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**Former Commissioner of New York State Office of Children and Family Services Joins the
American Public Human Services Association**

Sheila Poole Will Serve in New Role as Vice President of External Relations at APHSA

ARLINGTON, VA – The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) is excited to welcome Sheila Poole, former Commissioner of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), as Vice President (VP) of External Relations—a new, key leadership position for the organization.

Prior to joining APHSA, Poole provided top leadership and operational oversight to OCFS for over a decade. The New York agency is responsible for a variety of human services focused on children’s well-being including child welfare, juvenile justice, and child care programs; as well as protective services for adults. Poole led innovations for New York that include the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, “blind” CPS removals, managed care transition for foster care youth, and more, while contributing invaluable knowledge and insight from these experiences to APHSA during her time as Chair of the [National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators](#) (NAPCWA) and a member of the [Leadership Council](#).

As an experienced and accomplished executive leader focused on delivering results in highly complex human services organizations, Poole will now serve as a key connection with APHSA members and partners, while providing leadership support to a team of directors responsible for APHSA’s communications, knowledge mobilization, and organizational effectiveness consulting practice. In this role, she will also interact with stakeholders in philanthropy, research and academia, private industry, community-based organizations, and other national associations. And as a key representative of APHSA, Poole will interface and strengthen relationships with the media, federal policymakers, and other key influencers.

“I am thrilled to join APHSA in this new senior leadership role,” Poole shared. “It is my hope that my 35 years of non-profit, county, and state government leadership experience will serve APHSA’s membership well and see many exciting opportunities on the horizon.” She added, “APHSA’s expanding footprint across the human services sector, coupled with strategic partnerships, is as vital and necessary as it has ever been in our nation. I’m honored to be chosen to be part of this important and ever-evolving work.”

The American Public Human Services Association advances the well-being of all people by influencing modern approaches to sound policy, building the capacity of public agencies to enable healthy families and communities, and connecting leaders to accelerate learning and generate practical solutions together.

INFLUENCE. BUILD. CONNECT.

Poole starts her new role as VP of External Relations at APHSA January 17, 2023.

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The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) is a bipartisan national membership association representing state and local health and human services agencies and the subject matter experts that help execute their mission to improve outcomes for people nationwide. Building on their long-standing relationships with health and human services leaders, APHSA focuses on generating pragmatic solutions that advance the well-being of individuals, families, and 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. They also help members build more capacity for their teams through access to professional education and development conferences, technical expertise, publications, and their Organizational Effectiveness practice. To learn more about APHSA, please visit www.aphsa.org.