



Friday, May 17, 2013

8am to 3:30pm

Bristol Myers Squibb, Plainsboro

**Organized by Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness &
Monarch Housing Associates**

Changing the System to End Family Homelessness

Presenters at the Conference

Annemarie Uebbing, Director for the Division of Community Planning and Development, HUD

Annemarie Uebbing is Director for the Division of Community Planning and Development in the Newark Field Office for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She is responsible for working with 56 entitlement communities to develop "placed base planning" for the use of CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, ESG, Continuum of Care funds, NSP grants and Disaster Recovery Funds. Ms. Uebbing was NJ Regional Director for The Community Preservation Corporation from 2003 to 2011. She has also worked as a senior planner for the firm of Heyer, Gruel and Associates. Her early career was based in Jersey City, where she held several positions dealing with affordable housing, community and economic development, including Director of HEDC. She has a MCRP from Rutgers University and a BA in Urban Studies from SUNY Buffalo. She was a Fannie Mae Fellow at the Senior Executives Program for State and Local Officials at Harvard University.

Jennifer Velez, Esq., Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Human Services

Jennifer Velez was confirmed as Commissioner of the NJ Department of Human Services in 2007; re-nominated by Governor Chris Christie and re-confirmed in March 2010. DHS has the largest budget in state government, with over 15,000 employees. About one in six New Jersey residents is impacted by the work of DHS.

Commissioner Velez works in partnership with the Administration on initiatives including: Medicaid reform; advancing supported placement of individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness in the community; creating employment opportunities for people with disabilities; and sustaining the safety-net of services made available for the state's older population, and individuals and families with low income.

Before entering public service, Velez was in private practice at the law firm of Pitney, Hardin, Kipp & Szuch in Florham Park, New Jersey. She received her law degree from Rutgers School of Law in Newark, NJ and her undergraduate degree in Economics from Drew University in Madison, NJ.

She lives in Summit with her husband and two children.

Anthony Marchetta, Executive Director of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency

Anthony L. Marchetta became the Executive Director of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency on September 1, 2010. Mr. Marchetta has over 35 years of professional planning and development experience in the public and private sector. During his initial two years with the Agency he has worked with staff to create new revenue generating programs including the Multifamily Conduit Loan Program and the Single Family Market Maker Loan Program. The Agency under his direction is updating and reprioritizing Qualified Allocation Plan of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program to incorporate education and employment opportunities in project site selection. Under his tenure the Agency in conjunction with the Department of Human Services and Department of Community affairs has initiated the Special Needs Housing Partnership Loan Program which has funded hundreds of new rental housing opportunities throughout the state.

Prior to joining the Agency, he was Vice President of LCOR Inc., where he developed multi-family and mixed-use projects within the Mid-Atlantic region. As an executive at LCOR, he managed the development of Gaslight Commons, a 200-unit luxury rental project in the "Transit Village" of South Orange, NJ. This project won the first New Jersey Future "Smart Growth" award in 2002. Mr. Marchetta has also worked with other major developers such Matrix Development Group and Baker Residential Inc. Governor Whitman appointed Mr. Marchetta to serve on the New Jersey State Planning Commission in 1998. Some of his many affiliations include the Regional Plan Association (RPA), The Urban Land Institute, and The National Association of Industrial and Office Parks (NAIOP). He received his undergraduate degree from Rutgers College, and later two master's degrees one in City and Regional Planning and the other in Business Administration both from Rutgers University.

Herb Levine, Executive Director of the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness

Herb Levine has been working to end homelessness since the early 1990's, both in volunteer roles and in his current professional capacity. He has served as Executive Director of the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness since 2007. The Mercer Alliance is a partnership of government, non-profit and business stakeholders committed to implementing policy changes that can end homelessness. Herb has overseen a substantive revision of the Mercer Alliance's plan to end homelessness, focusing on targeted prevention and permanent housing with support services. Under Herb's leadership, the Alliance has received national notice for its collaboration with the Mercer County Board of Social Services to put TANF at the center of strategies to end family homelessness. On the state level, Herb has served as secretary of the New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness and been the point person on General Assistance for the Anti-Poverty Network. On the local level, he has chaired Mercer County's Reentry Task Force, co-chaired the Mercer Housing Developers' Advocacy Team and been an active member of the Trenton Neighborhood Restoration Campaign, in concert with the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey.

Frank Cirillo, Director of the Mercer County Board of Social Services

Frank Cirillo is a graduate of Rider University and the Director of the Mercer County Board of Social Services (MCBOSS). He has over 40 years-experience at MCBOSS in administering a variety of social service programs, including Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, NJSNAP (Food Stamp Program), General Assistance, Adult Protective Services, Work First New Jersey (WFNJ), and Child Support.

Under his direction, MCBOSS has continued and expanded upon its tradition of developing strong and effective governmental and community partnerships in implementing program reforms, and advocating for new and creative efforts in addressing the challenges confronting poor and working poor individuals and families. These efforts include pilot initiatives to combat homelessness, facilitate re-entry from correctional institutions, improve access to nutrition, enhanced workforce development, and improved access to child support. MCBOSS has received numerous commendations and awards for program excellence in recognition of its efforts.

In August 2012, Frank was honored at the White House as a Champion of Change in the fight against child and youth homelessness. He was one of thirteen individuals nationwide chosen for this award.

Frank serves as a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness where he chairs the Housing Models/Practice Committee. Frank also serves as a member of the Mercer County Alliance to End Homelessness, the New Jersey Child Support Council, and the New Jersey Hunger Coalition. He is the Past President of the County Welfare Directors of New Jersey where he currently serves as a member. Additionally, he serves on numerous intergovernmental and community boards and organizations. He also served twelve years as a councilman for the City of Trenton, including four years as Council President (1999-2002).

Richard Brown, Monarch Housing

Richard W. Brown has thirty-five years experience in both housing development and the management of affordable housing. Since 1991 Richard W. Brown has been the Chief Executive Officer of Monarch Housing, the 1995 Governor's Excellence in Housing Award winner in the organization category.

Monarch Housing's vision is that every person will have quality affordable, permanent housing that fosters freedom, independence and community integration.

In addition, Mr. Brown was the original chairperson of the New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness.

Sharon McDonald, Director for Families and Youth at the National Alliance to End Homelessness

Sharon McDonald is the Director for Families and Youth at the National Alliance to End Homelessness where her primary focus is on policy and program strategies to prevent and end family and youth homelessness.

Before joining the Alliance in 2001, Sharon was a direct practitioner in a Richmond, Virginia community-based service center for people experiencing homelessness. She has experience providing and supervising the delivery of social work services to families in a service-enriched subsidized housing development for low income families.

Sharon was the 1999 National Association of Social Workers/Council on Social Work Education Congressional Fellow and served in Senator Paul D. Wellstone's office where she focused on welfare and housing issues. Sharon holds an MSW and a Ph.D. in Social Work and Social Policy from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Marygrace Billek, Director of Human Services, Mercer County

Marygrace Billek is the Director of Human Services for Mercer County, overseeing Homelessness, Mental Health, Substance Abuse and the Health Office. She has a Masters of Science of Social Work (MSSW) from Columbia and a Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University.

She previously worked for the State Department of Human Services in the Division of Child Behavioral Health Services, working on the Child Welfare Reform Plan and integrating substance abuse treatment and prevention services into the Children's System of Care. She came to Trenton in 2001 to work on The Robert Wood Johnson project "Demand Treatment," to increase access to substance abuse treatment for pregnant, addicted women.

Prior to her work in Mercer County, she was Director of Outpatient Treatment Services for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, where she oversaw \$5 million in funding in 25 program areas. She has also been an Adjunct Professor at the Rutgers University School of Social Work.

For the past five years, she has been an integral partner in the Mercer Alliance's planning process to end homelessness.

Jackie Edwards, Service Area Director, Catholic Charities

Jackie Edwards is the Service Area Director for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton, Emergency and Community Services. She provides oversight and overall management of programs that help individuals and families lift themselves out of poverty and homelessness including Rapid Re-Housing programs, basic needs assistance and prevention services, and Career Development, Job Readiness, and Job Retention/Advancement trainings. She currently serves on the Board of the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness. With over 30 years-experience in social services, Ms. Edwards has proven abilities as an advocate for vulnerable individuals and families.

Prior to joining Catholic Charities, Ms. Edwards was the Executive Director/CEO of Village Resources and served for 13 years as Associate Executive Director for Programs with Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey. She earned her Masters' Degree in Human Services and completed certifications in addiction services, person centered thinking, and essential lifestyle planning.

Christina S. Harcar, Administrative Supervisor of Social Services, Mercer County Board of Social Services

Ms. Harcar has been employed at Mercer County Board of Social Services since 1975. She began her career as an income eligibility worker for the Food Stamp program and soon was promoted to a Social Worker in the Adult Protective Service program. For most of her career she worked in the Adult Protective Service Unit as a social worker and then supervisor. This unit investigates complaints of alleged abuse, neglect and exploitation of the elderly and disabled residing in Mercer County and provides services to eliminate the risk. Mercer County's APS program is recognized as one of the best in the State of New Jersey.

In 2006, Ms. Harcar was appointed Assistant Administrative Supervisor of Social Services; she was responsible for many Social Services programs at the Board including APS program, the Work First New Jersey program and Housing Now-Rapid Rehousing. In 2010 she instrumental in created an in-house program at the Board to assist WFNJ/TANF clients with housing that follows the Rapid Rehousing model, Family Housing Initiative. The goal of the program is to assist clients with housing stability while wrapping around services that allows the client to resolve barriers that may be holding them back from securing and maintaining self-sufficiency. This program has re-organized the way Mercer County Board of Social Services delivers housing services to the consumers. In 2012, Ms. Harcar was appointed to the position of Administrative Supervisor of Social Services of Social Work.

Tom Albanese, Senior Associate, Abt Associates

Tom Albanese provides consulting and technical assistance services as a Senior Associate with Abt Associates. Tom has provided planning, development, implementation and management support for housing and homeless programs since 1992. He currently manages Abt support for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) around data collection and reporting, provides technical assistance around policy and evidence-based practices for various states and localities as part of HUD technical assistance initiatives, and is a lead provider of technical assistance for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program. Tom previously served as the Director of Programs and Planning for the Community Shelter Board (CSB) in Columbus, Ohio, where he managed local Continuum of Care planning and technical assistance, and as the Associate Director of a diverse family services agency with responsibilities for the agency's homeless services, mental health, and community programs. He has served as the director of an emergency shelter for single adults and families and was the founding director of a 75 unit transitional housing program recognized as a best practice by HUD and the State of Ohio. Tom received his undergraduate degree in sociology from Kent State University and is a Licensed Social Worker in Ohio.

Taiisa Kelly, Associate, Monarch Housing Associates

Taiisa Kelly has worked with Monarch Housing Associates on homeless planning issues for the past 7 years. Through her work with Monarch, she has assisted communities throughout the state of New Jersey in evaluating their homeless service system and developing comprehensive plans to move towards ending homelessness. Ms. Kelly has assisted 7 of the 21 counties with the development and implementation of ten year plans to end homelessness. She has also worked with 9 of the 21 counties to develop innovative programs to address specific needs of various homeless sub-populations.

In her role as a homeless planning consultant, Ms. Kelly works with communities to secure funding for homeless programs through the Continuum of Care application process, assists in local management and analysis of HMIS and point in time data, and advocates for the implementation of best practices to move communities towards ending homelessness.

Ms. Kelly received her BA from Rutgers University in the field of Psychology and Anthropology. Prior to joining Monarch Housing Associates, she spent 3 years teaching English abroad and 2 years working with youth placed in group homes through the child welfare system.

Paul Rossi, Foothold Technology, Director, Client Services Division

In addition to overseeing Foothold Technology's compliance with HUD's HMIS Data Standards, Paul works with Foothold's statewide and multi-county database implementations supporting clients in process development, implementation planning, database administration and training. Prior to joining Foothold Technology as their Philadelphia based Director of Homeless Information Services in 2001, Paul spent more than ten years in Los Angeles providing direct client services to the homeless and those living with HIV/AIDS as well as serving as the Director of Programs for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. From his experiences in both the public and private sectors, Paul brings a unique perspective to the non-profit/social service arena and a keen interest in improving the efficiency of social service delivery. Using his technical expertise, program management and client service experiences, Paul helped to develop the HMIS version of AWARDS.

Erin Lue-Hing, HMIS Help Desk/Data Quality Specialist, New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency

Ms. Lue-Hing's work focuses on HMIS data quality, HMIS help desk, and system-level performance measurement. She joined the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency in July 2012 after graduating from Brandeis University, where she double-majored in Law and Health & Social Policy. Her background is primarily in health disparities research, health policy analysis and recommendation, and advocacy for housing and disability rights. Prior to working with the HMFA, she worked with Health Leads in Washington, D.C., in which she directly coordinated action plans with clients to address their social determinants of health, including food, transportation, and housing insecurity. Prior to this work, she served as a tenant advocate for the Waltham Alliance to Create Housing (W.A.T.C.H.) in Waltham, MA.

Vernett Sherrill, City of Trenton, Dept. of H&HS Grant Administrator

Vernett Sherrill is a public servant for the City of Trenton, Department of Health and Human Services with more than 24 years-experience. She is a dedicated Grants Administrator serving special needs populations. Her passion is that “no one should be Home–Less.”

Ms. Sherrill oversees approximately six million dollars in grants from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Program, the Emergency Solutions Grant, the Community Development (Public Services) Block Grant, the expired American Recovery Reinvestment Act Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program and the local Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP).

She was instrumental in the establishment of the Greater Trenton Earned Income Tax Credit Asset Building Coalition earning her recognition from the Internal Revenue Service for her outstanding effort in building stronger workplaces and communities.

She is a member of the Trenton/Mercer Continuum of Care (CoC), the EFSP Local Board, the Mercer County Homelessness Trust Fund Task Force, and the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness System’s collaborative. Ms. Sherrill is a graduate of Rider University and Mercer County Community College.

Kathleen Cassidy, Consultant to Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness

Kathleen Cassidy has been a consultant with the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness since 2008. Her role is primarily program and system development and technical assistance with the three government agencies involved with homelessness in Mercer County: the City of Trenton department of Health and Human Services, County of Mercer Department of Human Services and Mercer County Board of Social Services. This has included designing the program models for Rapid Rehousing for Families and Individuals.

Ms. Cassidy has a Masters in Social Work and spent 27 years in the New Jersey Department of Human Services in the areas of mental health, developmental disabilities and children's services dealing with housing and services in all these areas. She served as an Assistant Commissioner and the Development Director for the Children System of Care.