



## **APHSA & THE REWRITE OF ICPC**

The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), founded in 1930 as the American Public Welfare Association (APWA) is a bipartisan membership organization that represents all fifty state public human services agencies across the country and some 200 local public agencies including New York City and Los Angeles. Its mission is to develop, promote, and implement public human services policies and practices that improve the health and well-being of families, children, and adults. APHSA, throughout its 75 year history, has been at the forefront of efforts to improve the management and delivery of public human services. No other membership organization has, as its sole purpose and focus, the advancement of public human services.

APHSA is governed by an 18 member board of directors and policy is developed by the National Councils of State Human Service Administrators and Local Human Service Administrators. APHSA has 11 program affiliates who provide expert advice and consultation. The two affiliates relevant to the rewrite of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) are the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA) and the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC). NAPCWA represents the “voice of child welfare” in national discussions and has two primary functions: (1) advancing the field of child welfare; and (2) improving child welfare organizational effectiveness. AAICPC works to improve practice and administration of the current compact by providing training and technical assistance.

The ICPC was drafted in the late 1950s by staff of APHSA and the Council of State Governments. After the enactment of the ICPC by the first states in the early 1960’s, APHSA formed the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC) and has continued to serve as the secretariat to the AAICPC.

In recent years dissatisfaction with the ICPC has been growing by the states and from a wide variety of sources. Criticisms include that its scope is overly broad, its procedures are outdated, and its current structure lacks enforcement and accountability. In response to its members concerns, APHSA formed a task force in July 2003 charged with identifying steps to improve the process of placing children across state lines. In March 2004, APHSA’s leadership adopted a policy resolution directing short term reforms to improve day-to-day administration of the compact and directing that APHSA convene a national group to rewrite the ICPC.