

SHA Membership Meeting
April 4, 2018
Mary Roebling Building, Trenton NJ

1. Meeting was called to order at 10 AM by SHA Board of Trustees Member, Carol Dougherty.
2. Everyone introduced themselves around the room by name and affiliation. 80 people were in attendance representing housing developers, supportive services providers, advocates, government representatives, corporate vendors and families.
3. Minutes of the February 2018 meeting were approved. Motion: Cherry Oakley motioned, Paul Blaustein seconded.
4. Carole Johnson, Commissioner of the Department of Human Services addressed the membership highlighting her experience in national policy surrounding healthcare and the importance of healthcare and affordable housing together to provide the services to individuals with disabilities including those struggling with homelessness, mental health and substance use challenges, the developmentally disabled, and seniors. She also highlighted some of Governor Murphy's budget commitments including a recent announcement of \$100 million in funding to combat the opioid epidemic. Members had the chance to question the Commissioner and the discussion focused on the reduction in emergency assistance and the challenges in the transition to fee for service and especially community based services. She assured the membership she is working closely with the Dr. Elnahal, Commissioner of the Dept. of Health and is open to continuing to meet with stakeholders on the issues. Kevin Casey of NJCDD affirmed the Commissioner's open and responsive approach in her recent meetings with families.
5. Carol thanked Foothold Technology for sponsoring the morning coffee and networking session. Nick Scharlatt outlined Footholds longtime technology commitment to agency support in services and housing. Foothold provides comprehensive data management software includes everything needed for electronic client records and administration. The presentation focused on the collaborative projects they have offered to the supportive housing community. As noted at the SHA conference, the supportive housing resource center allows users to interactively post questions and receive answers from peers. This creates a resource exchange that benefits all users. <https://footholdtechnology.com/agency-resources/supportive-housing/> Another project is a cross agency

collaborative of foothold users who came together to help each other implement their electronic record system through the fee for service transition. The case study and presentation can be found

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

6. Elena Gaines elena.gaines@dca.nj.gov , Field Supervisor, Dept. of Community Affairs gave the update. HUD identified 24 metropolitan areas where the use of Small Area FMRs is required in the administration of the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. In NJ this encompasses some areas in the following counties: Bergen, Passaic, Monmouth, Ocean, Camden, Burlington, Salem, and Gloucester. This may increase rent ceilings for certain zip codes. Additional info: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/smallarea/index.html>
The department continues to pull people off the SRAP waitlist. Elena announced that DCA is introducing a new program called “Opportunity Knocks Program”. Opportunity Knocks is a new housing search service for families in the DCA Housing Choice Voucher Program created to remove barriers to finding housing in good communities that meet their needs and their expectations. For info: <http://www.ok.nj.gov/>
7. Cathy Boland, Cathy.Boland@doh.nj.gov, Housing Coordinator, the Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) gave an update. Cathy highlighted new funding opportunities (RFPs) available through the department. They include Community Support Services for Individuals Discharged from State Psychiatric Hospital who Dually Diagnosed (DD-MI) due April 19 and Medically Enhanced Supportive Housing and Community Support Services for Individuals Discharged from State Psychiatric Hospitals due April 6. Info can be found: <http://nj.gov/health/integratedhealth/dmhas/funding.shtml>. She also noted that 24 of 42 CSS agencies were involved in the recent time study. The department is using this important information to determine possible changes to the program as well as to evaluate activities currently not supported by Medicaid but critical to the program.
8. Diane Riley,, SHA executive director gave the following updates:
 - a. SHA’s grant work with NJ Council on Development Disabilities continues. SHA will produce several resources including videos highlighting the diversity in housing models. The videos will look to include people living with a variety of needs and across the state. SHA encouraged members to submit ideas for models that

- may be important to include in this project.
- b. SHA has formed and continues to form several stakeholder groups to meet to discuss specific topics. Current topic groups includes Community Support Services, the Investors Council and Support Coordination.
 - c. The New Jersey Budget season has begun. Governor Murphy has presented the budget. SHA has testified and highlighted three important areas: housing production funding and continued support for operating dollars, service investment in the form of increased wages for Direct Support Professionals and safety net funding for agencies as they transition to fee for service and especially in the community support service program (CSS). She asked members to reach out to discuss other concerns or to express more detailed info on these issues.
 - d. SHA is beginning to work on the 2018 conference. We encourage members to join committees that continue to make the conference such a rich experience. Trustee members Rich Skorupski and Lorraine D'Sylva-Lee will be available to speak with members at the break and after the meeting to answer specific questions about the conference and specific committees. Members were encouraged to discuss further ways to engage in committees or submit thoughts on index cards for themes, workshops, etc.
9. Arnold Cohen of Housing and Community Network of New Jersey gave a housing policy update. The National Low Income Housing Conference in Washington D.C. emphasized looking ahead at the 2019 HUD budget. There are several opportunities where members can get involved including the joining the "Opportunity Starts at Home" Campaign. This campaign is a coalition of national and state organizations from multiple sectors dedicated to expanding low-income household's access to safe and affordable homes through federal policies. The campaign encourages state action as well as supporting federal sign on letters to encourage specific goals. Information was distributed and can be found: <https://www.opportunityhome.org/> Local action is being planned for the week of May 1-8, more info to follow. HCDNNJ state lobby day is June 7.

10. Diane welcomed Ken Regan, Vice President of Regan Development. Regan is a family-operated business. For more than 20 years, Regan Development has been committed to including affordable, supportive, special needs housing in their portfolio. With specialized design features for accessibility and special care partnerships for those facing physical challenges, Regan has created unique partnerships to address the housing and service needs for those living with physical and cognitive disabilities. Regan Development has created many apartments for this population, in partnership with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and I Choose Home NJ. Regan has experience in 4 states (NY,NJ,PA,CT). Ken specifically reviewed funding formulas for his special needs housing and emphasized that this is something that can be done. Creating a financially stable model for residents at extremely low income requires a complex, multilayered approach that includes rental vouchers. Of special importance is his rewarding work helping to transition people from nursing homes. With thoughtful design and experienced service coordination, the housing leads to greater freedom, independence, happiness and expanded community living which changes lives. The housing partnerships also save money. With each transition more savings are generated so that more New Jersey residents can age in place. For more info contact ken@regandevlopment.com Presentation posted: <http://www.shanj.org/members/meeting-presentations>

11. Break for boxed lunches.

12. Diane Riley introduced Tyler Manley, Senior Manager of Nonprofit Engagement for Catchafire (tyler@catchafire.org). The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has partnered with CatchaFire, an online tool that connects nonprofits based in New Jersey with professionals who want to donate their skills, pro bono. The partnership gives organizations access to capacity building support like creating a marketing strategy, building a website, graphic designs, etc. for free, and supports their mission to create a strong Culture of Health. Because of the foundation's involvement, this service is free and open to all New Jersey Non-Profits. Tyler demonstrated the ease of connecting organizations to volunteers. He also distributed a FAQ resource and answered specific questions such as the number of concurrent projects allowed, a deeper understanding of the interview and matching process and the extent of the experience and vetting process of the volunteers by Catchafire. A similar online demo can be viewed [here](#). To register and start posting projects go to rwjf.catchafire.org/welcome. The FAQ sheet is posted: <http://www.shanj.org/members/meeting->

[presentations](#)

13. The meeting concluded at 1 PM. Next meeting of the SHA membership is scheduled for Wed, June 6, 2018
14. SHA Advocacy and Policy Committee met after the formal meeting. Next Advocacy Policy Meeting will be by phone on May 7.

Submitted by Diane Riley, Executive Director