

A SAFE RETURN TO NORMAL

What Does That Look Like?

SHPA 2021
Resident Conference
August 18th & 19th



**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION**

Working together, we can accomplish anything



12:00 pm – 12:10 pm

Welcome to the Virtual Resident’s Conference 2021

Please join us to hear a welcome message from SHPA’s Executive Director, David Esposito and Resident Co-Chair, Marketta Simms.

12:10 pm – 12:30 pm

WORKSHOP - A Safe Return to Normal: “What Does That look Like?”

This workshop brings things to a personal level. With candid conversation among conference participants, we will be talking about what we think a safe return to normal looks like. In this discussion, we will talk about the individual challenges of the return to normal and what that looks like for each of us. We close with a reflection, to help you focus on yourself before you set your own intention/goal to start to build this important habit in a way that works for you.

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm

***Just Housing Legal Clinic* by Charlie Isaacs**

Cook County’s Just Housing Amendment (JHA) prohibits housing discrimination based on prior justice involvement (arrests, convictions, etc.). Led by individuals who have been directly impacted, the Just Housing Legal Clinic provides a space for community members to discuss the JHA, access legal support, and organize for full protection under the law!

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Day One Wrap Up

AGENDA

Thursday, August 19th

12:00 pm – 12:10 pm

Welcome back!

SHPA's Resident Co-Chair, Patrick Sturmer will welcome us back and Melissa Calloway from Ameren Illinois will give a presentation.

12:10 pm – 12:40 pm

Resident Roundtable Discussion; Moderator Susan Day

Join us for an interactive session with residents from supportive housing to discuss topics related to the safe return to normal. Some topics we will be discussing include coping mechanisms used during the lockdown, how the pandemic affected persons of supportive housing, strategies used to re-enter society and what are some of the positives we can take away from the past year.

12:40 pm – 12:50 pm

Advocacy Corner by Merridith Montgomery

Advocacy is Active! The SHPA team will share how Resident Leadership helps shape our policy work and improves our advocacy activities! We will discuss ways you can get involved in our collective work to support supportive housing. Telling your story, is telling our story.

12:50 pm – 1:00 pm

Resident Membership Presentation by Susan Day

This informative session will explain the benefits of SHPA membership for residents and take a look at the Resident Leadership and Empowerment Program.

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm

Resident Committee Co-Chair Candidates Introduction by Susan Day

Please join us to meet Marketta Sims and Patrick Sturmer, our newly elected co-chairs of the Resident's Committee. They will each take a moment to introduce themselves and speak to the work they hope to accomplish as committee co-chairs. An affirmation vote will occur to add the co-chairs to the SHPA Board of Directors.

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm

Thank you and Closing by David Esposito

SPEAKERS



Melissa Calloway

Melissa Calloway is the Ameren Illinois Multifamily Outreach Coordinator with CMC Energy. She enjoys assisting the Ameren Illinois customers learn how to be energy efficient, save energy and lower utility costs. Melissa spends a lot of time on the road at food pantries, churches, and at other organizations doing outreach to help. She enjoys watching her St. Louis Cardinals and Chiefs play.



Charlie Isaacs

Charlie Isaacs is an Equal Justice Works fellow at the Uptown People's Law Center. Sponsored by Seyfarth Shaw LLP and United Airlines, Inc., Charlie's fellowship project focuses on the implementation of Cook County's Just Housing Amendment, a law that protects people with prior justice involvement from housing discrimination in housing applications and lease renewals. Charlie's work also focuses on providing legal support for tenants in Uptown facing evictions, poor living conditions, and other disputes with landlords. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from Northwestern University.



David Esposito

David has over 22 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 chair 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!**

SPEAKERS



Merridith Montgomery

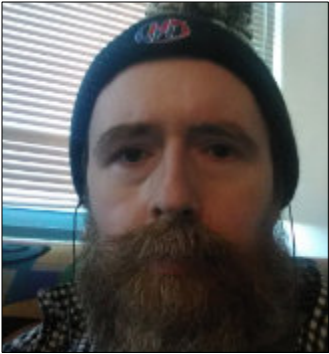
Merridith currently serves as the Policy & Advocacy Coordinator at SHPA. She was worked in Homeless Response for 10 years, most recently as the Homeless Services Director for the Will County Continuum of Care (CoC), serving Will, Kendall and Grundy Counties. She engaged and mobilized community partners,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



Susan Day

Susan began her career as a Homeless Prevention Navigator, providing comprehensive case management services to families and single individuals experiencing near or literal homelessness. She was instrumental in establishing collaboration among community agencies and contributed toward shaping policies to achieve desirable outcomes. During her tenure she piloted a rapid rehousing program in coordination with her local shelter and housing authority, designing services and programming for sustainability. In her previous role, Susan worked as the Case Management Supervisor for a Homeless Shelter where many homeless individuals and families achieved success under her leadership. She is honored to have worked with many populations within homeless services to provide case management. Susan has transitioned out of direct service to become SHPA's Illinois Coordinator-Central & Southern Region and is excited to bring her enthusiasm for working with residents to SHPA's Resident Leadership and Empowerment Program.

SPEAKERS



Chris O'Hara

Chris has been involved with SHPA for several years. He has participated in Governance, Membership, DEI, and Residents Committees. Chris has been involved in live and virtual conferences for SHPA. He is a co-Chair of the Lived Experience Commission in Chicago, on the Board of Directors for Suburban Cook County and has been involved in Continuum of Care of Chicago and Suburban Cook County. Chris is also on State Board on Mental Health, the Board for Center for Housing and Health, and the Board for Legal Aid Chicago. Chris participates on the Board for Red Line Service which empowers people of housing instability through the arts and pays a real working wage for essays, articles, and photography. He is involved in advocacy at the city, county, state and federal level. He has been involved in peer support at Thresholds. He is also a part time reporter for City Bureau where he covers online and physical public meetings to try to make them more accessible to the general public.



Marketta Sims

Marketta Sims is a poet, activist, acting drug counselor, and helper of people. I stand before you believing in equality for all and opportunities. No one should not be afforded the right to live and not just exist. I give back what was freely given to me. I am the voice that creates change from bondage and build policies to stand accountable in law. I am you and you are me.



SPEAKERS



Laura Doss



Patrick Sturmer

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