



Jerry W. Friedman

**B**y the time this issue reaches your doorstep, the nation's human service leaders—state CEOs, local council representatives, and affiliate leaders—will have convened in Dallas for a major policy summit. This is the second undertaking of this nature by APHSA in the past four years. The first resulted in a comprehensive policy document, *Crossroads*, which served as a blueprint to guide our policy work for Congress and the White House.

*Crossroads* was an extraordinarily successful effort that culminated in major human service enhancements. Most notably were the Food Stamp provisions of the Farm Bill, which addressed 10 of the 13 recommendations proposed in *Crossroads*. There were many positive lessons learned from that experience worthy of replication. First, the policy document was proactive. It was recognized that a plethora of human service legislation was slated for reauthorization within a relatively short time frame. Second, it was comprehensive and diverse. Rather than the traditional categorical approach to policy development, *Crossroads* was holistic and acknowledged the intersection of human service programs.

APHSA is ready to come out with the second document similar to *Crossroads*—let's tentatively call it "Recommendations From the 2004 Policy Summit." This new document is forward-looking, and provides a comprehensive set of policy recommendations to be presented to the president and the newly elected members of the 109th Congress. This document captures the most important thoughts of the nation's human service leaders, and will act as a guiding light in social policy for the administration and our legislators.

APHSA is constantly striving to develop new products and opportunities to serve our members more effectively. In addition to the policy recommendations document, staff have been actively engaged in other major efforts that I would like share with you.

Among these major efforts is the new and revamped 2005 *Public Human*

*Services Directory* that offers precise and relevant information in easy-to-find categories. This issue will have information on who is in charge of each major human service agency in every state, a concise overview of how each state agency is organized and structured, a revamped section with contacts for 40 of the most relevant program and policy areas in easy-to-find categories, key program staff for each program and policy area, toll-free numbers for statewide

## APHSA on the Move

information, federal agency personnel who handle key human service programs, and a comprehensive index of state human service administrators.

The other significant innovation for the 2005 edition is the migration of local agency listings to our web site, which will make the search for information easier and faster; updating information will be much more convenient. This is our first venture into this exciting direction and eventually we will provide our customers, you, with the functionality and user-friendliness of being able to look up all the information in the directory on the Internet.

The confluence of these major efforts culminates in the 75th Anniversary Conference on March 20–23, 2005, when the nation's public human service agencies and experts celebrate three-quarters of a century of work in this important arena. This will be a special celebratory event with substantive conference sessions. This milestone will be the capstone of not only all the important events and progress made in the history of APHSA, it will also highlight the promises and challenges that lie ahead of us.

We are planning five rounds of five breakout sessions, which will be offered in three policy and program tracks, one leadership and practice track, and one communications and technology track. Plenary sessions will tie together the past, present, and future of APHSA through a "Tribute to APHSA's Past," "At

the Crossroads of the Past and Present," "What Lies Ahead?" and "The Future Is Now." The gala dinner, and all-attendee lunch, and a closing breakfast will highlight the celebratory nature of this conference.

This conference will provide an excellent opportunity for administrators and agency heads looking for answers to solve policy problems and day-to-day administrative roadblocks to find practical solutions—there will be many

experts from all backgrounds ready to offer their solutions.

We look forward to sharing the new policy recommendations, our online directory, and meeting with you at the 75th Anniversary Conference.

### *Afterword:*

*In this issue last year I wrote a column "The Most Precious Gift," which chronicled the double lung transplant of our son Christopher and our journey through this remarkable procedure. Unfortunately, Christopher lost his courageous struggle on Sept. 5, 2004. Obviously, this is a terribly difficult time for us, but I wanted to thank the many readers of Policy & Practice and APHSA members for your support and kind expressions of sympathy. My wife, Jeanette, and I take great comfort from the family of compassionate human service professionals and know that Christopher's legacy will continue through the good work of caring people who are inspired by his story.*