

Supportive Housing Network's Annual Conference

Friday, 18 June 2010 13:30



Keynote speaker Barbara Poppe, Executive Director of the Interagency Council on Homelessness, with Ted Houghton, Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Network of New York.

More than 1,000 participants turned out for the 10th Annual New York State Supportive Housing Conference June 10th, sponsored by the Supportive Housing Network of New York.

Attendees heard an update on supportive housing initiatives at the national level from the newly-appointed head of the Interagency Council on Homelessness, Barbara Poppe. She reported that for the first time the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Veterans Administration were working together to address the homeless issue. She also emphasized President Obama's support for these programs noting an 11% increase in his 2011 budget.

Adolfo Carrión, Jr., the newly-appointed HUD Regional Administrator for New York and New Jersey, also addressed the gathering.

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The conference featured workshops with nine City and State government leaders that work in the supportive housing field: Michael Hogan (NYS OMH), Rafael Cestero (NYC HPD), Brian Lawlor, (nyhomes), Marc Jahr (NYC HDC), Mike Skrebutenas (NYS DHCR), Dr. Adam Karpati (NYC DOHMH), Robert Doar (NYS HRA), Elizabeth Berlin (OTDA), and Seth Diamond (NYC DHS), as well as government leaders from Connecticut, New Jersey, and Massachusetts.

“Amidst almost unrelenting bad news, it’s extremely cheering to see 1000 of the most creative government, private sector and non-profit practitioners working together to come up with ever-more effective and cost-efficient approaches to ending chronic homelessness,’ said Network Executive Director Ted Houghton. “We were especially glad to be able to include national leadership and broaden our reach to New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts this year. We continue to be hopeful that supportive housing’s thirty year track record will prevail in these dire economic times as a means of saving both lives and public resources.