

SHA 22nd Annual Membership Meeting
February 5, 2020
Mary Roebling Building, Trenton NJ

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by SHA Board Chair, Tom Toronto. Tom thanked everyone for coming. Attendees introduced themselves around the room by name and affiliation. 78 people were in attendance representing housing developers, supportive services providers, advocates, government representatives, corporate vendors and families.
2. Minutes of the October 2019 meeting were approved. Motion: Melissa Scofield motioned; Jim Marhold second.
3. Tom Toronto ttoronto@bergenunitedway.org thanked the outgoing board members, Rich Skorupski, Melody Federico, Lorraine D'Sylva-Lee, for their years of service. The 2020 proposed slate of the board of trustees was announced. Attention was called to the full list of profiles distributed.

For a first two-year term: Asish Patel, Adriana Chizan, Stephen Schoch.

For a second two-year term: Brian Kulas, James Marhold, Randi Moore

For a third two-year term: Noah Freiberg

The continuing members of the Board of Trustees are:

Tim Doherty, emeritus, Tom Toronto, Gia Gore, Jack Mudge
James Mulroy, Jacqueline Ross, Melissa Scofield.

The membership voted unanimously to approve the slate. Tom Toronto motion; Jim Mulroy second. See profiles of 2020 SHA Board of Trustees: <https://www.shanj.org/board-staff/>

4. Ron Matan, ron.matan@sobelcllc.com Nonprofit and Social Services for SOBELCo introduced SOBEL's services. An accounting and advisory firm offering a broad range of services to meet the needs of clients SobelCo celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2016. Sobel serves over 350 clients. Ron's works exclusively with nonprofit organizations, including schools, government audits, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") projects, Uniform Grant Guidance engagements, and low income housing tax credit programs ("LIHTC"). As a Member of

the firm's Nonprofit and Social Services Practice, Ron is the firm liaison for the AICPA's Government (Nonprofit) Audit Quality Center. More information about SOBEL can be found:

<https://sobelcollc.com/>

5. Amy Scartocci, newly appointed Housing Director amy.scartocci@dhs.nj.gov for Division of Developmental Disabilities provided her background and reported. On the status of the state transition plan, Amy relayed that DDD has received comments from CMS and is the process of reviewing and resubmitting. Reminded membership that an RFP was released in October for increased housing capacity particularly for individuals with acute behavior and/or medical needs. Funds are still available

<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/providers/grants/rfprfi/RFPfiles/RFP-To%20increase%20community%20capacity%20of%20provider%20Management%20Housing%20for%20Individuals.pdf>.

In November the division distributed a survey assessing need for intensive behavioral health that will inform a future RFP for Behavioral Health Homes. Also an RFP on High Intensity Needs coming soon. Currently 105 people were approved for housing subsidies but are still seeking housing.

6. Harry Reyes, Assistance Director for Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHAS) gave an update. CSS providers of services remain in contract. A small group of 17 providers and stakeholders (many SHA members and Diane Riley Executive Director of SHA) for a total of 31 participated in a redesign project. Assistance Commissioner Mielke is reviewing. Several new RFPs have been released mainly around SUD housing. 50 sober housing vouchers filled and 150 still open. Other RFP awards: Bridgeway awarded PACT contract in Essex County; Recovery Housing on College Campuses (Kean, Stockton, Ocean and Rowen); 3 awards for pilot recovery housing services, to consumers who are age 18 and over with opioid use disorders (OUD) being discharged from any and all levels of substance use disorder (SUD) care into the community, including those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to John Brooks (Atlantic), Integrity Housing (Essex) and Freedom House (Hunterdon). Harry especially wanted to dispel the myth that people need to be coming from a state institution to get housing help. Absolutely not, there are state funds available for

people suffering from severe and persistent mental illness and homelessness.

7. Rebecca Rhoads Rebecca.rhoads@dca.nj.gov the new Director of the Office of Homelessness was introduced and provided her background before reporting. The office was created by Governor Murphy with \$3 million of funding in the 2020 budget to focus on a comprehensive approach to homelessness prevention. Ms. Rhoads is its first Director. She outlined some new innovative initiatives including a pilot that includes the right to counsel for eviction protection and a shelter diversion program for previously incarcerated. The office will focus on prevention and work across departments. Data will be key to identifying gaps. Two open staff positions, program manager and data analyst when filled will help round out the team.
8. Diane Riley, SHA executive director highlights included:
 - a. Diane wanted to thank everyone for making our 21st annual conference a success. We heard from many that the workshops and keynote speaker were excellent and the new venue was outstanding. Diane extended the invitation to reach out to provide recommendations for next year. A special thanks to our sponsors, exhibitors, those who purchased ads and those who attended. SHA has two major revenue streams, our membership dues and our annual conference. Supports in these two areas allow SHA to continue year after year.
 - b. Diane presented SHA's new initiative funded by a grant by the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD). SHA will develop a new "Housing Navigation" Course which will provide education at no cost on the following topics: Planning, Budgeting, Financing Housing, Types of Housing, Building, Finding a Home. The course will involve Case Studies and be taught by consultants and subject matter expert guest lecturers. Students will be guiding in the development of a housing plan. The course will run from May 1 – June 30 and be a mix of in person (4 days) and webinars about 35 hours. A total of 30 students will be accepted. Application will be available by end of February. A recommendation from manager and 2 years minimum of experience will be one criteria. A SHA

committee will help select and special consideration will be given to covering the entire state. Contact Diane to be considered for the selection committee.

9. The morning presentation featured Erika Kerber, Director of Litigation for Community Health Law Project ekerber@chlp.org on the topic of Medical Legal Partnerships (MLP). The medical-legal partnership model integrates attorneys into healthcare settings to resolve social needs that can undermine a patient's health and well-being and can be better met through the legal system. Erika provided an effective model of cooperation between medical and legal professionals who serve people with special needs in NJ and across the United States (Boston, Conn. Illinois). 71% of low-income households experienced at least 1 civil legal problem. When Legal Expertise is Used to Address Social Needs: • Individuals with Chronic Illnesses are Admitted to the Hospital Less Frequently • People More Likely to Take Their Medications as Prescribed • People Report Less Stress • Less Money is Spent on Health Care Services for Those who Would Otherwise be Frequent Hospital Users • Clinical Services are More Frequently Reimbursed by Public and Private Payers. MLPs deliver highly favorable return on investment. In 2016, the median dollar amount recovered by MLP Health Care Organizations as a result of MLP services was \$119,013 per MLP. (Source: National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership) • According to -Source: Center for Health Policy at Brookings, A longitudinal study of a MLP based in rural Illinois compared the financial benefit as compared with the initial investment to calculate a financial ROI. • For the first 4 years of the MLP's existence, the MLP program produced a 149% ROI for the hospital partner. • For the next 3 years, the hospital partner received a 319% ROI from the MLP. Presentation can be found: <https://www.shanj.org/past-sha-membership-meetings/>

10. Break for Boxed Lunches.

11. Diane Riley introduced Sarah Brundage, Senior Director of Public Policy for Enterprise Community Partners and Arnold Cohen Senior Policy Analyst from Housing Community Development Network of NJ to review federal and state housing policy landscape for the New Year. Highlights included:
 - A review of FY 2020

- Expansion of New Market Tax Credit Program
- Outlook for improvements in strengthening and expanding the Low-Income Tax Credit Program

Threats discussed were Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule change and changes to the Community Reinvestment Act. Sarah encouraged agencies to provide comments. Comments due by mid-March. Arnold Cohen, provided sample letters and encouraged people to attend webinar on the topic on Feb. 13. Joseph to promote in SHAre Arnold also discussed other legislation around eviction and housing vouchers through Opportunity Starts at Home initiative of National Low Income Housing Coalition.

Sarah gave a brief summary of the exciting new partnership and investment between Enterprise and Wells Fargo. **The Housing Affordability Breakthrough Challenge** will award six grants of more than \$2 million each plus technical assistance over a two-year period to help turn the grantees' innovative, scalable and viable ideas a reality. The challenge's three focus areas include: housing construction; housing financing; and resident services and support.

Sarah Brundage, sbrundage@enterprisecommunity.org

Arnold Cohen, acohen@hcdnnj.org

Presentation available:

<https://www.shanj.org/past-sha-membership-meetings/>

12. The meeting concluded at 1 PM. Next meeting of the SHA membership is scheduled for Wed, April 1, 2020
13. SHA Advocacy and Policy Committee met after the membership meeting.

Submitted by Diane Riley, Executive Director