



For Immediate Release

May 19, 2020

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HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL SELECTS MICHELLE JACKSON AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Veteran staffer brings years of experience fighting for policy change on behalf of the nonprofit human services sector

NEW YORK—The Board of Directors of the Human Services Council of New York (HSC) today announced the appointment of Michelle Jackson as Executive Director. Michelle has served as Acting Executive Director since January 2020 and was previously HSC’s Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel.

During her time with HSC, Michelle has won revolutionary policy changes to maximize the nonprofit sector’s social impact in communities, notably securing over \$200 million in cost-of-living adjustments for NYC human service workers and \$120 million in nonprofit infrastructure investments. Michelle has led HSC’s COVID-19 response, steering the sector through this uncharted pandemic by coordinating with government and other external partners to ensure that human services providers are equipped to address the profound social, economic, and public health challenges facing communities and the human services workforce.

Michelle has been at the forefront of efforts to streamline the relationship between nonprofits and government, culminating in the launch of City and State procurement systems that include a standard contract for human services, simplified online procurement system, and government accountability tools the RFP Rater and GovGrader, respectively. She also leads the Strong Nonprofits for a Better New York campaign, which calls for increased State investment in the human services sector’s workforce and infrastructure, and advocates for changes to City and State regulations that adversely impact the nonprofit sector.

Michelle graduated from Suffolk University Law School, earning a Juris Doctor with a concentration in International Law. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Politics at Saint Mary’s College of California.

Michelle replaces Allison Sesso, who departed HSC in January to become Executive Director at RIP Medical Debt.



“On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank the search committee and the committee co-chairs Louisa Chafee and Damyn Kelly for their thoughtful approach to this search. We need a knowledgeable, bold leader willing and able to lift-up and advocate for this important, life-saving Human Services sector, Michelle Jackson is that leader,” said **Jeremy Kohomban, President and CEO of The Children’s Village and HSC’s Board Chair.**

“Michelle Jackson is the right choice to lead the Human Services Council at this very difficult moment in time. Her experience, knowledge and credibility will serve the sector well during this crisis and beyond,” **Lilliam Barrios-Paoli, Former New York City Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services.**

“Michelle Jackson's proven track record as a strong, strategic leader is all the more critical as she steers the New York human services nonprofit sector through the Covid-19 relief effort. She has the institutional knowledge and relationships to work with the city and state governments to help ensure we keep our nonprofits strong so they can continue their life-saving work. We congratulate Michelle on her new role," said **Louisa Chafee (UJA-Federation NY) and Damyn Kelly (Lutheran Social Services), co-chairs, HSC search committee.**

“The Human Services Council and the nonprofit, human services sector have in Michelle Jackson a committed leader resolved to ensure that our agencies and staff have the resources they need to serve all New Yorkers experiencing hardship,” said **Jennifer Jones Austin, CEO of FPWA.** “Michelle’s tireless efforts through the years have helped the sector achieve unprecedented wins, and I look forward to continuing to work with her as the official Executive Director of HSC to do even more.”

“I am honored to have the opportunity to continue advocating for the human services sector at such a critical time,” said **Michelle Jackson.** “The pandemic has made clear to everyone what we already knew: human services are the cornerstone of healthy communities and our organizations are a crucial part of achieving equity. As our members rise to meet the challenge of this unprecedented global health crisis, I’m committed to fighting to ensure they have the resources and support they need to protect the health and wellbeing of all New Yorkers.”

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About HSC: The Human Services Council of New York, a leading advocate for nonprofits providing human services, works to strengthen the ability of nonprofit agencies to maximize human potential in communities across New York. Nearly 200 nonprofit organizations throughout New York City and State are HSC members. Visit HSC at www.HumanServicesCouncil.org.