

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 30, 2017

Contact: Jessica Hall  
202.682.0100 ext. 223  
[jhall@aphsa.org](mailto:jhall@aphsa.org)



## **State and Local Human Serving Leaders Prepared to Contribute to Health Care Reform**

**(Washington, DC)** – Congress and the Administration can look to American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) members who are uniquely positioned to contribute to improvements in the nation’s health care system. Across the country, state and local agencies are innovating in ways that are moving people towards better health and self-sufficiency more quickly and in ways they can sustain. These efforts, even while operating within programmatic, funding, infrastructure, and regulatory complexities, are beginning to yield results. Proposed changes to the health care system must be understood in the ways that they will impact state and local budgets and operations, as well as in the ways that they may accelerate or reduce existing efforts to modernize systems.

Human-serving agencies’, which are the nexus of several systems of care administering and connecting to health programs, are directly impacted by federal policy decisions in the health arena. The shift to modernize person-centered models of operations and care delivery made by these programs—including Medicaid—have and continue to work toward improving efficiency and efficacy.

“As our collective understanding of the different systems begins to solidify and the connection points are more readily identifiable for how to use data and technology to drive better health outcomes, we must assure that the actions we take as a nation do not jeopardize these modernization efforts or the investments already made,” said Tracy Wareing Evans, President and CEO of APHSA. Taken together, these elements supporting system transformation are required to support care coordination, integrate service delivery, reduce duplication of services, and improve program integrity.

The notion that good health is largely indicative of the social and environmental determinants that surround daily life experiences is becoming more apparent and recognized by multiple sectors. It is well known that improved care and service coordination across multiple sectors, including beyond traditional health care services, has the potential to enable the achievement of improved health and well-being outcomes for families and communities. Changes to these valuable elements and financing of our care system will be felt by the human serving ecosystem. Without adequate understanding of the significance of deep changes to Medicaid and the impacts on these systems, there is a potential to reverse the efforts made toward improving the self-

sufficiency, independence, and system transformation enabling well-being and health of all Americans. And as care delivery and payment models begin to focus more on what may work best for people at a given point in their lifespan—as opposed to what they are eligible for at a given moment—we must work together to develop proactive financing mechanisms that support this preventive, upstream approach to impacting human lives and allocation of resources.

Health care reform matters to state and local health and human service agencies directly impacting efforts to improve the human serving system. The role of states and counties to support individuals and families toward achieving these elements of a quality life intertwine health into the service delivery equation. There are promising efforts, especially at the state, local, and provider levels, aimed at reducing health and human services costs and improving care delivery. Public-sector health and human service agencies in this arena are at the ready to offer solutions to be taken into consideration upon significant modifications.

APHSA members are prepared and eager to share in creating solutions that address needed legislative and regulatory reforms while creating opportunities for accelerated modernization.

### **Additional APHSA Resources**

---

- [Creating a Modern and Responsive Health and Human Services System \(2016\)](#)
  - [National Collaborative for Integration of Health and Human Services: Promoting Greater Health and Well-Being \(2016\)](#)
  - [Stories from the Field: Interactive Map](#)
- 

[The American Public Human Services Association \(APHSA\)](#) is a bipartisan, nonprofit membership organization representing state and local human service agencies through their top-level leadership. Through our member network and three national Collaborative Centers, APHSA seeks to influence modern policies and practices that support the health and well-being of all children and families and that lead to stronger communities. APHSA connects its members to national policymakers and human-serving organizations across a wide circle of stakeholders in the health and human services sector, as well as key partners in education, housing, employment, and others. APHSA also helps members build more capacity for their teams through access to our professional education and development conferences, technical expertise, publications, and our Organizational Effectiveness practice. To learn more about APHSA, please visit [www.aphsa.org](http://www.aphsa.org).