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## Senior Housing Forum 1/16/2020 – Speaker Bios

*“The increase in the aging population coupled with the lack of affordable and accessible housing in New Jersey has left many older adults wondering how they will be able to age in their own communities. This is why we need to talk about solutions and ask policy makers to focus on aging-in-place initiatives. We are grateful to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for hosting this timely discussion.”*

~NJFA Executive Director Melissa Chalker, MSW

### **Panel 1, “Issues and Policy Implications”**

- **Arnold Cohen, Housing and Community Development Network of NJ** – Cohen has been employed at the Housing & Community Development Network of NJ since 1994; his current title is Senior Policy Advisor. The Network is a membership organization of over 130 New Jersey Community Development Corporations that create housing and economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income community residents. Cohen’s ongoing responsibilities for the Network includes tracking and testifying on legislation and helping to organize the Network’s ongoing advocacy. <https://www.hcdnnj.org/>
- **Courtney Christenson, MA, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)** – Christenson is a systems-change advocate in the supportive housing and homeless sectors. Currently a Program Manager on the CSH Metro Team, she focuses on building the capacity of the supportive housing and healthcare sectors to address the health and housing needs of aging and medically complex individuals. Prior to joining CSH, Christenson worked with United Way and PATH in Los Angeles County building the local Coordinated Entry System and designing the innovative community programs addressing pathways into homelessness. <https://www.csh.org/about-csh/in-the-field/metro/>
- **Christine Newman, LSW, AARP New Jersey** – Newman is the Director of Community Outreach and Volunteer Engagement for AARP New Jersey. In this role, she works to advance AARP’s social mission of fighting for and equipping the 50+ in NJ with tools and resources to live their best lives, specifically around AARP’s core areas of support for family caregivers and financial security. She also leads AARP NJ’s statewide work around Livable Communities and Age-Friendly initiatives, with a focus on engaging and empowering local communities and volunteers to effect positive social change where they live. Prior to joining AARP NJ, Newman had an extensive career in healthcare, particularly in the long-term care sector. She has worked as both a Licensed Social Worker and Executive Director/Licensed Nursing Home Administrator (LNHA) of several nursing homes, assisted livings, and sub-acute centers across NJ. <https://states.aarp.org/new-jersey/>
- **Jenny Dunkle, MSW, Ph.D., Stockton University School of Social Work** – Dunkle is assistant professor of Social Work and faculty adviser to the MSW Alliance at Stockton. Her academic areas of interest include aging, social policy, qualitative research, environmental justice, and community health and well-being. Dunkle is currently on the Board of Directors for the South Jersey AIDS Alliance and partnering with Garden State Equality and Monmouth University to conduct a statewide needs assessment of LGBTQ older adults. <https://stockton.edu/social-behavioral-sciences/social-work-bsw/index.html>

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## **Panel 2, “Programs and Solutions”**

- **Katie York, MBA, Ph.D., Lifelong Montclair** – York is the Director of Senior Services/Lifelong Montclair for the Township of Montclair and has worked in the field of aging for over 15 years. York has been overseeing Lifelong Montclair – Montclair’s aging-in-place initiative – since 2014. In 2015, Montclair became the second community in New Jersey to join AARP and the World Health Organization’s Network of Age-Friendly Communities. [www.lifelongmontclair.org](http://www.lifelongmontclair.org)
- **Maria DiMaggio, MSW, NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency** – DiMaggio has been with the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA) for 30 years. As Social Services Administrator for NJHMFA, she is responsible for the oversight of the Services for Independent Living (SIL) program, and the review, approval and monitoring of the provision of social services for special needs housing, family and senior housing developments funded through the NJHMFA’s tax credits program. DiMaggio has been the administrator of the SIL program since 1989 and is responsible for training onsite service coordinators in Agency-financed senior buildings. The SIL program is currently in over 100 buildings and serves approximately 11,000 residents each year. During the course of her career at NJHMFA, DiMaggio also oversaw two of the Agency’s early supportive housing programs: the Scattered Sites AIDS Permanent Housing Program – the first statewide community-based housing program for homeless individuals with HIV/AIDS, and the Camden Shelter Plus Care program – a program that provides supportive housing to homeless Camden County individuals with serious mental illness. DiMaggio, who earned her MSW from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, serves on the Rutgers School of Social Work’s Continuing Education Program Gerontology Advisory Council. <https://www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa/>
- **Ken Morris, MHA, MA, St. Joseph’s Health** – Morris was named vice president of external affairs at St. Joseph’s Health, the multi-hospital academic healthcare organization based in Paterson, in 2015. Since 2003, Morris served as Director of Government Affairs for St. Joseph’s with focuses on government relations, public policy, community development and removing barriers to healthcare access for the underserved. Prior, he served as Director of the Department of Urban and Community Affairs, as well as Supervisor of Medical and Graphic Arts and Photography. Involved in civic activities across the county and state, Morris is a Councilman-At-Large, City of Paterson, an elected position held through consecutive elections since 2002. He currently chairs the Community Development Committee and the Finance Committee, having previously served three consecutive years as Council President. <https://www.stjosephshealth.org/>
- **Lisa Blum, LCSW, Ph.D., HomeSharing** – Blum is the Executive Director of HomeSharing, an organization that provides services in Somerset, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Morris and Union counties, as well as the Montclair area. She has more than 30 years of expertise in the fields of domestic violence, gerontology, disabilities and housing, and has been involved in direct service, management, research, policy and planning, program development and teaching. [www.homesharing.org](http://www.homesharing.org)

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