

SHA Membership Meeting
June 5, 2019
Mary Roebling Building, Trenton NJ

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM by Board of Trustee President, Tom Toronto. Tom thanked attendees for coming. 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.
2. Minutes of the April 2019 meeting were approved. Motion: Barbara Coppens (DRNJ) motioned; Marilyn Ticktin (CORT) second. Minutes unanimously approved.
3. Diane introduced and thanked *SimplyHome*, a new SHA member, for sponsoring the breakfast. Meghan O'Sullivan tech4dd@gmail.com gave an overview of the services *SimplyHome* provides. *SimplyHome's* technology empowers independence for people who are living with a disability or aging in place. Technology has helped to expand housing options for many people by overcoming barriers allowing more independence. Meghan gave several examples of how clients have been enabled. One example allowed a client to go from 24 hour living care facility to independent living with technology being used for medication management, virtual check in, reminders for tasks, etc. Staff drops by only periodically to keep the client on track. *SimplyHome* technology can be seen in SHA video along with Advancing Opportunities, <http://www.shanj.org/housing-hub/housing-videos> and on their website: <https://www.simply-home.com>
4. Susanne Mills Susanne.Mills@dhs.nj.gov has been Ombudsman for Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for two years and spoke about the role. She is there for consumers to help them understand their rights and the programs/services available. She also can assist in conflict resolution with providers. Many current questions revolve around the fee for service delivery program. Above this important role, Suzanne was able to share her personal story which included the importance and positive impact of supportive housing. Susanne shared, *When I moved into my own place, 'Things were quiet finally'. I was able to*

build a firm foundation with a safe home as a starting place. 'Just another day in paradise' sign hangs in my home and it exemplifies my experience. Susanne distributed a new resources guide from the Department of Human Services entitled: "New Jersey Resources 2019-2020". This comprehensive resource identifies the various programs and services the Department and partners offer to New Jersey residents, caregivers and advocates. It can be found on the DHS website:

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds/news/pubs/>

5. Steve Fishbein, Deputy Assistant Division Director for DMHAS, steve.fishbein@dhs.nj.gov gave an update for the Division as follows:
 - Currently 39 CSS providers. 37 are under contract and 2 under the Fee for Service delivery system. The CSS workgroup group is meeting bi-weekly to offer recommendations on a redesign of the current CSS program. Diane Riley is a member of the workgroup of 16 providers/network representatives, 9 DMHAS staff and 3 consultants from Center for Healthcare Strategies (CHCS).
 - RFPs have been issued for MESH, DDMI, and Forensic Programs and proposals are in review process.
 - RFP for supportive housing related to opioid addiction. Proposal would fund individualized case management supportive services to 200 Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) individuals. Funds will be available for up to 8 hrs. /mth based on individual needs. The service will assist individuals with seeking and connecting with behavioral health and/or physical needs.
 - Opioids Recovery Housing Awards, Sober Living 5 beds each Awardees (3) North, Central, and South Jersey.
6. Executive Director, Diane Riley gave a brief presentation highlighting SHA activities.
 - The SHA conference on December 6th has several sponsors including Silver Sponsor NJ HMFA. This year's conference will be held at the Palace at Somerset Park, a new venue. She reported that in keeping with this year's theme "Many Homes One Community, Innovative Options for Supportive Living" the keynote will be nationally recognized autism leader, Denise Resnick. Denise is Co-Founder of the Southwest Autism Research Center (SARRC) (established in 1997). SARRC has

- devoted 20 years of research to support adults with autism in Arizona. Denise served as editor and publisher of the research report, [Opening Doors: A Discussion of Residential Options for Adults Living with Autism and Related Disorders](#), a collaborative study by SARRC, the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Arizona, the Arizona State University (ASU) Stardust Center for Affordable Homes and the Family, and the ASU Herberger Institute School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. Denise is also founder of First Place AZ, a structured two-year living program in the supportive environment that helps build crucial independent living and career-readiness skills. Participants can maximize their capacity to live more independently through their Learn4Independence® curriculum and individualized services designed for adults with autism. Members were encouraged to get involved in the SHA conference by sponsoring, signing up for an exhibit, proposing workshops or award nominees. She assured attendees that signing on to one of the conference committees would be an enriching experience.
- SHA's Housing Hub now includes 4 new videos highlighting the variety and mix/match of housing options that can be put together for people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities (PW/IDD). The videos include interviews with family members, individuals, service professionals and others about the journey to make that option a reality and why it fits with the unique desires of the occupants. The options range from a group home with enhanced technology to shared living to individuals living in an apartment and manufactured home and vary in urban and suburban environments.
 - Diane encouraged members to attend the Congressional reception in Washington, DC on July 24th. Congressional leaders and other attendees will hear important stories from people with lived experience regarding funding for affordable and supportive housing. Funding for HUD programs such as vouchers, and the National Housing Trust Fund and service dollars for Medicaid are critical to our work moving forward. SHA is a sponsor of the reception/buses and encouraged others to join in the support.
7. Lorna Runkle from Act-Cess USA (a SHA member), actcessusa@comcast.net presented the details for a grant from the Dept. of Labor that allows agencies to present quality training

- for their employees at no cost. The training can be in-house through employer trainings (where agency would be reimbursed) or through a third party. Unlike SHA consortium in the past, Act-Cess will manage their own consortium open to SHA member agencies. There is a maximum of \$250,000 per consortium and \$50,000 for each agency. Members were encouraged to contact Lorna for interest in participating in this round of grant funding.
8. Arnold Cohen, Senior Policy Analyst for the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ (HCDNNJ) acohen@hcdnnj.org gave a policy update. Of paramount importance is that for the first time in almost 10 years, the NJ Affordable Housing Trust Fund which is financed by real estate transfer fees will be used for building and housing development as originally intended. Arnold encouraged attendees to sign up for the June 10th lobby day in Trenton so they can share with state and assembly leaders the importance of continued support for these and other programs in the final budget. A list of policy agenda items was distributed.
 9. The morning presentation was delivered by Rosy Dafonseca, Loan Manager from the Multifamily/Supportive Housing & Lending Division for NJHMFA. Rosy started by stating that the special needs division has merged with the multifamily division and is now helmed by Tanya Hudson Murray. Rosy affirmed HMFA is eager to distribute the remainder of the Special Needs Housing Trust Fund but would not disclose the amount. They are also working to make the Special Needs Partnership Loan Program (SNPLP) easier to use and are open to making changes that reflect ease of access and streamlining. Members were vocal about issues they face in using the SNPLP such as: the need for expanding match from municipalities beyond the municipal housing trust fund dollars (land, or other asset match), the onerous paperwork requirements and checklist, the lack of follow through and long timeline to name a few. SHA will solicit a list of recommended changes from members and summarize for the division to review. Ms. Murray and Dafonseca to attend the next SHA developers meeting to review the recommendations. They are committed to working with providers to improve the program to make it more useful.
 - 10 Break for Boxed Lunches.

12. Mercedes Witowsky, Executive Director of the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) introduced Deborah Wehrlen, dtwconsulting@gmail.com President of DTW Consulting Group and lead researcher and author of SHA's newly released report: ***Building the Foundation for Housing, Services, and Supports: Best Practices Opportunities for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities***. The research report surveyed best practices from across the nation detailing those that would effectively enhance the resources and navigation of the current supportive housing system and was funded through a NJCDD grant in 2018. The report offers a description of applicable best practices, examples of implementation, background resource material, and specific recommendations for implementation in New Jersey. The categories reviewed included person centered planning, self-direction and budgets, support coordination and support brokers, healthcare and wellness, meeting the service needs of those with high acuity, investments in the workforce, the use of technology to enhance independence, community integration and increased housing options, funding housing development and increased rental assistance, simplifying the ease of access and referrals to housing and service delivery, and the need for data analysis to drive policy planning. SHA grant partners included the Arc of NJ, Autism NJ, Autism Speaks and the Housing and Community Network of NJ. Tom Baffuto, TBaffuto@arcnj.org Executive Director of the Arc of NJ spoke about the importance of follow up on the recommendations and highlighted the current advocacy opportunity to increase wages for Direct Support Professionals in the NJ budget. Ms. Wehrlen emphasized that in spite of needed improvements, NJ has many positive aspects and is one of the best states for housing and service delivery for PW/IDD.
12. All presentations are available:
<http://www.shanj.org/members/meeting-presentations>
13. The meeting concluded at 1:00 PM. Next meeting of the SHA membership is scheduled for Wed, August 14, 2019
14. SHA Advocacy and Policy Committee met after the membership meeting.
Submitted by Diane Riley, Executive Director