APHSA Announces Recipients of 2022 Outstanding Member Awards
Cheryl Boley, Kate Garvey, Fariborz Pakseresht, and Sheila Poole Named as Honorees

ARLINGTON, VA – At this year’s National Health and Human Services Summit—the first in-person Summit since 2019—the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) embraced the opportunity to formally recognize its members once again through the 2022 Member Awards, including Outstanding Local Members and State Members.

The Outstanding Local and State Member awards were established to recognize an individual or agency for their outstanding contributions and commitment to building thriving communities by advancing the mission of APHSA. The recipients of this year’s Local Awards are Cheryl Boley, Director of the Job and Family Services Agency, Perry County, Ohio and Kate Garvey, Director of the Department of Community and Human Services, Alexandria, Virginia.

Cheryl Boley embodies what it means to support rural communities through the lens of what people need to be healthy and well. She truly understands the need to ensure the nation’s systems—from food to child care, education to housing, transportation to jobs—all work in harmony with one another. “Cheryl is deeply committed to advancing systems that work for families, instead of families having to work the systems. She brings the vantage point of working in rural communities to APHSA’s Leadership and Local Councils and keeps us in tune to the unique challenges and opportunities experienced by rural places,” said Tracy Wareing Evans, President and CEO at APHSA.

Kate Garvey is a long-standing public servant with a deep commitment to people and place. An active member of APHSA’s Local Council for many years, she has contributed to APHSA’s mission and the field in countless ways—always with grace and humility. Matt Lyons, Director of Policy and Research at APHSA shared, “Kate’s leadership to advance race equity in Alexandria has served as an exemplar for how APHSA and others in our network can transform the way government works in partnership with community to build trust, share power, and redress structural inequities.” A consummate steward of centering community and elevating the supportive role of human services in building thriving communities, Garvey is an advocate for doing what is right for the people and community she serves.
The recipients of this year’s State Awards are **Fariborz Pakseresht**, Director of the Oregon Department of Human Services and **Sheila Poole**, Commissioner of the New York Office of Children and Family Services.

As a leader who believes in “the art of the possible,” Pakseresht walks the talk each day taking deliberate steps to position his agency as one that is modern and delivers meaningful, supportive services that further social and economic mobility so all families can thrive. He is always willing to share his insights and experiences with others—whether it’s serving as a panelist on a webinar or participating in peer-to-peer learning sessions that help advance the field. “Fariborz is a committed and valued member of APHSA’s Leadership Council. His insightful contributions always center us back on what works for individuals and families,” shared Justin Brown, Director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and Chair of the APHSA Leadership Council.

Sheila Poole is a long-time member of the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA), an Affinity Group of APHSA, serving as the Chair since 2019. Also an active and valued member of APHSA’s Leadership Council, she has been instrumental in supporting the Association’s effort to move the field upstream while simultaneously ensuring it effectively meets the needs of children and families who are in the child welfare system. Poole has been a steward and champion of APHSA’s Call to Action to Advance Race Equity, helping child welfare directors across the country proactively examine what must be done to apply a race equity lens to the work and take concrete action to eliminate structural inequities and bias in the system. Ann Flagg, Senior Director of Policy and Practice at APHSA said, “She is one of the first to call with an offer of help when there is a new crisis or emergency facing the nation. She offers practical solutions and pushes us to bold, innovative thinking.”

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2022 Outstanding Member Awards. APHSA and its members are honored to have leaders like Boley, Garvey, Pakseresht, and Poole as partners in building thriving communities across the country. Their unwavering commitment to unlocking the potential of all people in all places continues to be an inspiration.

The **2022 APHSA National Health and Human Services Summit** took place June 12-15 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA.

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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](http://www.aphsa.org).*