

**SHA Membership Meeting**  
**October 17, 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. 63 people were in attendance representing housing developers, supportive services providers, advocates, government representatives, corporate vendors and families.
3. Minutes of the August 1, 2018 meeting were approved. Motion: Barbara Coppens motioned, Krystal Odell seconded.
4. Diane Riley, SHA executive director [Diane.Riley@shanj.org](mailto:Diane.Riley@shanj.org) gave the following updates:
  - New members were acknowledged and welcomed.
  - Diane reminded the membership about the Supportive Housing Conference on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 2018. The theme is “Great Expectations, Building on the Past, Envisioning the Future”. The conference is SHA’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and there are many opportunities for sponsorship with 18 currently on board. Exhibit space is going fast with only 3 left. An incredible array of workshops are scheduled including panels on Aging in Place, Development funding, Recovery Housing, Telehealth, Homeless and Medicaid Use, and other special workshops on enabling technologies, Investing in Data, Conscious Care and Trauma Responsive Care and Home and Community Based Service Trends featuring Serena Lowe and Michele Mackenzie from Washington DC. Kevin Martone, Executive Director of Technical Assistance Collaborative as the keynote speaker. Early Bird ends on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Attendees were encouraged to take advantage of the cost savings.
  - 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.
  - A new partnership with CSH allows SHA members to realize an exclusive 20% savings on all training, information, and resources about operating and providing services in supportive housing. Members can enjoy access to over 50 essential online training in the CSH [Supportive Housing Training Center](#). Members interested in registering should

contact [j.christensen@shanj.org](mailto:j.christensen@shanj.org) for the discount code

- Finally Diane reviewed the new website feature called the Housing Hub. The Housing Hub is the repository of current and a number of new resources being developed through the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities Grant. Currently posted are new resource bulletins for Affordable Housing, Rental Assistance, Assistive Technology and Supported Employment. <http://www.shanj.org/housing-hub/resource-bulletins>. Also new is the first of the videos highlighting innovative housing solutions. The video on shared living was shown to positive reviews. <http://www.shanj.org/housing-hub/housing-videos>  
The SHA network will be alerted to new posts as they become available.
5. Mercedes Witowsky, Executive Director of NJCDD presented. Council on Developmental Disabilities incorporates 56 councils in all 50 states and 6 territories and has a National Association in Washington DC and a national support network. Paul Blaustein is chair of the council in NJ. The council operates with the following subcommittees: Grants and Planning, Public Policy, Health and Wellness and Children and Youth. Members consist of organizations and people with developmental disabilities and their families. Mercedes reviewed the councils vision as follows, *That all people with Developmental Disabilities: are contributing members of their neighborhoods and communities; make real choices and have control over their own lives; have the freedom to strive, excel, and make mistakes; are in a position to achieve personal goals; are in a position to influence policy and process decisions that affect their lives; and have the same rights, privileges, responsibilities, opportunities of citizenship as does any other person.*  
The Councils 5 year plan includes Housing as one of 7 priorities. Others identified as Direct Support Staffing, Employment, Special Education, Transportation, Health and Wellness and Self Advocate Family Training. NJCDD coordinates the 10 Regional Support Planning Councils throughout the state which brings together members who are volunteers and family members caring for a person with I/DD at home. Members monitor and evaluate I/DD supports and services, inform families about current family support issues, and provide information and feedback to policymakers about the needs of families. Another important offering of the council is The Partnership in Policy Program. This is a nationally-recognized leadership and advocacy training program for adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Full presentation on SHA website:

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

6. Paul Aronsohn, [paul.aronsohn@treas.nj.gov](mailto:paul.aronsohn@treas.nj.gov) introduced himself as the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual and or Developmental Disabilities and their Families. The independent office was created in December 2017. He was appointed to the position in April 2018. Paul shared his family's experience which evidenced his passion for championing people with developmental disabilities and their families. He has three main goals: to work with individuals and families to work within system and break down walls, to work with the same to make the system better, and incorporate better processes and to help make sure families and individuals are heard and engaged in the process. Since April, he has been traveling the state to meet with families and hear their stories and challenges. The Ombudsman reporting requirements include an annual report to governor, legislature, commission, and families/individuals. He welcomes engagement and encouraged attendees to reach out. As former mayor of Ridgewood, Paul was a champion on the Access to All Campaign.
7. Diane welcomed Jim Thebery, Director of County of Bergen Division of Disability Services [jthebery@co.bergen.nj.us](mailto:jthebery@co.bergen.nj.us) to present. Jim has been working to make communities more accessible for over 20 years. Jim discussed the ABC's of organizing and sustaining the valuable work of creating barrier free communities. "Access for All" is a campaign to foster equal access to community life and activities for people with disabilities. Through education, and advocacy, Access for All committees work to promote increased accessibility to programs, housing and facilities in municipalities. The underlying principal is that you have to be in and work within the community to make changes. Access for All committees are formed by different people/stakeholders from the town, for example, Office of Emergency Management, Recreation Director, and Health Department. Committees are strongest when their group is diverse with different backgrounds/expertise/roles needed to address broad areas of need. The committee should also include active individuals and advocates. Committee actions lead to providing more supportive structures within a town. Jim shares some material on getting started but encouraged attendees to give him contact info so he can send more thorough and comprehensive info directly. Material can also be found on SHA's website: <http://www.shanj.org/members/meeting-presentations>.
8. Harry Reyes, Assistant Division Director, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) [Harry.Reyes@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:Harry.Reyes@dhs.state.nj.us), gave an update.

DMHAS has moved back to the Dept. of Human Services as of October 1<sup>st</sup>. The offices will physically remain at 5 Commerce Way in Hamilton. Emails have changed back to dhs.state.nj.us but will continue to forward for a time. CSS update included the following news, in the event that Harry cannot be help, attendees were encouraged to reach out to Steve Fishbein, Deputy Assistance Division Director of DMHAS. Time Study still being evaluated and news will be forthcoming. Focus groups considerations are being reviewed. Audits are happening at agencies. System will go out of contract to fee for service billing on target for July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. Can't guarantee rates, but some changes coming. DMHAS is meeting regularly with Statewide Consumer Advisory committee (SCAC) members to assess aspects and identify outcomes of service delivery. Harry addressed questions and concerns which centered on the financial challenges for agencies with CSS billing changes. Providers suggested that they need more time to overcome these challenges. Harry affirmed that money will be there for non-Medicaid CSS documented services. But providers must bill for Medicaid services. Integrated Case Management Services survey almost complete. Changes still being reviewed. Governor Murphy issues \$100M dollars for Opioid Services – Opioid service housing RFP coming soon for a portion of these dollars. Opioid funds and housing subsidies for opioids coming out / Housing Subsidies coming, watch website for RFPs. <https://www.nj.gov/health/integratedhealth/funding.shtml> Federal Money coming for expansion of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC).

10. Break for boxed lunches.

11. Diane Riley introduced the panel participants for the topic discussion of entitled “The Hospital Connection”. The topic explores a number of creative partnerships with area hospitals which are generating new opportunities for housing and services.

**Katherine Brennan**, [KBrennan@njhmfa.gov](mailto:KBrennan@njhmfa.gov), Chief of Staff for Executive Director, Charles Richman NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA). discussed the new \$12M investment in a partnership with NJ Hospital Association and its members to develop supportive housing as a pathway to healthier communities. Hospital will be at the table who are interested in addressing needs of familiar faces (people who are serviced by hospitals repeatedly and are low income) by collaborating on a housing first model. Hospitals may provide land. A consultant who will be hired by the Hospital Association will help guide interested hospitals to Developers.

HMFA will help finance with 4% tax credit funding. Three projects are envisioned throughout the state. Each project would include approximately 60-70 units with up to 10 units set aside per building for special needs affordable housing

**Randi Moore**, ([rmoores@hcnj.us](mailto:rmoores@hcnj.us)) Division Chief, Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development highlighted a new partnership with Jersey City Medical Center and Hoboken University to create a new supportive housing program called “familiar faces”. The pilot program will provide supportive services and housing vouchers to recipients who are frequent users of county corrections and rehabilitation centers, homeless shelters, hospitals, and other crisis centers. Referred to as “Familiar Faces,” the program is based on Hudson County’s Frequent User Initiative. The program aims to break the cycle of repeat use of hospitals, jails, shelters and other costly crisis systems by providing supportive housing solutions. The new pilot program will pair 25 new supportive housing rental vouchers from the State of New Jersey and intensive services funded by two Hudson County hospitals – Hoboken University Medical Center and Jersey City Medical Center. The cost to house each tenant will be about \$25,000/year and the majority of the applicants have already been identified through the coordinated entry in the continuum of care system. The program will not only provide better support to the chronically homeless but will save money throughout the overall system.

**Dave Moore**, ([moored3@ihn.org](mailto:moored3@ihn.org)) steering committee member of the South Jersey Behavioral Health Innovations Collaborative (SJBHIC) and Executive Director Mental Health Services for Inspira Health Network reviews the success of the program initiatives. The South Jersey Behavioral Health Innovations Collaborative (SJBHIC) is an active collaboration among 5 Health Care Systems and includes Cooper University Healthcare, Inspira Health Network, Jefferson Health New Jersey, Lourdes Health System, and Virtua. Using a data driven approach and a housing first model, SJBHIC has made great strides toward both providing better care and at the same time achieving cost savings. Dave described the M25 Initiative, a 100% volunteer organization. The M25 initiative, is a nonprofit organization based in Bridgeton. The partners of the collaborative include Gateway Community Action Partnership, PRAC of Southern New Jersey, Resources for Independent Living, Inspira Health Network, CompleteCare Health Network, Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, and the Cumberland County Jail and government. As of June 12, 2017, the Collaborative has directly housed 46 individuals, with an additional 4 individuals housed

through referrals within the Collaborative partners, for a cumulative total of 50 housed. 35 individuals were housed through a major grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs which provided housing vouchers to the Collaborative. These housing vouchers enable the Collaborative to target Cumberland County's chronically homeless individuals and place them in quality housing. 11 individuals have been housed as a result of the M25 Initiative Phase Two Program to end chronic homelessness in Cumberland County. The Housing First Phase Two Program seeks to serve a total of 20 chronically homeless and/or unsheltered individuals in Cumberland County in 2018. M25 also facilitates the grassroots Cumberland County Code Blue Coalition (response for cold weather homeless Emergency Shelter).

The annual report describing these initiatives 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, February 6, 2019 which will be an annual meeting.
12. The SHA Advocacy and Policy Committee met following the formal meeting. Next Advocacy Policy Meeting will be by phone on December 3rd.

Submitted by Diane Riley, Executive Director