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Media Contact: Teri Wade, 212-595-4047

teri@missionandmessage.com

Human Services Council Announces Change in Executive Leadership

***HSC Executive Director Michael Stoller Steps Down;
Deputy Executive Director Allison Sesso Appointed as Successor***

New York, NY (February 26, 2014) - The Board of Directors of the Human Services Council of New York (HSC) has announced that Executive Director Michael Stoller is stepping down as of March 3, 2014. Deputy Executive Director Allison Sesso has been appointed as the new executive director of HSC, a nonprofit membership organization that advocates for New York City and State nonprofit human services providers.

Stoller, who has served as executive director of HSC since January 2003, has accepted a position as chief of government and external affairs at the Jewish Association Serving the Aging (JASA).

“It has been an honor to work with and on behalf of New York’s human services providers, who are so committed to improving the lives of people in need,” said Stoller. “They are truly unsung heroes. We must continue to do all we can to build support for the valuable work they do.”

“Michael is a passionate champion of the nonprofit sector,” said Joel Copperman, chairman of HSC’s Board of Directors. “He has fought tirelessly for government funding and policies that improve the ability of nonprofit human services agencies to provide New York’s vulnerable communities with essential services and care. The Board is grateful for his years of dedicated service and leadership, and we wish him continued success in this new phase of his career.”

Sesso has served as deputy executive director of HSC since 2003, leading numerous policy and advocacy initiatives, including negotiations with city and state government around cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for nonprofit workers; the development and implementation of reforms to streamline the relationship between nonprofits and government; and oversight of disaster recovery and preparedness efforts on behalf of the nonprofit sector. She is an expert on the budget process and has extensive knowledge of human services funding streams. She also ran HSC’s successful “Who Cares? I Do” public mobilization campaign that built wider recognition and support for human services.

Sesso's past professional experiences include working at a prominent investment bank, at the New York Public Interest Research Group, and as the coordinator of a program for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse in Florida. As a Fellow at SUNY Albany's Center for Women in Government and Civil Society, Sesso worked with the Empire Justice Center on statewide child care policy issues. She worked on policies responsive to the needs of the disabled during her internship with the Belize Government in Central America while earning her undergraduate degree at SUNY Cortland. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Baruch/CUNY's School of Public Affairs.

"Human services programs are critical to the well-being of millions of people throughout the city and state—seniors, children, youth, the disabled, the homeless, victims of domestic violence, people struggling with substance abuse, and so many others," Sesso said. "I look forward to working as an agent of change for nonprofit providers, and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to lead an organization that is devoted to safeguarding the quality of life of the people of New York. With a new city administration in place, we have an opportunity to work collaboratively with government on fresh, innovative approaches to social challenges."

"We are delighted that Allison Sesso, a strategic thinker, policy expert, and energetic advocate for the sector, has accepted this executive leadership role," Copperman said. "In her more than 10 years at HSC, Allison has accomplished so much for the organization and its members. She has the experience, know-how, and drive to ensure that HSC continues to grow, meet new challenges, and advance its mission to strengthen the nonprofit sector."

About the Human Services Council of New York

The Human Services Council (HSC) represents the providers of human services to New York's vulnerable populations, from aging/child care and mental/physical health services to community development, employment and training, and homelessness programs. Among HSC's many focus areas are public policy and advocacy, technology improvement, and government contracting. These efforts enhance public recognition for the sector, improve its financial stability, and have a long-term positive impact on the well-being of New Yorkers in need. For more information, visit www.humanservicescouncil.org.