

SHA Annual Membership Meeting
February 3, 2016
Mary Roebling Building, Trenton NJ

1. Meeting was called to order at 10 AM by SHA Board of Trustees Chairperson, Cherry Oakley. Cherry thanked Cort furniture for sponsoring the morning coffee klatch and networking session. David Rossi and Sharon McGill provide a brief overview of the furniture products available through Cort and encouraged all to contact them.
2. Minutes of the October 2015 meeting were approved. Motion: Tracee Battis; Second Krystal Odell.
3. Everyone introduced themselves around the room by name and affiliation. 100 people were in attendance representing housing developers, supportive services providers, advocates, government representatives, corporate vendors and families.
4. Valerie Mielke, Director of the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services gave a brief presentation on the highlights and initiatives of the DMHAS: CSS regs to be promulgated soon after OAL reviews; Division received handful of community comments; CSS training continues through Rutgers School of BHC Professionals; Meeting to be announced on time study; small group meetings will be announced on new rates and roll out; Monday webinar on Olmstead updates; Supportive Housing Connection – most of the subsidies are now over at SHC (2,400); Number of questions, issues, misunderstandings raised that Division will address; Time Study – 33 of 48 invited participants – hosting webinar to share findings.
5. Jon Seifried, Director of Community Transitions at DDD presented updates: DDD also using the SHC for bridge subsidies to Section 8; DDD will be reviewing its housing policy and needs; accessibility features a priority for aging in place; some capital money available – DDD providing SHA with development form for applications as part of Capital Review Committee; Webinar on new housing policy in early March; Supports Program – cohort 2 will be launched; Difference between CCW and supports program recipients; Process for DDD applications.

6. Krystal Odell announced the slate of board nominees for 2016.

For a first two-year term: Noah Freiberg

For a second two-year term: Tracee Battis, Tom Toronto,
Lorraine D'Sylva Lee, Rich Skorupski

For a third two-year term: Krystal Odell, Deborah Wehrlen,
Cherry Oakley

The continuing members of the Board of Trustees are:
Jim Mulroy, Melody Federico, Carol Dougherty, Steve
Schoch, Scott Mullarkey; Tim Doherty, emeritus

The membership voted unanimously to approve the slate. Dan
Keating motion; Krystal Odell second.

See profiles of 2016 SHA Board of Trustees:

<http://www.shanj.org/about/board-staff>

7. Arnold Cohen, Housing and Community Development Network of
NJ – Policy and Legislative Update: HR3700 bill on common sense
reforms for housing through HUD – nice bi-partisan effort on a bill
that has languished; New cycle for the state budget; All bills not
signed into law by 1/12 die and need to be reintroduced in new
session; Arnold highlighted Network's priorities include
foreclosure bills and lead poisoning reforms; Fact sheet on NLIHC;
April 5th NJ Congressional Reception hosted by Monarch and the
Network with many agency sponsors including SHA; hoping to
have 300 people sign up to attend – buses to transport for the day;
Webinar on Mt Laurel on Feb 16th to be announced – SHA and the
Network and Fair Share Housing Center co-sponsoring.

8. Gail Levinson, SHA executive director gave the following updates:

- a. Family in need of landlord for adult daughter on
the CCW – south jersey
- b. Introduction of new members: Abilities of
Northwest NJ, Enterprise Community Partners,
Federal Home Loan Bank of NY/NJ; JP Morgan

Chase, Selective Insurance; Rehab Equipment Hub
(Safe in Your Space)

- c. Housing Guide to be launched
- d. Opening 1,000 Doors for continued advocacy – to be communicated

9. Panel Presentations on Transitioning Youth and Families in the welfare system. Cherry Oakley introduced Commissioner Allison Blake; Commissioner reviewed components of the Department of Children and Families (DCF); discussed federal grant awarded for strategic plan; stats and shift in care for youth involved and families in welfare – high rate of homelessness, low educational attainment and chronic health conditions. There has been a sustained decrease in use of foster care – many more children with families or relatives. Many referrals because of housing instability. Overall emphasis on housing first and supports/no group home etc. Erin Burns-Maine introduced panel and gave important information about population and housing and other needs highlighting success rates after provision of supportive housing. Jessica Trombetta reviewed data (numbers, risk factors, needs, initiatives) re: Youth At Risk of Homelessness (YARH); Deb Lancaster reviewed the Keeping Families Together (KFT) program with emphasis on housing needs and opportunities; representatives from the DCF funded Essex County pilot, Family Connections (as well as family member) summarized their trauma informed work and scattered site approach with families.

Panel:

Allison Blake, Commissioner, DCF

Debra Lancaster, Director of Strategic Development, DCF

Jessica Trombetta, Executive Director of Adolescent Services,

DCF

Krista Zuccheri, Chief Operating Officer, Family Connections, Inc.

Alexandria Riley, HomeSafe Manager, Family Connections, Inc.

Sasha Stokes, Family Advocate

Erin Burns-Maine, Senior Program Manager, CSH

Slide presentation posted on SHA website:

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

10. The meeting concluded at 1 PM. Next meeting of the SHA membership is scheduled for Wed, April 6, 2016

11. SHA Advocacy and Policy Committee met after the formal meeting. Committee to update the 2013 SHA Policy Position Paper, meet monthly on the first Wed at 1 PM (rotating by phone and in person), develop a process by which the committee will do its work. Next meeting is Wed, March 2nd by phone call.

Submitted by Gail Levinson, Director