

SHA 23rd Annual Membership Meeting
February 3, 2021
Zoom – COVID-19 Pandemic

Diane welcomed everyone and encouraged people to put their names in the chat box as a way of introduction before the meeting was called to order. Attendees represented housing developers, supportive services providers, advocates, government representatives, corporate vendors and families.

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by SHA Board Secretary, Melissa Scofield. Melissa is also the chair of our Governance and Nominating Committee.
2. Minutes of the October 2020 meeting were approved. Motion: Tiffany Weems from 7th and Madison motioned; Melody Federico of HomeCorp second.
3. Melissa Scofield MScofield@valley.com thanked the outgoing board members, Brian Kulas, James Mulroy, and Tom Toronto for their years of service. The 2021 proposed slate of the board of trustees was announced. Attention was called to the full list of profiles distributed and on our website: <https://www.shanj.org/board-staff/>

For a first two-year term: Samantha Hoyte, Maria Maio-Messano, Nancy Schneeloch, Monica Vir

For a second two-year term: Gia Gore, Jacqueline Ross, Melissa Scofield

The continuing members of the Board of Trustees are:
Adriana Chizan, Noah Freiberg, James Marhold, Randi Moore, Asish Patel, Steve Schoch, Tim Doherty, emeritus

The membership voted unanimously to approve the slate. Tiffany Weems, 7th and Madison motion; Krystal Odell, Pennreach, second. See profiles of 2021 SHA Board of Trustees: <https://www.shanj.org/board-staff/>

4. Amy Scartocci, Housing Director amy.scartocci@dhs.nj.gov for Division of Developmental Disabilities reported updates. Over 7,150 housing subsidies for individuals that reside in provider settings, 940 individuals also receive a subsidy in self director settings and 22 individual

approved for subsidy and have not yet found housing. As a reminder, those who wish to receive a subsidy can apply through their support coordinator.

The division issued an RLI December 18, 2020 for agencies who would like to be added to a provider ready directory. Providers noted on the directory will be those who are readily available to provide services in the event another agency can no longer provide services. Deadline Jan. 15 2021 but letters are still being accepted on a rolling bases. Amy encouraged agencies to still submit Letters of Interest.

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants/rfprfi/RFPfiles/DDD-Provider-Registry-RLI.pdf>

Past RFP for increased housing capacity particularly for individuals with acute behavior and/or medical needs. The last date to submit for proposals was Nov. 1, 2020. Pleased to report that 40 new homes are in development. Reminder regular DDD updates are being provided by Asst. Commissioner Jonathan Seifried. If you have not already, you can sign up. Feb 4, Feb 18 are the next webinars.

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/>

5. Justin Scheid, NJ Field Office Housing HUD Justin.E.Scheid2@hud.gov, was introduced. Justin worked for HUD for ten years but started this new position in fall. Updates included review of work this past year:
 - Cares Act trying to get money out the door for renters, homeowners, small businesses and COVID relief. Funds flow from Treasury so municipalities waiting to use HUD funds because the timeline to use the funds is longer.
 - Latest round December housing recovery funds just released also flowing from treasury. However some ESG funds for homelessness and public housing totaling \$300 million for state of NJ. Office willing to work with state agencies on thinking how these funds could be used more innovatively. Digital inclusion is an example, using the funds in public or affordable housing making sure residences are wired for connection to the internet.
 - Established program ConnectHome program, 3 new designations in NJ of 9 in country Elizabeth, Phillipsburg, Atlantic City, joining JC Housing Authority in that initiative program. The goal of ConnectHome is to reach and connect residents, regardless of age, to the promise of the Digital Age.
 - 2 new EnVision Centers, providing wrap around services for

residents for self-sufficiency Philipsburg and Atlantic City. EnVision Centers are centralized hubs that provide people with resources and support needed to improve their economic outlook.

- Section 3 job opportunities, providing training, employment and contracting opportunities to very low and low income residents. HUD trains municipalities and residents on connecting to that program including getting businesses on the registry.
- Opportunity Zones tax incentive program run by treasury but HUD is front and center in helping communities access the tax credits. It can be a good tool to support better place based economic development.

Before shut down we had an event in conjunction with DCA and HMFA to get info out. Expect more oversight coming.

- CHOICE neighborhoods, Atlantic City awarded a planning grant. Undertaking planning activities for neighborhood wide study with resident input. Camden has a planning and implementation grant. Just announced Paterson awarded \$3.4 million lead hazard grant. These are grants that can help communities. HUD can assist with those grants as well.
- Foster Youth to Independence initiative which makes housing choice vouchers assistance available in conjunction with Housing Authorities and Child Welfare Agencies. NOFA released recently due in late March.
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/fyi
- COCs granted same funding from last year \$52 million to over 200 organizations.
- New administration – Interests in climate change, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. Assuming Secretary elect Fudge to come on board soon.

5. Harry Reyes, Assistant Director for Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) harry.reyes@dhs.nj.gov gave an update. Housing unit remains under Harry's authority. Commissioner Carole Johnson has been tapped by President Biden for the COVID team. Sarah Adelman is Acting Commission (prev. Deputy Commissioner)

- DOH will be hosting series of town hall meetings to address vaccine and addressing specific populations. February 11 at

7:00 pm Black and Caribbean Communities

<https://bit.ly/3oqVXw2> February 15 at 7:00 pm – Latinx Communities <https://bit.ly/3tidR7x>

- DHS, Governors, DOH websites all have call centers info for assistance available for health care providers, first responders, family members, consumers. HOPE and HEALING offers people help with stress and other issues. Harry will provide info but please share this information.
- In Nov. 2020, Division RFP American Sign Language Outpatient Mental Health Service for deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) community. Division received 0 proposals. They have met with Elizabeth Hill, Executive Director for the Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing for help with adjustments, RFP which will be reissued soon.
2 additional RFPs specific to DHH community will be issues surrounding substance abuse and alcoholism.
- Housing continues to be a challenge. There are 5,000 mental health housing subsidies. Very concerned about evictions. They are fielding hundreds of calls a day. DMHAS is working with Community Health Law Project on this info. Reminder for people, if they can pay they should be paying especially if they have vouchers. State pays its side but the consumer should be paying or working with the landlord.
Division may be able to send a clarifying letter. Harry will follow up. DMHAS subsidies working under 2018 FMRs. This is a big problem. They are working within DHS budget to get the subsidy rates current without reducing the number of subsidies.
- \$65.9 million for 2021, \$65.9 million for 2022 all for opioid prevention and treatment. Part of dialogue with CMS to see if they would allow security deposit and other housing support to be eligible but they refused. However, DMHAS is working with Medicaid to allow care management payment to help with securing an apartment, going to apply for other social service supports etc. A newsletter will be forthcoming.

6. Diane Riley, SHA executive director highlights included:

- a. Diane welcomed new members: Affordable Housing Alliance, Solar Landscape, Dimension Renewable Energy and Connect America.

Solar Landscape is a Community Solar program in NJ. The program prioritizes low to moderate income families and opens up opportunities for electricity benefits (20% discount on electricity). For more info email: patrick@solarlandscape.com. Connect America care company provides assistive technology care response to elderly and at risk populations, med management, personal emergency response, telehealth and remote patient vital monitoring. Can be used to connect people with I/DD and others to family member directly, care management person etc.

- b. Diane thanked everyone for making our 22nd annual conference a success. A special thanks to our sponsors, exhibitors, and those who attended. The workshops were excellent. Good news is that the workshops are available for 3 months. If you were not able to get to some of the workshops the two great keynotes, you can take advantage of the virtual availability. Extra shout out to M&T Bank who gave us an extra gift at the end of the year.
- c. Diane gave a final update on our Housing Navigator initiative funded by a grant by the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD). Course was held from Sept 3rd thru Oct 29th. 33 Navigators completed the program which consisted of 15 sessions and 35 hours of training. Students represented 32 agencies. The courses were taught by 29 guest lecturers who were subject matter experts in their topic. All of the Housing Navigators are listed on our website under housing hub <https://www.shanj.org/housing-navigators/>
- d. Diane introduced Kate Kelly Project Manager for our new program. SHA was one of 18 agencies who received NJ Division of Disability Services (DDS) grant to provide guidance on Community Integration. The goal of the project is to Increase the capacity of people with disabilities to become fully engaged in their communities. Kate led us through several poll questions to engage those present in understanding current community engagement. The project timeline is 18 months and will focus specifically on three counties: Bergen, Ocean and Camden.
Through focus groups in partnership with two main partners New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness & New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities we will engage people with a variety of disabilities including physical, intellectual and developmental, mental health and substance abuse disorders and who experience homelessness or are elderly. These groups will help define aspects of

Community integration. With help of leadership teams made up of people with disabilities and staff of organizations that serve them the project will survey and assess current successes and opportunities. There is room to further shift definition of inclusion & grow integration that will result in expanded leadership opportunities for people with a variety of disabilities in the municipalities where they live. Presentation can be found: <https://www.shanj.org/past-sha-membership-meetings/>

If you work in the three counties and would like to get involved, reach out to Kate.Kelly@shanj.org.

8. Arnold Cohen, Senior Policy Analyst from Housing Community Development Network of NJ HCDNNJ acohen@hcdnnj.org gave an update. \$591 million rental assistance coming to NJ from the stimulus. FEMA is providing 100% support for moving people out of congregate settings (previously just 70%). Congress should be acting within the next month on additional stimulus. Long term goals universal vouchers. Federal Reserve will issue new rules CRA which should reverse some of the detrimental rules recently established. Lobby Day sign up April 1st following the NLIHC annual conference. HCDNNJ received a grant through Affordable Housing Trust Fund for counselors and volunteer lawyers to work with tenants and landlords on payment plans in order to reduce the number of evictions.
9. Diane Riley introduced Krista D'Alessandro, Policy Analyst with Enterprise Community Partners to review federal housing policy landscape kdalessandro@enterprisecommunity.org
A national affordable housing non-profit, Enterprise invest in and syndicates affordable housing, own and operate affordable housing projects and advocate for policy at national, state and local level.
Highlights included:
 - A review of FY 2021. Year-end appropriations and Covid-19 relief package \$1.4 trillion in federal funding for FY 2021, \$900 billion in Covid-19 relief enacted on December 27 2020.Specifically:
 - \$1.35 billion for the HOME Investment Partnership program
 - \$3.475 billion for Community Development Block Grant
 - \$41 million for the Section 4 Capacity Building program
 - \$270 million for Community Development Financial Institutions
 - \$40 million for USDA's Section 515 Rental Housing programOther important achievements:

- A permanent, minimum 4 percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit) rate (130,000 additional affordable homes in the next 10 years)
 - \$1.2 billion allocation of disaster Housing Credits
 - A 5-year extension at \$5 billion for the New Markets Tax Credit
- Enterprise released 2021 Housing Playbook. 47 policy recommendations to Congress and the Biden-Harris administration. Three main areas: Equitable Covid-19 Recovery, Executive Action for Biden administration's first 100 days, and Legislative Actions for the 117th Congress. Major focus is expanding and strengthening Low Income Housing Tax Credit. New campaign, Enterprise co-chairs the ACTION Campaign, a coalition of nearly 2,400 local, state, and national organizations advocating for affordable housing. Find advocacy materials and join ACTION for free
- www.rentalhousingaction.org Great resources Fact Sheets by state, by legislative district. Reintroduce *Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (AHCIA)* Expansion of Increase of the Housing Credit allocation by 50%
- Finally Krista announced The Housing Affordability Breakthrough Challenge. Administered by Enterprise and made possible with the support of Wells Fargo. 6 organizations were awarded \$2.5 Million each to implement innovative housing solutions. Read about them on housingbreakthrough.org
- These and other very important updates can be found in the Full presentation here:

<https://www.shanj.org/past-sha-membership-meetings/>

10. The meeting concluded at 12:20 PM. Next meeting of the SHA membership is scheduled for Wed, April 7, 2021
11. SHA Advocacy and Policy Committee met after the membership meeting.

Submitted by Diane Riley, Executive Director