

THE COLLABORATIVE ON REENTRY REENTRY HOUSING MEETING

Presenter Biographies September 30, 2009

Deborah De Santis became President and CEO of the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) in January 2007. She joined the nonprofit organization in 2003 as Director of CSH's New Jersey program. A national organization, CSH helps communities throughout the country create permanent affordable housing with services that prevent and end homelessness.

Under her leadership, CSH has developed and refined several innovative programs to expand the reach and effectiveness of supportive housing. As President and CEO, Ms. De Santis has guided the development of initiatives that bring the benefits of supportive housing to many more people at risk of chronic homelessness including veterans, those reentering society from hospitals and correctional facilities, youth and the elderly.

Her efforts have led to the creation of an internal CSH Innovations Team, placing a continuing effort on better programs, and CSH Consulting Group, a flexible and mobile group of experts who travel the country assisting communities with supportive housing development. She has also stressed more accountability in the supportive housing industry and the creation of Dimensions of Quality; independent benchmarks to measure successful supportive housing projects. Ms. DeSantis has been a strong advocate for incorporating the proven cost saving methods found in supportive housing in any effort to reform healthcare. During her tenure, CSH surpassed the halfway mark in its goal to create 150,000 new units of supportive housing throughout the United States. As CSH-New Jersey Director, Ms. De Santis tripled the state program's lending portfolio, successfully advocated for the creation of New Jersey's \$200 million Special Needs Housing Trust Fund, and helped launch a statewide grassroots organization to advance the development of 100,000 units of affordable housing over 10 years, including 10,000 units of supportive housing.

Immediately prior to joining CSH, Ms. De Santis oversaw the business operations of a real estate development company, International Senior Development, LLC. From 1998 to 2002, she was with the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, first as COO and then as Executive Director. While at the Agency, and in the spirit of CSH's work, she initiated joint investment opportunities with other state offices including the NJ Health Care Facilities Finance Agency and the NJ Department of Human Services. Ms. De Santis also served as Deputy Chief of Staff to New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman from 1996 to 1998, and as Deputy Commissioner of the NJ Department of Community Affairs, which oversees the development of affordable housing in the state. As Deputy Commissioner, she was actively involved in efforts to move disabled, nonviolent mentally ill residents from unsafe and substandard boarding homes to more appropriate living conditions within their communities.

Ms. De Santis received a BS in Business Administration from Babson College. She resides in New Jersey with her partner and two children.

John Fallon, B.S., is a Program Manager in Illinois at the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) working as part of the Returning Home Initiative. This is a six million dollar 3-year national study designed to extend and develop the model of permanent supportive housing for those persons who are homeless and disabled and frequently cycling through the criminal justice system. John comes to CSH after eighteen years at Thresholds directing two specialized teams working to place people from Cook County Jail back into the community. Typical members had a history of 50

arrests, 20 psychiatric hospitalizations and decades of homelessness in their history. The success of this project has resulted in the American Psychiatric Association awarding this project with the national 2001 Gold Achievement Award for small community based programs. John has 25+ years of experience in the mental health field which includes providing residential and outreach services to adolescents, children, persons who are homeless, as well as persons in correctional and health care settings with a wide range of co-occurring barriers in addition to their being diagnosed with a wide variety of specific psychiatric disorders.

Andrea Hall is a community organizer who joined the staff of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) in 2006. Andrea is originally from Oshkosh, Wisconsin and was raised by a single Jamaican mother. Throughout childhood Andrea coped with homelessness off and on, including stints in family shelters, doubled-up with friends, and as a youth on her own. Realizing education is the key to a better life, Andrea went on to earn degrees in social work, a master's from Washington University in St. Louis and a bachelor's from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Andrea's background led her to become interested in community organizing and social justice. Shortly after graduating with her MSW, she was recruited by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to become a union organizer. Through the work with the union, she was introduced to CCH and soon realized that her true passion was working on housing and homeless issues. A year later, CCH recruited Andrea to organize homeless and recently homeless people, for whom she has a personal connection. Currently Andrea works with ex-offenders and prostitution survivors who struggle with housing and employment barriers. Andrea offers monthly outreach at eight Chicago shelters and housing programs, guided by a Steering Committee made up of ex-offenders, advocates, and academics.

Janet Hasz has served as the Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Providers Association (SHPA) for the last ten years, supporting over 100 nonprofit organizations located throughout Illinois that provide supportive housing to homeless individuals and families, who often also have special needs, such as mental illness or HIV/AIDS. Under her leadership the association has grown by more than 800% since going statewide in June 2000. SHPA connects its members in state and national advocacy/education campaigns to secure and preserve funding sources; provides opportunities for members to share knowledge, experience, and cutting-edge best practices through quarterly statewide forums; and trains supportive housing residents and staff in advocacy. The association, through its advocacy efforts, has increased state funding for supportive housing services by a total of \$21.85 million. SHPA, working in partnership with the Corporation for Supportive Housing, adopted the Illinois Dimensions of Quality, guidelines for supportive housing quality, completed a cost comparison study of supportive housing with the Social IMPACT Research Center of Heartland Alliance, and is developing a campaign to increase supportive housing in Illinois by 7,700 units in ten years.

Ms. Hasz has 27 years of leadership experience in the field of non-profit affordable housing. As executive director of a community-based development agency, she directed the rehabilitation of 500 units of family affordable rental housing and the new construction of 28 award-winning affordable town homes.

Leonard A. Jason, PhD is a Professor of Psychology at DePaul University and the Director of the Center for Community Research. He received his PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Rochester. Jason is a former president of the Division of Community Psychology of the American Psychological Association (APA) and a past editor of *The Community Psychologist*. He received the 1997 Distinguished Contributions to Theory and Research Award and the 2007 Special Contribution to Public Policy award by the Society for Community Research and Action

(Division 27 of the APA). Jason has published over 512 articles and 77 book chapters on chronic fatigue syndrome, preventive school based interventions; the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse; media interventions; and program evaluation. He has served on the editorial boards of ten psychological journals and has edited or written 21 books. Jason has served on review committees of the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the National Institute of Mental Health and has received over \$26,000,000 in federal research grants. He has received three media awards from the APA, and is frequently asked to comment on policy issues for numerous media outlets.

Gloria Materre was appointed as Executive Director, by the Illinois Housing Development Authority's (IHDA) Board of Directors on September 18, 2009 to lead the state's efforts to finance affordable housing across Illinois. An attorney with real estate and business development background, Materre served as deputy chief of staff under Governor Pat Quinn, playing an instrumental role in housing, legislative matters, economic and business development and community stabilization. In October 2009, she will become chair of the Illinois Task Force on Minority Business Development. Materre holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a law degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

David Rosa was born and raised in Chicago, IL. He is a formally incarcerated individual who came to St. Leonard's House upon his release from the Illinois Dept Corrections in 1999. Mr. Rosa completed the program and started working for St. Leonard's House as a program staff and then promoted in 2002 to his current position as the Administrator for St. Andrew's Court.

Brian M. Rowland is the Founder and CEO/President of A Safe Haven LLC a property management company that provides a broad continuum of housing for special populations such as those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. A Safe Haven is the largest operator of recovery homes in the United States. Founded in 1995 A Safe Haven provides services to over 2,000 individuals annually and over 28,000 people to date. A Safe Haven provides supportive housing, independent living and affordable housing throughout the Chicago land area. A Safe Haven started by providing recovery home and sober living arrangements to individuals in various stages of recovery from alcohol and substance abuse issues and expanded into affordable housing in 2003 to meet the needs of those completing programs particularly women with children. The A Safe Haven Model is becoming recognized as the missing link in the continuum of care for those in recovery. The A Safe Haven Model focuses on changing addictive lifestyle behavior and establishing long-term success.

Ellen K. Sahli is the 1st Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Community Development. The Department of Community Development works to strengthen neighborhoods and enhance affordability by providing a range of housing opportunities for all Chicagoans. Since 1989, under the leadership of Mayor Daley, Chicago has accessed \$4 billion to assist more than 150,000 housing units throughout the city, including new single family homes, rental housing for working families and senior citizens and single-room-occupancy buildings. The City's comprehensive approach to affordable housing includes not only the Five-Year Plan of the Department of Community Development, but also the Chicago Housing Authority's Plan for Transformation and the city's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness.

As 1st Deputy Commissioner, Ms. Sahli is directing the department's operations and activities to ensure that the goals set forth in these plans are met. Additionally, she oversees the Department's strategic commitments of local resources, creative program design, and aggressive advocacy for state and federal assistance. This includes directing initiatives to create and preserve SRO and supportive housing units and providing leadership on policies and programs affecting overall supportive

housing development, including family housing and foster care initiatives. Additionally, Ms. Sahli oversees the Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund which administers the largest locally funded rental subsidy program in the country.

Prior to joining the City of Chicago in 1999, Ms. Sahli served as a key staff member at the Corporation for Supportive Housing and the Mental Health Association in Illinois. A social worker by profession, Ms. Sahli holds a Master of Social Work from the Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois - Chicago. She is married and the mother of one son.

Elizabeth M. Silas, Esq. is the Deputy General Counsel for the Housing Policy and Legislation Division in the Office of the General Counsel at the Chicago Housing Authority. Ms. Silas' responsibilities include supervision of support staff, Assistant General Counsels, and the Fair Housing Manager within the Division and assistance with the strategic and policy management for CHA's Public Housing and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Ms. Silas' work centers around the development of the CHA's governing policies for the public housing and housing choice voucher program. She advises the constituent departments of the CHA regarding compliance with the Relocation Rights Contract and federal regulations governing public housing and the housing choice voucher program, and handles fair housing issues and discrimination complaints filed through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, various state and local agencies, or housing residents. Ms. Silas also assists with development of leasing documents (tenant selection plans, leases and lease riders) for mixed-income developments and resolves tenant disputes raised by residents, various advocate groups and manages the resident grievance procedure.

Ms. Silas, a Chicago native, is a licensed attorney, with more than seventeen years legal experience with the Chicago Housing Authority. She earned her Juris Doctorate from John Marshall Law School and is licensed to practice law in the state and federal courts of Illinois. Ms. Silas also holds a Certificate as a Section 8 Housing Manager.

Cook County Board President Todd H. Stroger was sworn in as the 33rd President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners on December 4, 2006. President Stroger's career in public service began as an employee for the Office of the Chief Judge of Cook County, where he served as Jury Supervisor to the Cook County Jury Commissioners. Later, he served as an administrative assistant for the Chicago Park District. In 1992, Stroger successfully ran for State Representative of the 31st Legislative District. In the legislature, he worked intimately on issues affecting the daily lives of Cook County residents. Throughout his career in Springfield, Stroger consistently led Democratic efforts to reform state government, improve the quality of life in Illinois, and bring social justice to all citizens. He worked to control taxes and reduce spending, to increase access to affordable health care and to eliminate wage discrimination against women.

On September 5, 2001, Stroger was appointed by Mayor Richard Daley to fill the office of the late Alderman Lorraine Dixon and, in February 2003, won re-election to that office. As Alderman, Stroger was instrumental in bringing affordable housing to people of all income levels. Additionally, he brought much-needed commercial development to the community; assisted neighborhoods in their beautification efforts; aided in street, sidewalk, and curb repairs; organized one of the largest community back-to-school events in the city; and sponsored numerous free summer sports programs for children in the community.

President Todd Stroger's Administration is committed to reinventing Cook County government, by effecting real change in the government's operations and finding creative solutions to its myriad

challenges. President Stroger is a product of a long tradition of public service. His father, John H. Stroger, Jr., is a former three-term President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and long-time Eighth Ward Democratic Committeeman who spent more than three decades in public service, helping bring much-needed social services to the poor, uninsured and underserved residents of Cook County.

President Stroger is a graduate of St. Ignatius College Prep and of Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he matriculated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History. His professional experience also includes work as an investment banker at SBK-Brooks Investment Corporation.

Pamela Ward is currently the Statewide Housing Coordinator of the Illinois Department of Corrections. In this capacity she reviews, evaluates and implements policies and procedures regarding the placement of inmates into public and subsidized housing. Further she advocates for intra and inter agency systemic changes related to the inclusion of ex-offender access to housing. Ms. Ward functions as an IDOC representative with multiple state and ancillary agencies related to increasing housing opportunities for the formerly incarcerated.

Pamela Ward has been employed with the Illinois Department of Corrections for 17 years. In her tenure with IDOC she has been the Assistant Manager of the Placement Resource Unit, Assistant Supervisor of Westside Adult Correctional Center, Casework Supervisor at Illinois Youth Center of Chicago, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director of the Juvenile Division and the Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Director of the Community Services Division.

Ms Ward is a mentor for at-risk girls with her local church and the assistant coordinator for the teen recycling program with her community. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Governor's State University and has completed the coursework for the completion of CADAC.

Anthony M. Zipple, Sc.D., MBA, has served as the Chief Executive Officer for Thresholds since 2003. Thresholds, a Chicago-based organization, was founded in 1959 and is focused on the use of evidence based practices to assist people with disabling mental illnesses to get decent homes, good jobs, achieve educational success, and find optimal levels of physical and mental health. With an annual budget of \$60,000,000, Thresholds' 850 staff serves nearly 6000 individuals each year in Cook, McHenry, Kankakee, and Lake Counties. Thresholds has a very active research department and is currently is conducting research in the areas of supported employment, jail diversion, wellness management and recovery, assertive community treatment, and a variety of other mental health recovery related topics.

Dr. Zipple has worked with community mental health programs for almost 35 years as a clinical manager, public administrator, consultant, teacher, researcher, and executive. Dr. Zipple holds a Doctor of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from Boston University, an MBA from the University of New Hampshire, and MS and BA degrees from the University of Notre Dame. He is a licensed psychologist and has authored over 60 articles, book chapters, monographs and books on topics related to community mental health. He serves on the Editorial Boards of *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal* and *Psychiatric Rehabilitation*. Dr. Zipple was the winner of the 2004 John Beard Award of the International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services for outstanding contributions to the field of psychosocial rehabilitation.