



## Overview of Mission, Membership, Governance and Structure

### OUR HISTORY

APHSA was founded in 1930 as the American Public Welfare Association and changed its name to the American Public Human Services Association in 1997.

### WHO WE ARE

APHSA is a bipartisan, nonprofit organization representing appointed state and local health and human service agency commissioners and individuals working in or interested in human service programs. APHSA is the only association of the nation's top government human service executives from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories—and their key state program managers, plus hundreds of county-level directors of human services throughout the nation—for the exchange of knowledge, data, best practices, policy review and development, networking and advocacy. APHSA is committed to carrying out our work through strong connections and partnerships among the many areas of government and the broader community that affect the well-being of our citizens.

### OUR VISION

Better, healthier lives for children, adults, families and communities.

### OUR MISSION

APHSA pursues excellence in health and human services by supporting state and local agencies, informing policymakers, and working with our partners to drive innovative, integrated, and efficient solutions in policy and practice.

### OUR VALUES

The following values establish the expectations and commitments that we have made for how we work together. These values guide the way we do business and help stretch the thinking of our organization: *Member Focus and Service; Continuous Improvement; Innovation; Respect; Collaboration; and Accountability.*

### MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATIONS

**APHSA is a membership organization.** There are different types of memberships:

- **State Agency Membership:** APHSA's primary members are the lead state health and human service agency or agencies, headed by governor-appointed commissioners, secretaries or directors (whom APHSA calls CEOs). The head of each state agency is a member of the National Council of State Human Service Administrators, known as the Policy Council or NCSHSA.
- **Local Agency Membership:** Local public human service agencies at the regional, county, city or municipal level are eligible to join as local agency members (both in locally administered and state-administered states). The head of each local agency head is a member of the National Council of Local Human Service Administrators or NCLHSA.
- **Individual Membership:** Individuals engaged or interested in human service practice or policy work, including individuals in the private sector, may join as individual members.

▪ **Other Memberships:**

- *Local Associations:* Available to state associations that support health and human service agencies in their state.
- *University Membership:* Available to universities with strong social work and health and human service programs.
- *Nonprofit Membership:* Available to nonprofit advocacy and community-based organizations who share similar missions in supporting better, healthier children, adults, families and communities.
- *Industry Partners:* APHSA also works with key Industry Partners in the field of health and human services and offers an Industry Partnership Program. The Industry Partnership Program is an opportunity for businesses who share APHSA's mission to support the association's work and connect with our members.

***APHSA's Affiliate Groups and Related Organizations:*** APHSA houses nine affiliate organizations, whose members are the administrators who operate human service agency divisions or departments in the states and, for the most part, report to a state commissioner. The affiliates cover a variety of program specializations such as child welfare and income assistance programs as well as support functions such as program evaluation and staff training. Through the Affiliate Presidents' Council, APHSA's affiliates support the Policy Council's work by developing proposals for policy changes and providing detailed analyses of policy and practice issues. Most of the affiliates also carry out an intensive agenda of member services, including identification of best practices, coordination with their respective specific federal agencies, and one or more member education conferences each year. Detailed information regarding each affiliate can be found on their respective web pages—see tabs at the top of our home page.

APHSA's current affiliates are the:

- **American Association of Public Welfare Attorneys (AAPWA)**
- **American Association of SNAP Directors (AASD)**
- **Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC)**
- **IT Solutions Management for Human Services (ISM)**
- **National Association for Program Information and Performance Management (NAPIPM)**
- **National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA)**
- **National Association of State Child Care Administrators (NASCCA)**
- **National Association of State TANF Administrators (NASTA)**
- **National Staff Development and Training Association (NSDTA)**

Other related organizations include:

- *Center for Workers with Disabilities:* APHSA also houses the Center for Workers with Disabilities (CWD), which was established in 2001 to help states implement the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act and related efforts intended to enhance employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. The CWD is a technical assistance center that holds conferences, provides education, participates in policy development, and performs other functions similar to the nine affiliates.
- **AAICAMA:** APHSA is also the legally authorized Secretariat for the Association of Administrators of Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (AAICAMA).

## GOVERNANCE

### *Board of Directors*

- APHSA is governed by a Board of Directors that has final authority for selecting the executive director, approving the annual budget, determining the organizational goals and objectives, and approving policies determined necessary by the board to assist APHSA in achieving its mission. The board is comprised of the following members:
  - Officers: President, Vice President and Treasurer. The Executive Director serves as Secretary of the board. The Immediate Past President serves in an Ex-Officio status.
  - Five members are appointed by the National Council of State Human Service Administrators.
  - Two members are appointed by the National Council of Local Human Service Administrators.
  - Two individual members are elected by the membership.
  - Three public at-large members, consisting of individuals in key-sector constituencies or areas of expertise of vital importance to the policy and practice of human services are appointed by the board.
  - Four members are appointed representing affiliate organizations.
    - ✓ Two are representatives of affiliate organizations designated by the Board of Directors, consistent with prevailing policy and practice needs of the association.
    - ✓ Two are representatives of affiliate organizations designated by the Affiliate Presidents' Council.

### *National Council of State Human Service Administrators (Policy Council)*

- APHSA's policy direction and priorities are set by the appointed state health and human service commissioners, who comprise the National Council of State Human Service Administrators (NCSHSA, also known as the Policy Council). These commissioners comprise cabinet-level appointees in each state and the District of Columbia.
- *Purpose and Function.* The Policy Council is the final authority for positions taken by the association relative to national public human service policy. This may include, but is not limited to, developing positions on proposed laws and regulations, approving recommendations for improvements in specific national policy areas, and creating a policy agenda to guide future Association activities and actions.
- *Decision-Making and Operations.* Depending upon the structure of public human services in each state, individual states may have more than one member represented on the Council; however, for purposes of voting on policy matters, each state, D.C., and the U.S. territories shall have a single vote. An Executive Committee of the Policy Council convenes regularly and is comprised of officers (chair, vice chair and secretary) and six regional representatives elected by the membership. All Council actions and positions on human service policy matters are reviewed and approved by the Policy Council's Executive Committee.

### *National Council of Local Human Service Administrators*

- The National Council of Local Human Service Administrators (NCLHSA, also known as the Locals Council), is an organization for APHSA's local agency directors. Members are the CEO of any county or municipal-based human service organization that is a member of APHSA.
- *Purpose and Function.* The NCLHSA supports APHSA's policy and practice agenda through providing front-line perspectives for policy recommendations, highlighting examples of local-level initiatives and innovations, and providing a communication and networking forum for local

administrators. The NCLHSA also provides meeting opportunities and participants for workshop tracks within APHSA's regular national policy forums.

### Advisory Council for Health Services

- Beginning in February 2011, APHSA is convening a Health Services Advisory Council to direct and assist staff in the development of national policy positions related to the activities of APHSA's Health Services Division and in the presentation of positions to the administration and Congress related to the intersection of Medicaid and other human service programs.

### Affiliate Leadership

- Each of the nine affiliate organizations as well as the Center for Workers with Disabilities have governing by-laws and an executive committee that leads the work of the affiliate.
- Affiliate Presidents' Council:* The president of each affiliate organization serves as a member of the Affiliate Presidents' Council. The Council provides a forum for affiliate presidents to coordinate on cross program issues and policy (for submittal to the Policy Council), share information, and build cross affiliate connections and relationships. The Affiliate Presidents' Council designates two affiliate organizations to serve on the APHSA Board of Directors.

### APHSA INTERNAL STRUCTURE

Below is a current APHSA organizational chart.

APHSA Organization Chart

