

**SHA Membership Meeting**  
**June 6, 2018**  
**Mary Roebling Building, Trenton NJ**

1. Meeting was called to order at 10 AM by SHA Board of Trustees Chair, Melody Federico.
2. Everyone introduced themselves around the room by name and affiliation. 79 people were in attendance representing housing developers, supportive services providers, advocates, government representatives, corporate vendors and families.
3. Minutes of the April 2018 meeting were approved. Motion: Tom Toronto motioned, Carol Dougherty seconded.
4. Melody thanked David Rossi, Account Executive [david.rossi@cort.com](mailto:david.rossi@cort.com) from Cort furniture for sponsoring the morning coffee and networking session. Cort Furniture has been an active member of SHA for many years. David outlined the services Cort provides as well as Cort's strengths among them short delivery, quick set up and partnership with clients. Cort often volunteers, sponsors events, initiates food drives to support the mission of their customers.
5. Robert Long, Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Community Affairs addressed the membership. New to DCA but not new to state government, policy or the affordable housing landscape, Deputy Long praised the mission of DCA and his respect for Charles Richman's past leadership. He is grateful for the continued support of his staff among them Janel Winter and Joyce Paul. He is excited to work with Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver and expects to run most of the day to day of the agency. The Department continues to make special needs housing, people with disabilities, homeless and those reentering society from prison, a priority. DCA is working to expand resources by \$7 million and reduce the voucher waitlist. Member questions reflected the concerns about the pipeline and the diversion of funding from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, a fund set up specifically for capital and development, to other housing services. Deputy Long said the department raised this concern but the Governor did not honor the request for funding. Stakeholder advocacy was encouraged.
6. Charles Richman, Executive Director of NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency [crichman@njhmfa.gov](mailto:crichman@njhmfa.gov) addressed the membership. Director Richman reviewed HMFA successful programs. The First Time Home Buyer program awards \$10,000 toward a first time home purchase for qualified applicants. The interest free forgivable funds can help cover the down

payment and closing costs. With an investment in the program of \$10 million, the expectation is that the program will support 1,000 home purchases. The assistance is paired with an NJHMFA first mortgage loan and it includes a counseling component. Director Richman also stated that he expects to distribute \$28 million in federal 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), which are expected to help finance an estimated 1,400 affordable rental apartments. The equity generated from LIHTC can fund approximately 70% of a project. Director Richmond outlined areas for advocacy. On the federal level a noted area would be to expand opportunities in private activity bond allocation. Not all states use their private equity bond allocation as NJ does. Perhaps unused allocations could be redistributed. State advocacy must include resurrecting and funding the special needs housing trust fund. Director Richman sees other opportunities in future partnerships with hospitals. In Chicago, for example, hospitals are funding housing vouchers. This model should be explored. Providers can support this by providing the information for an economic argument that shows the positive impact as well as cost savings.

7. Jonathan Seifried, [jonathan.seifried@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:jonathan.seifried@dhs.state.nj.us) Acting Asst. Director at DDD presented updates. DDD continues to focus on moving all clients to the fee for services system. Agencies not fully converted to fee-for-service (FFS) by June 30, 2018 will have contracts renewed for those individuals who do not have an approved Individualized Service Plan (ISP). 6,100 people have migrated, 700 will be by July 1. 7800+ CCP (Community Care Program) individuals assigned to a Support Coordination Agency. Current Supports Program (SP) enrollment: 7,466. Both the CCP and SP Policies and Procedures manuals have been posted on the DDD website. The Stephens Komninos' law became effective May 1, 2018. This law strengthens protections for individuals with developmental disabilities. Every person who is employed by any Department of Human Services (DHS) funded, licensed or regulated program serving adults with developmental disabilities is subject to the requirements of this law. This includes additional and unannounced oversight visits, employee and support professional drug testing, and agency requirement of verification within 48-hours by a DHS representative, of an incident or allegation reported to DHS involving abuse, neglect or exploitation or any moderate or major injury - regardless of the cause, involving an individual. Supportive Housing Connections vouchers continue to be available and approved. All program participants can apply for vouchers through their support coordinators.

8. Harry Reyes, Assistant Division Director, the Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) [Harry.Reyes@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:Harry.Reyes@doh.state.nj.us), gave an update. Harry affirmed that the Community Support Service Program will remain in contract through 2018 - a one year extension. In order to facilitate input from provider agencies, a number of focus groups will be formed and run through Rutgers. A number of new funding opportunities (RFPs) have been made available through the department. They include Temporary Sober Recovery Housing Services to Adult Drug Court Participants and Designated Screening Services for Burlington, Camden and Passaic counties. Both are due mid-July. Info can be found: <http://nj.gov/health/integratedhealth/dmhas/funding.shtml>. Finally, the division is aware that the letters to agencies with contract ceilings that were sent will need to be adjusted. Morris Friedman, CFO of DMHAS is evaluating the figures and will contact agencies shortly. A suggestion to include consumers in the review of the programs (i.e. time study, focus groups) was made.
9. Diane Riley,, SHA executive director [Diane.Riley@shanj.org](mailto:Diane.Riley@shanj.org) gave the following updates:
- Diane announced the Supportive Housing Conference 2018 theme “Great Expectations, Building on the Past, Envisioning the Future”. The theme chose for SHA’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary reflects the incredible strides that have been made in supportive housing and the opportunities that are emerging across the nation. Diane alerted the membership to conference participation opportunities such as: sponsorship and exhibit, workshop, award nominations as well as collaborative and leadership openings on conference committees. Kevin Martone, Executive Director of Technical Assistance Collaborative will be the keynote speaker. The conference is Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Opportunities for both state and federal advocacy are encouraged. Tomorrow June 7<sup>th</sup> Housing Community Development Network of NJ (HCDNN) invites you to a state lobby day. SHA will advocate along with others for the restoration of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (as previously discussed) set aside for capital development. On July 25<sup>th</sup> advocates will travel to Washington D.C. for the Congressional Reception. NJ elected delegation will be invited to join us to hear from New Jerseyans who support federal policies and increased funding for housing. The event has been impactful in the past. People who have received housing support from every district will be speak about the importance of this in their lives. Information was distributed and all

were encouraged to attend.

- Diane asked those assembled to join her in celebrating two supportive housing leaders who are retiring and moving on to other pursuits. Cathy Boland, Housing Coordinator, DMHAS and Kevin Casey, Executive Director, NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities were thanked for their years of service and leadership. They have honorary life-time SHA membership and are welcome to visit anytime in the future.

10. Diane welcomed Arnold Cohen of HCDNNJ [acohen@hcdnnj.org](mailto:acohen@hcdnnj.org) to present on the topic of the New Urban Agenda (NUA). The New Urban Agenda seeks to set priorities that ensure equitable growth and inclusive redevelopment in New Jersey's urban centers. The membership was invited to discuss recommendations for New Jersey's leaders. The topics the NUA covers include workforce development, housing, infrastructure, crime prevention, health, and transportation. A draft agenda with categories and priorities was distributed. These categories as described above were expanded in more detail. In all the document included 89 priorities in 13 areas. Of particular interest was the category of optimizing housing production. Included in this category was the expansion and funding of the special needs housing trust fund. A discussion of ways to incentivize small rental housing in the Qualified Action Plan governing tax credits was discussed. It was noted by some that development in certain geographic areas was precluded by the current QAP. Various other topics were touched upon and those present were encouraged to contact Arnold for further discussion.

11. Break for boxed lunches.

12. Diane Riley introduced Iraisia C. Orihuela-Reilly, Senior Staff Attorney, Disability Rights NJ, [iorihuelareilly@drnj.org](mailto:iorihuelareilly@drnj.org) who presented. DRNJ the state's designated protection and advocacy system for individuals with disabilities in the state of New Jersey is in the process of building a priority plan for the next five years that addresses critical issues facing the disability community. Iraisia began with a video presentation of a brief history of significant disability rights milestones and an overview of protection and advocacy system:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RszxGq8i050>

This set the tone for the presentation that enumerated DRNJ programs and the current priorities. These goal categories included: Abuse and Neglect, Discrimination, Community Based Services, Healthcare and Decision Making, Children, Assistive Technology, Employment, and Consumer Education and Advocacy. Those assembled were broken up into category

groups and given discussion guidance for prioritization. The group came together to report on the group discussion and suggested priorities. Those present were encouraged to contact Iraisa for further discussion. The presentation 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, August 1, 2018
14. SHA Advocacy and Policy Committee met after the formal meeting. Next Advocacy Policy Meeting will be by phone on July 2nd.

Submitted by Diane Riley, Executive Director