

Supportive Housing: The Public Policy of Creating Real Housing Options for Real People




**Mental Health
Association
in New Jersey, Inc.**



**Mental Health Association
of Essex County, Inc.**

**A PRESENTATION BY THE MENTAL HEALTH
ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, THE MENTAL
HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ESSEX COUNTY AND
MONARCH HOUSING ASSOCIATES**

Monarch Housing Associates' mission is to expand the supply, accessibility and variety of affordable, permanent supportive housing through development, planning, advocacy and partnerships.



- Founded in 1990 by the Mental Health Association of New Jersey, after a year long needs study, to be a housing development corporation specifically designed to expand access to housing for persons with mental illness
- Assisted clients to secure over \$100 million in funding and develop over 1,800 units of supportive and affordable rental housing.
- In the 2011 competitive CoC funding round, 16 counties working with Monarch received a total of \$10,318,089 in HUD funds for new projects and \$16,378,191 for project renewals - 62% of the total new funds awarded to the state of New Jersey.
- Advocated for increased federal funding and innovative solutions to homelessness on the federal, state and local levels.

Monarch Housing Associates



www.monarchhousing.org

Please visit our website to learn more about the work we do and to sign up for our daily email newsletter!

- Monarch provides consulting services to create permanent integrated housing opportunities that provide a variety of options and models to meet individuals' preferences.
- We work using a collaborative model to build partnerships to develop affordable, permanent supportive housing.
- We strive to deliver the highest quality products and services to our partners through teamwork, best practices, knowledge sharing and leadership.

About MHANJ



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About MHANJ



The Story of the Mental Health Bell

In the early days of mental health treatment, asylums often restrained people with iron chains and shackles.

With better understanding this cruel practice was ended.

In 1956, these inhumane bindings were melted down and recast into a sign of hope: the Mental Health Bell.

Now the 300-pound Bell remains a symbol of hope for improving mental health and achieving victory over mental illnesses.



*“Cast from shackles
which bound them,
this bell shall ring out
hope for the mentally
ill and victory over
mental illness.”*

- Inscription on the
Mental Health Bell



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About MHANJ



MHANJ's mission is to strive for mental health for children and adults through advocacy, education, training and services.

- 2012 Advocacy Agenda
 - Healthcare reform
 - Medicaid reform
 - Campus mental health
 - Services for the elderly
 - Anti-bullying



Mental Health
Association
in New Jersey, Inc.

About MHANJ



*We work to protect the
lives of New Jerseyans
who need behavioral
health services.*

- Support Services
 - NJ Mental Health Cares Helpline
 - Peer Recovery WarmLine
 - Peer Outreach Support Teams (POST)
 - Intensive Family Support Services (IFSS)
 - Self help support groups/centers



Mental Health
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About MHANJ



*MHANJ makes a
difference in the lives of
those in recovery.*

- Education and Training
 - Employment and Workforce Development
 - Career Connection Employment Resource Institute (CCERI)
 - Consumer Connections
 - WRAP Training (Wellness Recovery Action Plan)
 - Community Education for Organizations and Businesses
 - NJ Mental Health Players



Two HelpLines for Mental Health Information and Referral

New Jersey
MentalHealthCares

1-866-202-HELP (4357)

TTY 1-877-294-4356



1-877-292-5588

TTY 1-877-294-4356



Mental Health
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About MHANJ



Like us on
Facebook!

- Join Our E-list
 - NJ mental health news
 - Advocacy updates
 - Hot topics e-mails
- Visit our new Website at www.mhanj.org



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October 7, 2012
Visit www.mhanj.org
for more information




Contact Information



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Mental Health Association of New Jersey (MHANJ) strives for mental health for children and adults through advocacy, education, training, and services.



- Has a housing policy focus
- Provides political leadership
- Is the leading mental health advocacy organization in the State
- Chairs the statewide Mental Health Coalition and the Consumer Advocacy Partnerships
- Is a primary mover behind Supportive Housing, Olmstead, and SNHTF

MHANJ's Housing Public Policy Principles



- Equity in Housing Resources
- Expanding Housing Supply
- Inclusion/Integration
- Non-Discrimination
- Housing Choice
- Affordability
- Quality, Safe and Accessibility
- Access
- Promote Separation of Housing From Services
- Empowerment

Mental Health Association of Essex County



MHAEC's mission is to promote mental health including the integration of physical healthcare, to improve the care and treatment of individuals with mental illness and to remove the stigma associated with emotional and mental disorders.

More about MHEC



- As a community organization, accomplishes mission through advocacy, education, prevention, early intervention, treatment and service
- Incorporated in 1950
- Services provided
- 140 employees
- Essex County locations

MHAEC's Supportive Living Services



- Supportive Housing Program created in 2006
- Mission is
 - To increase accessibility to quality affordable housing in County to individuals diagnosed with serious and persistent mental illness
 - To provide high quality mental health services
 - Endeavor to help individuals develop a personal wellness and recovery plan leading to successful reintegration into the community

Quick Facts on Essex County, NJ



- Population – 785,137; 9% of NJ population
- Median value of owner-occupied housing units - \$395,700
- Median household income - \$55,125
- Percentage people living below poverty level – 14.6%

Homelessness in Essex County, NJ



- 2012 Point in Time Count of the Homeless (PIT) found 1,135 homeless men, women and children
- 14% of NJ's homeless population resided in County – highest percentage in state
- Total included 8,821 adults; 1,321 sheltered and 6,900 sheltered
- Largest homeless subpopulation was people with mental health issues

Chronic Homelessness in Essex County, NJ



- PIT found 877 chronically homeless adults; largest percentage in NJ
- 270 were unsheltered
- Population overwhelmingly reported mental health and/or substance abuse issues
- In last year, 33% reported being discharged into homelessness from jail and 24% from a medical hospital

MHAEC Consumer Demographics



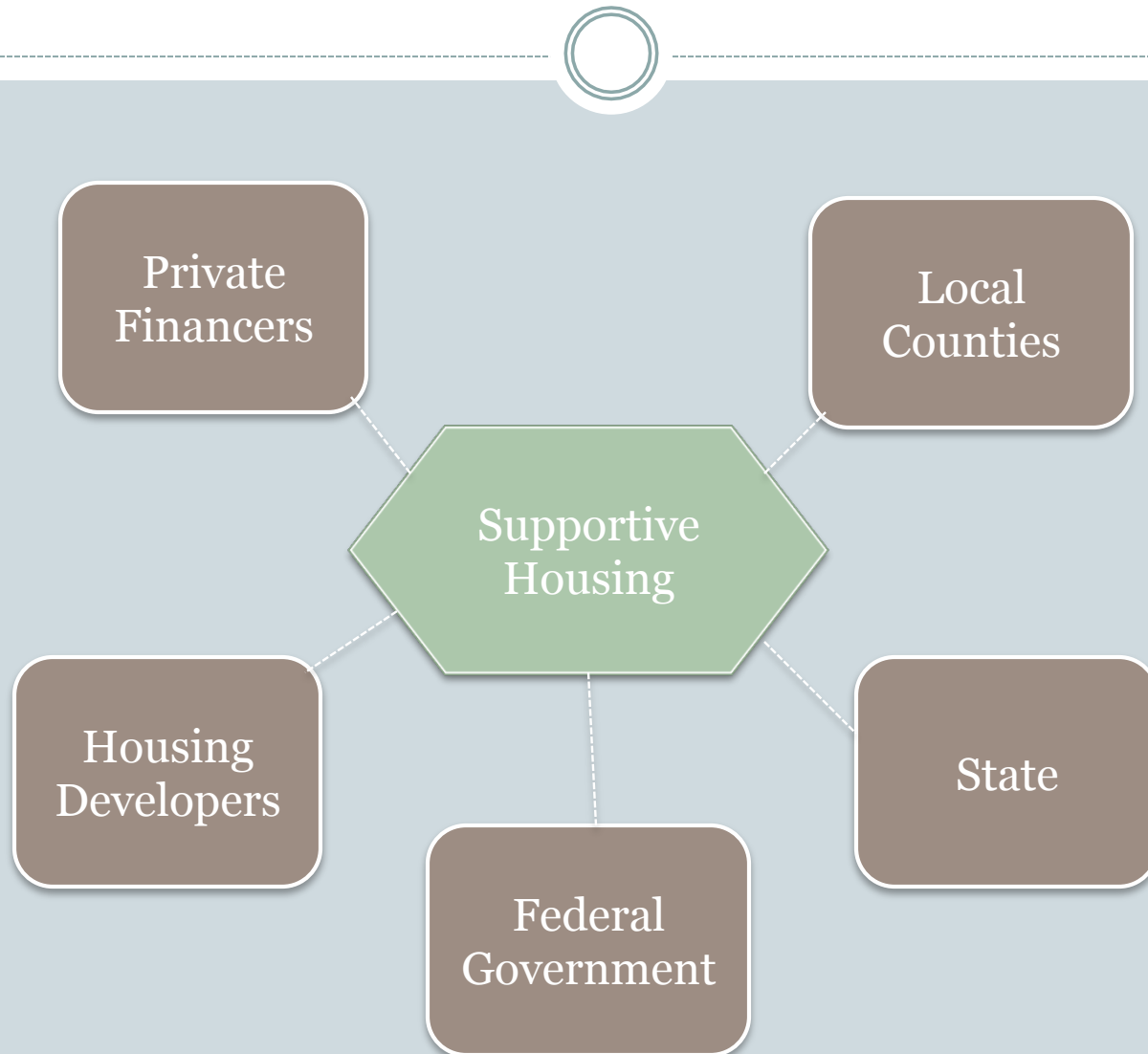
- 69 Consumers
- Ages 18-69
- 43 Males and 26 Females
- 7 Latino/Latina and 62 non-Latino/Latina
- Race – 3 Asian, 31 African American, and 45 Caucasian
- Specialty Populations include: Aging-Out, CO-Occuring, and KROL
(In 1975, State v. Krol established that a person acquitted by reason of insanity may be held in continued confinement if he or she is a danger to self or others and is in need of medical treatment.)

Blended Funding



- New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Corporation for Supportive Housing
- New Jersey Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA)
 - Special Needs Housing Trust Fund
- Essex County Division of Housing and Community Development
 - HOME Dollars
 - Emergency Solutions Grant

The Supportive Housing Partnership



Leadership in Supportive Housing



- Supportive housing empowers consumers
- Redefined housing to “homes” where families and individuals can live with the support they need
- Monarch spread the word with the COMING HOME newsletter

Policy – Effectiveness of New Jersey's Successful Housing Model



- Policy has shifted from housing individuals with mental illness in group homes to providing supportive housing
- Supportive housing was critical to the consumer driven and recovery movements of the 1990s

Initial Supportive Housing Funding



- Department of Mental Health Services (DMHS) provided \$5,000 - \$10,000
- Section 811
- HUD
- McKinney-Vento
- Local matches

History of Partnership and Collaboration



- MHANJ partnered to found Monarch in 1990
- Monarch conducted initial housing survey
- Survey was critical to consumer recovery movement
- Monarch grew diverse group of housing providers

History of Partnership and Collaboration



- CSH brought a local office to NJ
- Supportive Housing Association of NJ created
- Olmstead lawsuit – NJ settlement a policy decision that focused supportive housing as option for individuals discharged from state hospitals
- Supportive housing becomes option for other special needs populations

History of Partnership and Collaboration



- Governor's Codey's Mental Health Task Force – 2005 report - <http://www.nj.gov/njhealthlink/final-report.pdf>
- In 2005, Special Needs Housing Trust Fund (SNHTF) provided capital financing to create permanent supportive housing and community residences for individuals with special needs, with priority given to individuals with mental illness.
- SNHTF also brought focus to low income housing, homelessness, including veterans homelessness, and the developmentally disabled
- Monarch and partners across state work to bring Housing First to NJ

MHAEC Residences



Partnerships



- Consumer Choice
- Value “Expertise” & Affiliation Agreements
 - Integration of Physical Health
 - Local Hospitals/Clinics
- Share Responsibilities & Resources
 - Reduce potential fiscal strain

Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?



- Committees, Memberships and Groups
 - In-House Resources
 - Essex County Residential Meeting
- Continuum of Care (CoC) and Comprehensive Emergency Assistance System (CEAS) members

Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?



- Bridges Outreach, Inc.
- Weekly runs providing essentials to the homeless in Essex County, NJ
- Monthly outreaches
- Services provided on-site
- Volunteers – Prudential
- Food, Clothing & Toiletries
- Legal Services
- Veteran Services (GI Go Fund)
- HIV Testing
- Housing Providers
- Mental Health Providers

Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?



City of Newark

- 100,000 HOMES Campaign
- Newark 50 Project
- Press Conference
- Penn Station Project – “Think Different”

Advocacy



Governor Codey

Dover Woods

Advocacy



Orange Road Project

- Concerned Citizens/Zoning Board
- Local Media
- Court Decision
- Moving Forward

Orange Road Project – In Progress



Orange Road Project



North Building



South Building

Current Political Situation



- Low income housing under attack in New Jersey
- SNHTF update – Steering Committee Membership
 - Corporation for Supportive Housing, Housing and Community Development Network of NJ, , MHANJ, MHAEC, Supportive Housing Association, Disability Rights NJ, Penn Rose Management Group, Regan Development Corp., Hamilton Holdings, Monarch Housing Associates, New Jersey Community Development Corporation, Newbridge Services, Inc., Volunteers of America – Delaware Valley, Bergen County's United Way
- Now have data that supportive housing less expensive than state hospitals
 - In 2011, New Jersey's four state psychiatric hospitals housed patients at a rate of \$844/day compared to the daily cost of supportive housing at \$102/day; and
 - Once placed in housing, a formerly homeless patient who had previously visited the emergency room more than 450 times in one year, saw her ER visits drop to 26 the following year.

Current Political Situation



Raises Questions

- Should we be providing supportive housing to the disabled?
- Are we creating a dependent class?

Supportive Housing as Healthcare Reform



- Services people access in supportive housing included in the insurance benefit package and reimbursable through Medicaid
- Currently, newly eligible people will only have basic Medicaid coverage - care coordination, specialty care, case management, long-term mental health treatment and intensive substance use treatment most likely will not be included in their basic benefit package.
- NJ should expand Medicaid coverage and create benefit packages allowing tenants of supportive housing to have their service needs reimbursed by Medicaid.
- Number of options available for securing these benefits

Supportive Housing as Healthcare Reform



Supportive housing can:

- End homelessness for frequent users of emergency health services
- Be packaged as part of behavioral health homes
- Provide savings to government

Federal Advocacy



- Federal funding for vouchers is declining
- Only homeless veteran population seems to have federal government's attention
- How can we work to get more funding for the mental health population?

How to Reach Us



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Questions?

