded to reflect SHA's support of many of qualities and features of the Transition Plan but with objection to limiting tenancy by no more than 25% PWD. This rigid restriction is unfair given the lack of choices in NJ and individual preferences.
- Training consortium of participating SHA members (with grant application by ACT-Cess USA to NJ DOL) almost full. Contact Gail if interested.
- Work group for commentary on new mental health CSS regulations being organized through Mental Health Coalition. Interested persons should speak to Gail.
- Supportive Housing Conference – Dec 4th – Appeal for sponsors and exhibitors and reminder that registration will open shortly after Labor Day.
- Supportive Housing awards – deadline Sept 11th. Nominations encouraged
- October SHA meeting planned will feature panel of SH CEOs to discuss the past, present and future; Also NJ Redevelopment Authority and hopefully Lowell Ayre, Assistant Commissioner, DHS, Office on Aging.

Current Policy Issues and Services offered by MHANJ (*slide presentation*) – Carolyn Beauchamp, President and CEO, spoke about the role and structure (national, state and local) of MHANJ, its mission to expand and preserve community and treatment for people with serious mental illness and addictions as well as historical perspective on where people were in the early days of deinstitutionalization and where they are now with community care. Carolyn stressed the importance of supportive housing and MHANJ's participation in the

Opening 1,000 Doors Campaign for new vouchers. New programs and services by MHANJ as well as the importance of serving children and youth, reducing stigma, employment and integration of physical (pediatrician screening for health and wellness) and mental health care. Slides posted on SHA website.

Division of Developmental Disabilities Update – Tom Papa Chief of Staff

- In July 1115 Waiver Program Support Program has people enrolled
 - First cohort 117 people; more to follow
- Movement to fee-for-service is essentially “unbundling of services” so that each aspect of disability can be handled by the correct sector and through Medicaid reimbursement.

Department of Human Services Office of Housing Update – Janel Winter
Director

- As of August 1 over 1500 subsidies used for people moved into the new system
- Goal to improve communication with providers and families and other constituents.

Division Mental Health and Addictions Services Update – Valerie Mielke

- Draft CSS regulations & Companion Medicaid piece are now posted for comment
- Mention of letter drafted by several statewide including SHA, MHANJ, NJAMHAA, NJPRA communicating concerns about contracts and Supportive Housing Connection, CSS regs and other aspects of transition to Medicaid FFS. Meeting conducted with representatives and discussion. Val reported reason for management fee on providers and how contract reductions will work as Medicaid revenue increases.

Federal Advocacy Update – Richard Brown of Monarch Housing

- Huge federal budget cuts pending in housing (HUD) and services (HHS)
 - Join the Caps Hurt Communities Campaign
 - Sign you organization on to the Nondefense Discretionary letter (NDD)
 - Let your senators know about funding needs for affordable housing and conduct site visits during August recess

Leonard Ward, Director of Parole, NJ gave a vigorous and compelling overview of the numbers and needs of people in the NJ parole system with following highlights. He stressed the importance of agencies serving families of parolees because they are mostly the support system for these individuals. Also when possible to provide housing and services and to contact him for access to his staff and services. Handout materials and slides posted on SHA website.

- Service providers are either helping parolees directly or indirectly through their families.
- 22,000 in state prison. 12,000 cycle in and out annually.
- Max-out Parolees have the least support
- Parole housing issues:
 - Parolees come out to an approved address and followed
- Secondary Issues besides housing
- State of New Jersey recidivism rate down to 44% (in comparison to the country's 66%).

Next member meeting: Wed, October 7th.