

SHA Membership Meeting
June 7, 2017
Mary Roebling Building, Trenton NJ

1. Meeting was called to order at 10 AM by SHA Board of Trustees Chairperson, Melody Federico.
2. Everyone 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.
3. Minutes of the April 2017 meeting were approved. Motion: Barbara Coppens motioned; Tom Beyer seconded.
4. Diane thanked Community Quest for sponsoring the morning coffee and networking session. Kerrie Kelly kkelly@cqinc.org, CFO, outlined the basic services of her organization which include a full range of supports program services. Med A Quest, a subsidiary, provides staffing resources to the medical and mental health industry. Pivot Staffing, another subsidiary, provides non-medical staffing and business resources to outside businesses.
5. Diane Riley, SHA executive director gave the following updates:
 - a. The SHA conference will be held December 1. This year's theme will be "Climate Change – Building Housing Opportunity in a Changing World" will be a chance to acknowledge the shifts that have taken place and share resources and explore possibilities to increase community living options for people with special needs. Sponsorship information will be out this week. Workshop applications have already been distributed. Workshop and Award committees still need to members. Joining these committees can be inspirational and invigorating and not too time intensive.
 - b. The second edition of the Housing Guide has been released. 3,000 copies have been printed and is available on our website www.shanj.org. Copies available at the meeting. This edition includes additional info about employment and an update to the State Transition Plan status. Thanks to NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD), Autism NJ and

others for their continued support. By the end of this three year grant we will have trained 2,000 people and distributed close to 10,000 copies of the guide.

- c. Diane introduced Bob Runkle of Act-Cess, USA who gave a very brief overview of the SHA Training Consortium opportunity. The Department of Labor grant has been released and the proposal is due early August. Organizations can take advantage of quality training for employees with a match of employee wages in time spent. In addition Act-Cess and SHA will handle the majority of the administration. Time is of the essence so please reach Diane or Lorna Runkle with questions and interest.
 - d. Diane gave a brief update of upcoming advocacy events including the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. on July 26 for the Congressional Reception. Next week, June 15, Assemblywoman Schepisi will be holding a town hall meeting at Bergen Community College from 5:30-8:30 with the topic of affordable housing crisis and her concern for “court forced overdevelopment”. Legislation has been introduced proposing to delay implementation for a fairer review of obligations. All members in the Bergen area are encouraged to attend. Arnold Cohen will provide more details on housing legislation.
6. Cathy Boland, Acting Cathy.Boland@dhs.state.nj.us , Housing Coordinator, gave the DMHAS update. Highlights included: CSS (Community Support Services) continues to roll out. 38 agencies have extended their CSS state contract and will move to the new fee for service system Jan. 1, 2018, 6 will move in July 1, 2017. The Division are hosting bi-weekly call/meetings to address any issues with CSS processes. (Interim Managing Entity) IME, Medicaid, School Health Professionals are all part of the team meetings. Fee for Service (FFS) providers (which include CSS) are in the process of User Acceptance Testing (UAT). IT holds a meeting for UAT users twice a week, Tues/Thur 2-4 where specific questions about NJ Mental Health Applications for Payment Processing (NJMHAPP) can be addressed.
 7. Jonathan Seifried, jonathan.seifried@dhs.state.nj.us from the

- Division of Developmental Disabilities gave a brief update. With the sign off of the Community Care Waiver (CCW) transition of the supports billing to fee for services has begun. Three agencies are piloting the transition. DDD is building the next cohort of agencies. The division currently serves 26,000 people through CCS or supports program. New resource section has been added to the website: "Community Living Options" <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/resources/community/>. The section includes guidance for both individuals and providers who are receiving residential services and documents the shift to a fee for service system. A sample rental agreement is also included. NJ continues to close developmental centers having moved 640 people into the community and will continue currently looking to place 70 people. There are 400 housing vouchers being managed by Supportive Housing Connection (SCH) with 125 more to be added in the upcoming year.
8. Arnold Cohen of Housing and Community Development Network of NJ (HCDNNJ) updated members on housing policy and advocacy. June 15 HCDNNJ will hold a legislative day in Trenton. It is an important opportunity to be heard by legislative decision makers and a great advocacy learning experience for members. Sign up and learn more www.hcdnnj.org.njlegday. Arnold reiterated the importance of the evening Town Hall event in Bergen County as well as the July 26 DC opportunity. Federally the proposed 2018 budget would slash funding to development dollars HOME funds as well as Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant funding which provides services dollars as well. It also would reduce housing rental vouchers. All in all a 197 million dollars cut to NJ. There is an opportunity to support expanding the National Housing Trust Fund by signing on to a letter available on the National Low Income Housing website. <http://nlihc.org/article/sign-letter-urging-congress-protect-and-expand-national-housing-trust-fund>. At the last SHA meeting Jim Lordi from DCA presented the opportunity to apply for these funds for the first time. Federal uncertainty is even more reason to make sure state dollars are increased. HCDNNJ "Thrive Campaign" outlines funding in several areas to meet the need of affordable housing including funding the Special Needs Housing Trust Fund. Please endorse this campaign and encourage

legislators to endorse <http://www.hcdnnj.org/buildathrivingnj>
Highlights of this information was distributed.

9. The two part panel presentation entitled “The State of Supportive Housing Resources Across Populations” began. Diane briefly described the intention of the panel topic was to highlight the housing support provided for special needs populations (I/DD, Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Homeless) that is specific to that population, the funding sources, the criteria for obtaining the support and how those housing vouchers are managed. Part II of the panel focused on the mainstream housing vouchers that are available across all populations.

Iliana Castro, Director of Support Coordinator for Community Access Unlimited presented an overview of the housing support vouchers available from the Division of Developmental Disability (DDD) and the role of support coordinators (SC) in the process. CAU provides support coordination in all counties except Union. SC guide individuals and families through the process of housing that begins with evaluating the budget, the level of independence desired (preferences), and an individual’s needs. SC then use the Housing Subsidy Program Eligibility Determination Form to request vouchers from the Division. If approved, the SC will provide some guidance on locating an apartment. The Supportive Housing Connection (SHC) manages the vouchers, leases, and payments.

Nancy Schneeloch, Program Director from Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services continued the discussion. Bridgeway has provided services to people with mental illness for almost fifty years. They currently serve 1,000 people living in supportive housing arrangements and work in 11 counties. Bridgeway provides services connected using many housing partnerships (Continuum of Care, Section 8 etc.) however Nancy focused on the particular partnership with Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). DMHAS provides 500 housing vouchers which are project, tenant sponsored, and tenant based vouchers. Tenant sponsored housing vouchers remain with the provider, project based remain with the housing project, tenant based remain with the consumer. The majority of vouchers obtained through RFP’s and expansions. Tenant Based Vouchers applications go to DMHAS. Prioritization is given to individuals in

hospitals, homeless, and domestic violence. Applicants that are not accepted can/must reapply each month (no wait list). Tenant based vouchers are managed through the SHC.

Taiisa Kelly, Senior Associate at Monarch Housing works with 12 Continuum of Care (COC) providers of the 16 in NJ. COC providers receive federal funding (HUD) directly to provide permanent housing vouchers (PHV) to people who are at risk or currently homeless. There are 3,000 PHV in NJ. In order to receive this support applicants go through a coordinated assessment process. While there is work being done on creating a uniform assessment, currently each county has slightly different processes.

David Cooper from Values into Action added texture to the discussion with two cases where DDD vouchers were acquired for individuals. In one case the individual was formerly homeless and also had mental health issues. However, housing assistance was provided through DDD illustrating that a person may be identified with multiple special needs but a housing voucher may be able to be obtained through one of multiple avenues.

10. Break for boxed lunches

11. Part II of the panel began with a presentation by Steven Durham, Assistant Director of Housing Community Resources at the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) who gave an overview of the many different housing programs that DCA manages from the federal Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program to the State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP). The need however is far greater than the availability and wait lists are often closed. When the HCV list was opened in all counties in 2016 for a total of 10,000 vouchers, the number of applicants totaled 180,000. 25% of these vouchers are set aside for people with special needs. There are approximately 4000 SRAP vouchers available in NJ. In March of 2017, the SRAP waitlist was opened for 3,000 elderly, disabled and family participants. There are 500 SRAP vouchers awarded through the Housing First Program and 500 SRAP vouchers offered to “move people on” or off of the COC voucher program who no longer need services thereby freeing up those voucher slots to help additional individuals struggling with homelessness. A concern arose and was noted in the trend towards additional tenant based vouchers and the reduction in project based vouchers availability. Special

needs housing developments need project based vouchers. Lastly Vernon Lawrence Executive Director of the Pleasantville Housing Authority and Patricia Ramirez, Director of the Housing Choice Voucher Program for the Jersey City Housing Authority (JCHA) gave their perspectives and an overview of their programs. JCHA is one of the second largest housing authorities in NJ serving over 16,000 people through public housing and the housing choice voucher programs. Through both programs, tenants pay rent (*typically 30% of income*). Currently JCHA has about 4,500 HCV allocated. In May they opened their waitlist and 15,000 people applied. In contrast Pleasantville is a relatively small housing authority with 245 HCV allocated and 135 public housing units. Both housing authorities have preferences established based on the needs of their community. One issue raised is the 20% voucher assistance cap established by HUD to use as project based vouchers. This limitation has resulted in housing authorities not being able to use all their vouchers. Further discussion is needed on this topic.

Panel:

Iliana Castro, Community Action Unlimited, icastro@caunj.org
Nancy Schneeloch, Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services,
nancy.schneeloch@bridgewayrehab.org
Taiisa Kelly, Monarch Housing, tkelly@monarchhousing.org
David Cooper, Values into Action, davidc@vianj.org

Lunch

Steven Durham, Department of Community Affairs, Steven.Durham@dca.nj.gov
Vernon Lawrence, Pleasantville Housing Authority, vlawrence@pleasantvilleha.org
Patricia Ramirez, Jersey City Housing Authority, pramirez@jcha.us

Slide presentations by Bridgeway and Jersey City Housing Authority posted on SHA website:

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

12. The meeting concluded at 1 PM. Next meeting of the SHA membership is scheduled for Wed, August 2, 2017
13. SHA Advocacy and Policy Committee met after the formal meeting. Briefing on current issues were discussed with a special focus on the fee for service and CSS transitions. Advocates were encouraged to attend June 15 events in Bergen and Trenton. Developmental Disability issues were presented by Maureen Shea of NJACP and included the campaign for a Direct Support Professional Living Wage and the sign on letter. Next meeting TBD by phone call.

Submitted by Diane Riley, Executive Director