

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **APHSA Announces Human Services Leader Reggie Bicha as Next President and Chief Executive Officer**

**Arlington, VA** – Human services leader Reggie Bicha has been appointed President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), the leading bi-partisan national membership organization representing the leadership of state and local human services agencies across the United States.

Bicha is a social worker, administrator, educator, and national leader with extensive experience focused on child welfare, education, employment, early childhood, and healthcare at the county, state, and national levels. Bicha began his career in child welfare, serving as a social worker in private and county programs and later served as the Director of Human Services in Pierce County, WI. Bicha began his state service when he was appointed as the Inaugural Cabinet Secretary for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families by then Governor Jim Doyle. As Secretary, he led the creation of the new state agency and oversaw reform of Wisconsin's child care programs, management of the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare, and established the KidStat performance management system to measure and improve child and family outcomes across the state.

Bicha later served as the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services for two terms under Governor John Hickenlooper. In this role, he was responsible for over 5,000 employees and a \$2.2 billion annual budget. During his tenure, Bicha established the Office of Early Childhood, integrating over 20 programs from four state agencies with a mission to help parents prepare their children for kindergarten. He also developed nationally recognized Two-Gen strategies to modernize approaches to poverty reduction through early childhood education, post-secondary education, and employment initiatives. He was an inaugural Fellow with Ascend of the Aspen Institute.

Bicha will join APHSA from Acelero, Inc. where he currently serves as President. In this role, Bicha leads operations of programs that serve state agencies, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, and private and public pre-K programs impacting more than 250,000 children nationally across 30 states and territories.

"I am thrilled to have Mr. Bicha stepping into this role," shares Dannette Smith, Chair of the APHSA Executive Governing Board. "His commitment to children, families, and communities has had tremendous impact over the years and I am confident his leadership and vision for APHSA will continue to advance the future of human services."

Bicha has served on numerous boards and national membership groups, including previously serving as APHSA Board President from 2013 to 2015. He has been awarded the Kempe Professional Award from the Kempe Foundation, Casey Excellence for Children Award from Casey Family Programs, the Commissioner's Award from the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, and the Founder's Award from the Milwaukee Black Child Development Institute.

"Having been a member of APHSA and its affinity groups for over 20 years, I am enthusiastic to serve as the leader of this association at such a pivotal time", Bicha says. "APHSA has an ambitious agenda to strengthen our country's public human services systems, give more voice to the people we serve, all while moving forward a new generation of policy solutions."

Bicha will assume his responsibilities as President & CEO of APHSA on February 5, 2024. Bicha succeeds Tracy Wareing Evans, who served for 13 years with APHSA and [announced earlier this year](#) she would be stepping down at the end of 2023 to explore her next chapter.

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APHSA engaged Kittleman & Associates to conduct a search for its new President & CEO. Kittleman & Associates specializes in the recruitment of CEOs for the entire nonprofit sector, including professional and membership associations, human services, advocacy organizations, and foundations, among others. Searches for Executive Directors, Presidents, and CEOs of nonprofit organizations across the country represent 95 percent of their practice. For more information about Kittleman & Associates, visit [www.kittlemansearch.com](http://www.kittlemansearch.com).

APHSA supports leaders from state, county, and city human services agencies to advance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities nationwide. As a bipartisan membership association, APHSA works with its members to generate pragmatic solutions grounded in lived experience with a lens for equity and belonging. It connects its members to national policymakers and human-serving organizations across a wide network in the human services sector, as well as partners in education, housing, employment, and more. APHSA also helps members build more capacity for their teams through access to its professional education and development conferences, technical expertise, publications, and its Organizational Effectiveness practice. For more information about APHSA, visit [www.aphsa.org](http://www.aphsa.org).

