



## 2020 Virtual Residents Conference Life As We Know It

### Agenda

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- 12:00 – 12:05 pm Welcome!

Please join us to hear a welcome message from SHPA's Executive Director, David Esposito and Resident Co-Chair, Allison Gaiter.

- 12:05 – 12:20 pm Ice Breaker

- 12:20 – 12:50 pm Self-Care and Reflection Workshop; presented by Jennifer Orban

This workshop brings things to a personal level. We will be talking about what self-care is and how to make it a habit. This is a conversation, not a lecture, where we will talk about the individual challenges you face and the positive impact this habit can have on your life. We close with a reflection, to help you focus on yourself before you set your own intention/goal to start building this important habit in a way that works for you.

- 12:50 – 1:00 pm Break

- 1:00 – 1:20 pm The New Norms; presented by Aaron Eldridge, Sr.

We will examine how COVID-19 has changed the world. Discuss how long we/it will be like this. We will discuss how we interact with each other and now our normal lives have changed to practicing social distancing, staying and working from home, to now wearing PPE's and how these new norms will impact the future.

- 1:20 – 1:30 pm Day 1 Wrap Up



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August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- 12:00 – 12:20 pm    **Welcome Back!**
- 12:20 – 12:50 pm    **2020 What Is Next? presented by Merridith Montgomery**

2020 has reaffirmed the importance of Supportive Housing. In this session we will debrief 2020 and discuss our next steps so we together can build an Illinois where everyone has a home.

- 12:50 – 1:00 pm    **Break**
- 1:00 – 1:30 pm    **Resident Committee Co-Chair Candidates Forum**

Each candidate will have a short video of **Who** they are and **Why** they should be chosen to help lead the committee. Then voting will take place to elect the Co-Chair of the Committee.



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### Speakers

**Aaron Eldridge:** Mr. Eldridge has committed over 20 years to operating supportive housing programs and working in the homeless services field, along with providing Training and Technical Assistance to agencies in the industry. Mr. Eldridge is a graduate of St. Augustine's University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications and MS. Human Service Administration from Spertus College. Mr. Eldridge participates in various associations and committees relating to Housing and Homeless services.

**David Esposito:** David has over 21 years of hands on experience developing, managing and operating over 100 projects and 1500 units of supportive housing. David has participated and been a leader in numerous Continua of Care across the state of Illinois, such as Chicago, Suburban Cook County, Lake County and McHenry County where he served as char for one year. He has been a leader in pushing for systemic change to ensure access to decent, safe and affordable housing, supportive services and access to healthcare. As we enter a new era David is excited to be working with you, our members, and coalition partners to bring about change towards racial equality. **THE TIME IS NOW!**

**Merridith Montgomery:** Merridith currently serves as the Policy & Advocacy Coordinator at SHPA. She was worked in Homeless Response for 10 years, most recently as the Homeless Services Director for the Will County Continuum of Care (CoC), serving Will, Kendall and Grundy Counties. She engaged and mobilized community partners, launched community-wide initiatives, and successfully achieved outcomes. Under Merridith's leadership, the Will County CoC became distinguished as the 50<sup>th</sup> community in the county to have effectively ended veteran homelessness.

Merridith received her Bachelor of Art in Sociology from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her career began providing education and empowering workshops in Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Centers in the far Southside of Chicago, where her passion for making a difference found its roots. In 2010, Merridith began working with families experiencing literal homelessness in emergency shelters in Suburban Cook County, providing housing and supportive services to the most vulnerable families. She worked directly with the homeless population, providing case management and advocacy to all facets of the population, including Veterans, Families, Youth, Chronic and Vulnerable.

**Jennifer Orban:** Jennifer is currently the Illinois Coordinator Central and Southern Region for Supportive Housing Providers Association. She assists providers in staying abreast of the most current evidence-based practices and initiatives through providing training and technical assistance services to help them achieve greater success for their supportive housing programs in Central and Southern Illinois.

Jennifer has over 20 years of experience in direct service provision including case management and management of supportive services programs and advocacy. She has a M.S. in Human Services Administration, and a B.S. in Education. Jennifer is also a Certified Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Counselor, Co-occurring Substance Use and Mental Health Disorder Professional II and received advanced education in Employee Assistance Programs. Prior to joining SHPA, Jennifer was department lead, responsible for achieving self-sufficiency outcomes through integrated service delivery of housing and counseling and financial opportunity center (Next Step) activities and programs, including applicable grant preparation and monitoring. Jennifer also served as a staff representative on the Mid Central Community Action Housing Development Committee.