



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Office of Communications and Community Outreach
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PRESS RELEASE

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DHCD Director Donaldson to Speak on Supportive Housing at CSH Summit 2016

Discussing the District's Efforts in Addressing Homelessness

Washington, DC – Polly Donaldson, Director of the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), is representing the District government at the Coalition for Supportive Housing (CSH) Summit on June 9 in Chicago, explaining to nearly 800 local, state and federal policymakers how the District is encouraging developers to include permanent supportive housing in their projects.

Permanent supportive housing is known as affordable rental housing that is used as a platform to provide stability for extremely vulnerable people, including those considered chronically homeless (individuals and families facing multiple challenges/disabilities and homeless for long periods of time).

Polly Donaldson will be one of three expert presenters representing state housing agencies on the panel: *Incentives for Supportive Housing*. Donaldson was selected for the panel because of her leadership in the field of expanding permanent supportive housing, and the unique perspective she brings as the head of a major city housing agency, who also had a long career working on homelessness and affordable housing issues in the nonprofit sector.

“I am honored to be chosen to speak at the Summit on how the production of permanent supportive housing can help end homelessness,” said Director Donaldson. *“The District of Columbia has been working aggressively in its plan to develop permanent supportive housing as a key component of its Homeward DC ending homelessness plan. I look forward to sharing the District’s experiences during the CSH Summit.”*

The other state housing representatives on the panel with Donaldson include Neal Rackleff, DHCD director with the City of Houston and Rodney Stockment, the permanent supportive



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housing and data analyst with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. They will focus on successes in adding supportive housing units through the use of Qualified Allocation Plans (QAPs) and other state and locally created incentives. Donaldson and the other panelists also will explain how communities can best advocate for needed changes in their state and local QAP. Laura Bailey with Capital One and Eva Wingren with CSH are also on the panel.

The [CSH](#) was established in 1991 to support the efforts of local pioneers developing service-supported housing for those most in need. This is the second year for the CSH Summit, which has attracted public officials, housing developers, major philanthropic foundations, financial institutions, advocates and supportive housing residents from across the country.

“The Summit brings many different viewpoints together and connects us as we shape a more powerful future for supportive housing and the people we serve,” said CSH President and CEO Debora De Santis. ***“At the end of the day, we all leave with one thought —how can we better use supportive housing to connect vulnerable individuals and families to the stability they need and deserve.”***