

SHA Membership Meeting
August 1, 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. 70 people were in attendance representing housing developers, supportive services providers, advocates, government representatives, corporate vendors and families.
3. Minutes of the June 6, 2018 meeting were approved. Motion: Barbara Coppens motioned, Tom Toronto seconded.
4. Melody thanked Kerrie Kelly kkelly@cqinc.org, CFO, of Med-A-Quest for sponsoring the morning coffee and networking session. Med-a-quest was formed in 2007 as a for profit subsidiary of the non-profit Community Quest. Med-a-quest is a nationally accredited healthcare service firm providing private duty nursing companions/aides occupational, physical, speech/hearing/language and behavioral therapies. Med-a-quest covers all counties in NJ providing services for the Developmentally Disabled through Medicaid funded programs including: Real Life Choices, Interim Program, Supports Program and the Community Care Program.
5. Sarah Adelman Sarah.Adelman@dhs.state.nj.us, Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Human Services addressed the membership. Sarah is one of two Deputy Commissioners in the department and she oversees the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Division of Aging Services and the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (Medicaid). She is a passionate advocate on health issues and is committed to provide the best possible services for clients. Since taking on the various divisions, she has been focused on filling in staffing gaps in her team and delighted to meet organizations such as SHA to see the work being done in collaborative groups.
6. Diane Riley,, SHA executive director Diane.Riley@shanj.org gave the following updates:
 - Diane reminded the membership about the Supportive Housing Conference on Dec. 7th 2018. The theme is “Great Expectations, Building on the Past, Envisioning the Future”. The conference is SHA’s 20th anniversary and there are many opportunities for sponsorship, and exhibits. The workshop committee met and are planning an exciting agenda including Kevin Martone, Executive Director of Technical

Assistance Collaborative as the keynote speaker. There is still opportunities to submit award applications and she encouraged people to consider project and other supportive housing leaders to honor.

- SHA introduced a new website feature called the Housing Hub. The Housing Hub will be the repository of a number of new resources being developed through the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities Grant such as resource bulletins and videos. The SHA network will be alerted to new posts as they become available.
 - SHA has a new membership category available. Civic membership is moderately priced membership category designed specifically to encourage county, municipal or city government agencies, and housing authorities to join increasing networking opportunities and collaboration throughout the supportive housing industry.
 - SHA plans to apply for another NJ Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development (DOL) Skills Training Grant in partnership with Act-Cess USA. The grant will provide participants with valuable industry specific training, leading to valued credentials, customized to each agency. There is no monetary cost to participant beyond the commitment of staff to the training. The application deadline is October 3rd.
 - Finally Diane reviewed the success of the Congressional Reception. Over 300 advocates boarded buses on July 27th and traveled to D.C. to encourage members of congress to increase federal housing investments. A number of SHA member agencies attended and a number of people who have been positively impacted with support and permanent homes provided context and inspirational life changing stories. The event was attended by both Senators and a number of congressional leaders.
7. Harry Reyes, Assistant Division Director, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Harry.Reyes@doh.state.nj.us, gave an update. The Governor issued a plan to return DMHAS to the Dept. of Human Services. The Legislature has 60 days to review the plan and issue any objections or the plan will take effect August 20, 2018. Harry affirmed that the Community Support Service (CSS) Program will remain in contract through 2018 - a one year extension. Of the 40 CSS agencies, 3 will remain in fee for service. DMHAS continues to host CSS calls but the frequency will change to bi-weekly. RFPs continue to be released for (MESH, DD-MI etc.) but there is a reduction in agencies applying. The time study is complete and the Division is evaluating the information and intends to release a

summary/ report. \$100 million dollars was included in the budget of which a portion to be determined will be set aside for recovery supportive housing.

8. Elena Gaines elena.gaines@dca.nj.gov , Field Supervisor, Dept. of Community Affairs gave an update. Supportive Housing Connection (SHA) will move to DCA. SHC will provide the same services and retain the same staff. DCA anticipates a smooth transition. DCA continues to pull from the waitlist for housing vouchers and anticipates that by end of year they will have moved through the list. Elena encouraged all agencies to help clients get their paperwork in to facilitate the process. The best way for clients to remain updated is to check <http://www.waitlistcheck.com/> to view their status. DCA is rolling out a new computer program for housing voucher management. Clients will be able to communicate online, scan and upload all documents. DCA has implemented 90% of HUD recommended Small Area Fair Market Rents (SAFMR) in the following areas: Bergen, Passaic, Camden, Burlington, Monmouth, Ocean, Gloucester, Salem. DCA is slowly implementing a new program called “Opportunity Knocks”. 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 expectations. The program is currently being implemented in Camden in partnership with Volunteers of America Delaware Valley and in Mercer County with Homefront. The next county it will be available in is Essex in partnership with Catholic Charities.
9. Diane welcomed Melissa Chalker, Executive Director of NJ Foundation for Aging mchalker@njfoundationforaging.org to present. Melissa’s highlighted the status of senior economic vulnerability often resulting from the heavy burden of housing costs across the state. NJFA over the last year has convened a cross section of industry stakeholders. SHA and several SHA members are part of the group. The group has met quarterly for a series of “Conversations on Resources for Senior Housing” to explore both the unique and similar challenges facing seniors that choose to live in NJ. A major accomplishment was a recent report developed to identify specific policy changes that would increase housing availability and affordability for seniors. The report included 10 recommendations that fell in three areas: funding, access and promoting policies that help seniors age in place. The full report can be found at <http://www.njfoundationforaging.org/policy-reports/>. The published report was sent to the Governor. The full presentation is posted on SHA’s website: <http://www.shanj.org/members/meeting-presentations>.

10. Break for boxed lunches.
11. Diane Riley introduced Kristin Miller, kristin.miller@csh.org, Director, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to discuss new and creative partnerships across the nation that are generating robust supportive housing development. Kristin began with a brief overview of the work of CSH. CSH is a clearinghouse for new ideas and best practices, a collaborative and pragmatic community partner, and an influential advocate for supportive housing. They have provided over \$700 mil in loans and grants to stakeholders and work with public systems to maximize resources to create supportive housing opportunities. Several different approaches were discussed and included private/public investment funding models in NY, Los Angeles, Illinois, and Massachusetts. The presentation is posted: <http://www.shanj.org/members/meeting-presentations>
11. The meeting concluded at 1 PM. The next meeting of the SHA membership is scheduled for Wed, October 17, 2018
12. The SHA Advocacy and Policy Committee did not meet. The next meeting will be by phone on August 27th. SHA Members were encouraged to attend the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ (HCDNNJ) Healthy Homes Summit at the War Memorial for the afternoon presentations.

Submitted by Diane Riley, Executive Director