

SHA 19th Annual Membership Meeting
February 1, 2017
Mary Roebling Building, Trenton NJ

1. Meeting was called to order at 10 AM by SHA Board of Trustees Chairperson, Cherry Oakley.
2. Everyone introduced themselves around the room by name and affiliation. 100 people were in attendance representing housing developers, supportive services providers, advocates, government representatives, corporate vendors and families.
3. Cherry thanked SimplyHome for sponsoring the morning coffee klatch and networking session. Meghan O'Sullivan provided a brief overview of the use of adaptive technology to help people get services in their home that are customized to their needs. Members were encouraged to contact her for further details.
4. Minutes of the October 2016 meeting were approved. Motion: Krystal Odell motioned; Dan Keating second.
5. Krystal Odell as Nominating committee announced the slate of board nominees for 2017.

For a second two-year term: Jim Mulroy

For a third two-year term: Melody Federico, Carol Dougherty, Steve Schoch, Scott Mullarkey

The continuing members of the Board of Trustees are:

Tim Doherty, emeritus, Krystal Odell, Cherry Oakley, Tracee Battis, Tom Toronto, Lorraine D'Sylva Lee, Rich Skorupski, Noah Freiberg

The membership voted unanimously to approve the slate. Steve Schoch motion; Carol Dougherty second.

See profiles of 2017 SHA Board of Trustees:

<http://www.shanj.org/about/board-staff>

6. Diane Riley,, SHA executive director gave the following updates:
 - a. January update on Fair Share Housing court cases. Supreme Court ruled in favor of including Gap period obligations. Mercer county case in progress would change the formula of need to

eliminate ELI households thereby reducing their obligations.

- b. Investment fund near to being offered. NJCC will present at the March 13 Developers Meeting
 - c. Housing Guide is in the process of being updated
New Training for Support Coordinators will be offered in conjunction with the DDD as a webinar on March 16. It will be taped and available on our websites for future use. There will be limited in-person option available on that day.
 - d. Diane encouraged members to reach out to let her know how SHA has been helpful and ways we can be more helpful in the future.
7. Jon Seifried, Director of Community Transitions at DDD presented updates: DDD issued several documents providing information and guidance on the use of vouchers. To date 350 people have received or are awaiting vouchers. There have been very few denials; A few exceptions are rents above FMR or family member as landlord. When concern was raised about clients moving to a Section 8 housing voucher and not completing the process in time, he responded that clients will not be cut off and extensions can occur for good cause. They would take these on a case by case basis. The division is still awaiting approval from CMS for the plan which they imminently expect.
8. Elena Gaines, from Department of Community Affairs gave a brief presentation. Included in her remarks was a discussion on the new HUD rule of January 17 regarding small area (zip code) FMR. DCA is working with housing authorities on analyzing the fiscal impact of the implementation of the rule. 10,000 Moving On vouchers have been offered by lottery. Applicants who are not in need of other services are good candidates for transitioning. The division is making efforts to reduce current wait lists. Ocean County is a good example where they have virtually eliminated their wait list. The Keeping Families Together pilot program has expanded to include 25 new families in Atlantic and Gloucester counties. These families will be provided Section 8 project based vouchers.
9. Harry Reyes, Acting Assistant Director gave a DMHAS update. Highlights included: MHAAS is encouraging independent leases

for tenants; NJMAP is up and running. Two RFP awards were announced, to Bridgeway for Supportive Housing Program services in Union County and the other for screening services in Somerset County. (additional info can be found: http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/provider/funding/rfp_awards.html). The migration to fee for service continues.

Working at getting agencies into the Medicaid system. Next phase of fee for service goes live in July; DHS also announced proposed increases for Medicaid and State Management reimbursement rates. This will help ease the fee for service transition. Questions arose regarding licensing for professional individual vs. CSS license. Reach out to Cathy Boland for more info.

10. Laura Rodgers, Chief Program Officer for Jewish Family Services of Atlantic & Cape May gave a short presentation on her experience in developing strong and positive relationships with landlords. She educates landlords about some of the issues clients experience and thereby creates a partnership. Landlords are more successful in communicating with clients and are invested in client's success. Landlords also share success stories with other landlords.
11. Arnold Cohen, Housing and Community Development Network of NJ – Policy and Legislative Update: Arnold primarily reviewed the Thrive NJ Campaign. The campaign asks the state for an investment of 600,000,000 in housing across 10 areas: Affordable Housing Trust Fund, State Rental Assistance, Operating and Capacity Support, Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit, Lead Prevention and Weatherization, Homeless Programs & Fed Match, EA programs, HMFA Lending and Special Needs Housing Trust Fund. HCDNNJ asks members to sign on for support and look to specific ways they can help such as stories of people who have been helped by these programs. For info: <http://www.hcdnnj.org/buildathrivingnj>
12. Break for boxed lunches.
13. Panel Presentation on the Changing Federal Landscape. Diane Riley introduced Marcella Maguire, Director and Pascale Leone, Senior Program Manager from CSH and Sherry Lerch, Senior Consultant from TAC Inc. CSH presentation focused on the federal level and possible changes that might lie ahead such as Repeal of ACA, Medicaid Expansion repeal, Block Granting

Medicaid. More than half a million people in NJ gained health insurance because of ACA. The Executive Order in January focused on minimizing the economic burden of ACA. What will states do with finite (and probably less \$\$). Possibly limit benefits, possibly limit population served, or make requirements onerous so less people sign up. Block grants have not worked in favor of clients or services in the past (TANF). NJ is a balance budget state so that limits flexibility. Things to watch: Governors positions (32 states have expanded Medicaid), hospital associations positions (they can be allies), what appointees say in confirmation hearings. What can you do: stay connected with legislators, let your voice be heard, follow a few organizations, Citizen Action, NJPP, CSH etc. Diane Riley distributed action steps. Sherry Lerch focused on the Current State Outlook on Medicaid and Housing first reviewing current supportive housing funding (811 PRA) and the recent separation of service and housing. NJ has lost \$\$ because of sequestration and block grants are particular susceptible to cuts. Tax reform means the tax credits may be affected and already they have reduced value just on the speculation of changes. However, LITC are very popular program and has bi-partisan appeal. New administration likely to discontinue the positive changes in fair housing made under President Obama. Two positives. The first is that Dr. Price (DHSS) and Dr. Carson (HUD) are physicians who understand the connection between housing and health. The second is that NJ already has 1115 waiver services in place. The renewal of the current 1115 waiver calls for increased housing services. NJ is 1 of 8 states in the IAP (Innovator Accelerator Program) brings together DCA, HMFA and DHS to develop solutions to delivery of housing and supports. There is a large body of research that proves supportive housing works in that people stay housed and it reduces costs. **Recommended strategy – Use the business case for Housing and Healthcare.**

Panel:

Marcella Maguire, Director, CSH

Pascale Leone, Senior Program Manager, CSH

Sherry Lerch, Senior Consultant, TAC Inc.

Slide presentation posted on SHA website:

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

14. The meeting concluded at 1 PM. Next meeting of the SHA membership is scheduled for Wed, April 5, 2017

15. SHA Advocacy and Policy Committee met after the formal meeting. Formation of committee with sub-committees was discussed. Briefing on current issue of the shift to a fiscal/employer agent model and how it affects health benefits to Self Directed Employees. Next meeting is Wed, March 1st by phone call.

Submitted by Diane Riley, Executive Director