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Letter from Executive Director Michael Stoller

New York's weather has been frigid and forbidding - and we fear that the economic and political climate have followed suit. Our elected officials have declared that they will balance the budget through cuts to programs - an approach that we find typically affects human services programs disproportionately and, as we all know, imperils the social safety net that we work so hard to support.

To counter this cold climate, HSC is launching a **new, proactive campaign** that will be targeted in a way HSC has never done before. HSC is seeking to raise public awareness about the need for human services and to work with elected officials to protect and restore critical funding. We hired a professional media agency, [Pro-Media Communications](#), and a design agency, White, Ink, to help us create messaging and a web presence that will engage the public and media and provide us with a platform to share the stories of our sector's clients and services. We are working with our Albany lobbying team, from [Cynthia Dames Consulting](#) and [Bogdan, Lasky & Kopley, LLC](#), to strengthen our presence with legislators in Albany. Finally, we are preparing a detailed policy agenda that includes reducing inefficiencies, raising revenue, and making the case for human services programs as a return on investment. **Our mission is to make government accountable to the needs of all New Yorkers by honoring the commitments made to our communities.**

Please join us in our campaign! HSC will formally launch the campaign on February 8, when we will release further information on how you can support it. In the meantime, you can forward this e-newsletter to a friend or colleague who is interested in supporting the human services sector.

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News on New York Budgets

New York State Budget

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo will release his Fiscal Year 2012 Executive Budget on February 1. Major cuts are expected to all areas of the budget as the Governor attempts to balance a \$10 billion deficit for the coming fiscal year, which begins on April 1. **Joint Legislative public hearings** have been scheduled. Click [here](#) for more information.

On February 9, HSC Members will meet with the **New York State Division of the Budget (DOB) for a budget briefing**. An official notice of this meeting will be sent to members shortly.

On November 2, the State Division of Budget released a Mid-Year Financial Plan for FY10-11.

New York City Budget

Although things are moving forward quickly in 2011, I don't want to forget a highlight of 2010. On December 15, HSC held its **15th annual Leadership Awards Reception**. I would like to offer thanks to all honorees, members, and vendors who helped to make the event a success. Almost 250 guests attended our reception, raising close to our goal of \$100,000 in support of HSC's advocacy efforts. Please click [here](#) for more information about and pictures from the event - it was a great way to close the year and to celebrate our sector's leaders and supporters. We are truly grateful - we know what a difficult year it has been.



HSC's 15th Annual Leadership Award Reception Honorees, L-R: Nancy Wackstein, Sandi Singer, Ed Geffner, Mary D. Redd, and Terry Bischoff with Michael Stoller.

Many thanks,
Michael Stoller

Act Now!

Get ready to sign HSC's new campaign petition! Details on how you can support this campaign will be released on February 8.

If you haven't already, **please join HSC's Advocacy Action Response Group (AARG)**. Due to the fiscal forecast and the reality that our sector will likely face more cuts in the coming budget year, HSC is pursuing a coordinated advocacy strategy that will highlight the importance of our sector. Contact [Michelle Jackson](#) for more information.

Advocacy Results

On January 18, the **City Council appointed a lobbying commission**, something that HSC has

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg is expected to release his Fiscal Year 2012 Preliminary Budget in mid-February.

In the meantime, the sector received some **good news**. The City Council and Mayor Bloomberg came to an agreement on restorations to cuts for the current fiscal year in the Mayor's November Plan. The restorations, **which include over \$8 million to human services**, were made through a variety of alternatives proposed by the Council. Note that the proposed cuts made in the FY12 November Plan still stand as we await the Preliminary Budget in mid-February.

Government Relations

HSC Board Members met with the **Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) for a Nonprofit Session** on November 30. HSC clearly framed and prioritized the major issues facing the sector, providing recommendations and insights regarding oversight, audit, contracts and funding. We are working with them on next steps for how things can work more smoothly for both OSC and the sector. Further, at HSC's annual Leadership Awards Reception in December, the **OSC presented checks for unclaimed funds to several member organizations** - a nice year-end bonus and surprise to those members!



State Deputy Comptroller Angela Dixon presenting a check for unclaimed funds to Ariel Zwang of Safe Horizons.

HSC met with the **Office of the New York City Comptroller** on December 7. Topics discussed were VENDEX and contracting with not-for-profits. HSC is continuing its work with the City Comptroller's office on these issues.

On December 10, the **City's Law Department** and the **Mayor's Office of Contract Services** met with HSC members to discuss the latest draft of the **Standard Contract Template**. This was

advocated for over the past several years. The commission has already been made aware of HSC's concerns about the changes to the lobby laws and we will be given the opportunity to meet with them. We expect public hearings to occur in February and March.

Appendix A of the Standard Contract Template, which has been in effect since July 2010, was updated in December as a result of HSC's suggestions. HSC members who are not familiar with this document can see it in the [members only](#) section of HSC's website.

HSC continues to obtain media focus, which includes the following:

- HSC held a press conference on November 9 to bring newly-elected Governor Cuomo's attention to the struggles of nonprofits. You can read the *New York Nonprofit Press (NYNP)* article [here](#).
- HSC and its members were featured in [an NYNP article](#) regarding Mayor Bloomberg's plan to cut services on November 19.
- HSC Executive Director Michael Stoller was quoted in a January 7 [Gotham Gazette article](#) regarding the City's budget restorations.

Did You Know?

Starting January 1, in line with the City government's green initiatives, vendors will be charged a **\$3.50 fee per paper check** as a way to encourage greater use of Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) for City payments. Click [here](#) for more details.

The [Nonprofit Finance Fund](#) (NFF) is conducting its annual nationwide survey of nonprofits to help understand the sector's specific, real-time financial and management challenges. Please contribute to this valuable effort by responding to [NFF's anonymous survey](#). Feel free to forward this information to other nonprofit managers you know - the more respondents, the more robust and accurate the picture of the sector. **To take the survey, visit <http://nonprofitfinancefund.org/2011survey>. The survey is open until February 15.**

NPower NY has launched a new skilled volunteer matching portal, [The Community](#)

the first time these City offices heard directly from human services providers about how they will be affected by provisions of the contract that will govern the relationship between providers and City agencies. City representatives were receptive to member concerns and we expect to see an amended draft soon.

HSC met with **Councilmember Gale A. Brewer** on December 13 regarding VENDEX and the impact of changes to lobby laws on nonprofits.

HSC hosted a meeting with **NY State Banking Superintendent Richard Neiman** on December 17. We brought together stakeholders who are concerned about the cash flow problems faced by nonprofits due to the lag in government payments for contracted services. Attendance was impressive and included representatives from OSC, major banks, nonprofit management and financial organizations, City government, and HSC members. The meeting was a great first step to creating a workable solution to the problem; our next steps are to engage a smaller work group charged with the task of identifying possible approaches. If you are interested in participating in this group, contact [Allison Sesso](#).

HSC's Board met with **New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn** on January 24. HSC was pleased to be able to thank the Speaker for her efforts to restore many critical services in the November budget plan, as well as remind her about the struggles facing the sector and the fact that the sector is both a large employer and consumer of the City's goods and services. We also discussed the sector's issues around VENDEX, fire inspection fees, and changes to lobby laws, as well as briefed the Speaker on HSC's new campaign and work with the State Banking Superintendent. HSC is continuing to work with the Speaker on these issues.

HSC, with the help of its Albany lobbying team, has been in contact with **Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**, building a relationship, and suggesting policy ideas since before his election.

Technology Update

On November 16, HSC's Technology and Referral Committee members attended a **discovery session on the DHS CARES system**. This meeting was the result of a request from HHS-Connect, who solicited HSC's input on how to improve their technology roadmap for human

[Corps](#), which connects nonprofits with IT needs to pro bono resources from corporate sponsors. Nonprofits can choose from a list of short-term, structured, high-impact IT projects for placement with qualified, prescreened volunteers. Core partners include JPMorgan Chase, UBS, and Accenture. You can create an account now, or contact the [conciierge team](#).

The [Gray Matters Group](#) is a group of seasoned professionals in or near retirement who offer advisory services without charge to nonprofit, community-based organizations (CBOs) in New York City. Members use their extensive experience and skills in business, finance, real estate, law, marketing, medicine, government, public relations, architecture, and education to assist CBOs in achieving their goals. Click [here](#) for detailed services and contact information.

HSC received funding from **The Clark Foundation** to help strengthen the not-for-profit human services sector. We were funded to continue our work in the areas of contracting efficiency, government relations and advocacy, technology standardization, and capacity-building of the not-for-profit human services sector. We thank The Clark Foundation for this generous grant and our members for their support in recommending HSC to the foundation.

HSC received funding from the **Buchman Foundation, Inc.** to further our antiracism efforts. We thank the Foundation for its commitment to supporting this important work.

HSC held a meeting for all Federation and Coalition Members on January 13 to discuss the sector's advocacy strategy and plan for collective efforts to reinforce a unified message in FY2011. **The sector is working together to support HSC's new proactive advocacy campaign.**

HSC and the New York University Silver School of Social Work co-hosted a **Leadership Breakfast** on January 13, led by **Phillip Coltoff**. Phil's new book, *At the Crossroads, Not-for-Profit Leadership Strategies for Executives and Board*, has received considerable acclaim since its October release. Phil is a visiting professor and Executive-in-Residence of the Silver School and was Executive Director and CEO of the

services providers. During the session, HHS-Connect shared information about their plans and sought input about service providers' needs and challenges in working with NYC agencies and how IT could help them improve their effectiveness.

HSC held a Technology and Referral Committee meeting on September 29. HSC's members can view the [minutes](#) and [presentation](#) from the member's only section of our website.

Note: The rest of this Technology Update column was provided by ACCESS NYC for our readers.

ACCESS NYC is a website providing residents information and action steps for City, State, and Federal benefits and programs. When using ACCESS NYC, New Yorkers can enter household information to receive a list of the benefits for which they may be eligible, learn what documents are needed to apply and how to obtain those documents, print application forms, and search for office locations. Site users can also create an account to access their information on an ongoing basis, as needed. The website is a great resource for community organizations to easily access and share information about the different programs with the community they service.

ACCESS NYC, now in its fourth year, provides what its tagline states, "Benefit Information. One Place." During that time, a consistent theme heard from CBOs and service providers across the City has been requests to enhance the functionality of ACCESS NYC to include the ability to renew/apply online for several of the benefits and programs featured on the website.

We are happy to share that increased online functionality is available on ACCESS NYC! Site users can now:

- **Apply online for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)/Food Stamps:** Now residents of all five boroughs can apply for this benefit from any personal computer. Once an application is transmitted online to the Food Stamp Program, it is screened and an eligibility appointment is scheduled, which can be conducted over the telephone.
- **Renew Medicaid/Family Health Plus coverage online:** Most Medicaid and Family

Children's Aid Society for 25 years prior to his joining the NYU faculty.

HSC and CCC **sponsored a workshop** on January 18 on **how to access and use the advocacy data** in CCC's 2010 report, *Keeping Track of New York City's Children*. This superb report - available on [CCC's website](#) - is an excellent example of using hard data in advocacy work.

HSC's Executive Director Michael Stoller presented at the **New York Society of Association Executives' (NYSAE's)** inaugural Advocacy & Public Policy Institute on January 19. The program addressed advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels and explored key legislation at stake for nonprofits, as well as City and State issues impacting the nonprofit community. See [here](#) for more information.

The **United Way of New York State (UWNYS)** appointed Michael Stoller to its Board of Directors. Congratulations, Michael!

HSC's 2010 Annual Report is available for download from our website [here](#).

Upcoming Workshops & Events

SAVE THE DATE!

HSC Board Members will meet with **NYS Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos** on February 10. The scheduling of this meeting was made possible through the hard work of our lobbying team in Albany, Cynthia Dames Consulting and Bogdan, Lasky & Kopley, LLC. Board members should RSVP ASAP to [Cecelia Burchett](#) at 212-836-1230. This meeting is for Board Members only.

The **American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA)**'s [Annual Meeting](#) is February 28 - March 5 at the Sheraton Hotel. The AGPA has issued a special invitation for a **free breakfast meeting for HSC members** on Thursday, March 3, at 8:30-9:30 AM on the topic of "Developing and Maintaining a Group Therapy Program in an Agency Setting." Please join us and click [here](#) for more event and RSVP information.

Health Plus consumers can complete their renewal online, print a copy of their renewal packet and/or check the status of their renewal online. Recipients who must mail in additional documentation with their renewal can also benefit, as they can reprint the renewal packet, submit it by mail and can still check the renewal status online. ACCESS NYC also features a comprehensive listing of Medicaid Facilitated Enrollers who can support the online renewal process.

- **Apply online for School Meals:** The fastest way to apply for free or reduced rice lunch for school-aged children. ACCESS NYC features a single application for all children in the household, even if they attend different schools or different school types, such as public, private or charter.
- **Apply online for SCRIE/DRIE (Senior Citizen or Disability Rent Increase Exemption):** Provides convenience in the application process and is especially helpful for elderly or disabled New Yorkers who may have travel hardships.

ACCESS NYC is a single point of entry to health and human services programs that can help City residents achieve self-sufficiency. The website can be used in seven different languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, or Haitian Creole. Additional features from the home page include reciprocal linkage and integration with 311 Online for easy access to additional health and human services.

Find ACCESS NYC on the web at www.nyc.gov/accessnyc. ACCESS NYC provides free support materials, as well as presentations and workshops to CBOs citywide. If your organization would like to request an ACCESS NYC workshop or materials, please make a request via accessnyc@hhsconnect.nyc.gov.

Welcome to HSC

Please welcome HSC's newest members and check out their websites (if available) to learn more about the valuable services they provide to the community.

- [Baltic Street, AEH, Inc.](#)
- [Bhrags Home Care Corp.](#)
- [Downtown Brooklyn Partnership](#)
- [Dynamic Youth Community, Inc.](#)
- [Hebrew Educational Society](#)

HSC's Board meeting with NYC **Public Advocate Bill de Blasio** has been rescheduled to April 13. Mr. de Blasio has been a champion of human services sector issues in his previous capacity as Chair of the City Council's General Welfare Committee, as well as in his new role as Public Advocate. As we head into another difficult budget year, we look forward to reacquainting him with issues of concern to the sector and seeing how we can work together to maintain high quality social services.

The **NonProfit HelpDesk (NPHD)**, a nonprofit which supports capacity-building for community-based nonprofit organizations, **is offering free certificate courses taught by practicing experts** in the field. Courses will run through May 5, several of which are provided by Brooklyn College. For the convenience of participants, most of the individual workshops will be webinars. Click [here](#) for further information and registration links.

The **Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS)** is offering a new training initiative for human services organizations. Click [here](#) to find out more or to register for a training session. **HSC members receive a one-time 10% discount off registration packages** (valid thru 6/30); please see our [members' only trainings and meetings page](#) to see how to get this discount. If your program is funded by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) or the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), click [here](#) for trainings tailored to your needs.

Member News

Announcements

The Salvation Army, Greater New York Division is starting a new outreach program with six Freightliner Sprinter vans designed for a 21st century environment and fully equipped for urban and suburban street outreach. To ensure that the Emergency Services Vehicles (ESV) deliver services more efficiently and do the most good without hindering existing outreach routes, the Salvation Army is calling out for information on areas with service gaps or where similar efforts are already in progress throughout New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, and the Lower Hudson Valley. Send your comments or questions to [Justin Fortanascio](#).

HSC welcomes our talented new staff and interns. Please join us in welcoming them to the human services sector!

- [Project Hospitality, Inc.](#)
- **Shana Mosher**, *New Policy Staff for HSC's Advocacy Campaign*, joined HSC in January. Before coming to HSC Shana worked with the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation where she oversaw the development and implementation of regional and national programs providing education, training and capacity building to at risk Latino youth, aspiring entrepreneurs, existing Hispanic business owners, and chamber executives.
- **Madeleine "Maddie" Adams**, *Web/IT Intern*, joined HSC in November. Prior to HSC, Maddie studied Physics for two years at Wellesley College, where she will return in the fall. Maddie expects to graduate with a BS in Computer Science in the spring of 2013.
- **Michaela Hyams**, *Policy Intern*, joined HSC in January. She has a BA in Economics from Stony Brook University and is currently pursuing a Master's in Public Policy there. Prior to joining HSC, Michaela interned for the U.S. State Department and volunteered at the Smithsonian.
- **Lauren Jackson**, *Policy Intern*, joined HSC in January. Lauren holds a Bachelor's of Business Administration degree in Marketing and Sport Management and a Certificate of Liberal Arts in Africana Studies from Seton Hall University. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration and Non-Profit Organizations at her alma mater and runs a mentoring group for urban youth in Newark, NJ.
- **Paola la Zazzera**, *Membership Database Intern*, joined HSC in November. Prior to HSC, Paola worked in Italy as an IT consultant focusing on Customer Relationship Management (CRM) technologies and processes. She aspires to apply her technical skills and expertise in CRM to the not-for-profit sector.

Gail B. Nayowith will be serving as the new Executive Director at **SCO Family of Services**, effective February 1. Nayowith comes to SCO from the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund where she served as the founding Executive Director since the fall of 2007. She will succeed Robert J. McMahon, who is retiring after more than 37 years at the helm of the agency. We look forward to working with Gail in her new capacity and bid farewell to Robert.

Job Opportunities & Resources

The **Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS)** has open positions for [Clinical Coordinator](#), [Case Manager](#), [Senior Consultant](#), and [Psychiatrist](#). Visit the [CUCS website](#) for more information.

The **Coalition for Asian American Children and Families(CACF)** is looking for a full-time Policy Manager. See [here](#) for full details.

Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC) is looking for a variety of positions, including Community Health Worker. For more information, click [here](#).



(From left to right: Michaela, Lauren, Maddie, and Paola)

As we welcome our new interns, we sadly say goodbye to **Ben O'Clair**, our Policy and Communications Development intern, who left in December 2010 upon completing his undergraduate studies at Sarah Lawrence College in Environmental Studies, Public Policy, and Political Science. We wish him well!

Our Sponsors

HSC is grateful to our members and funders who support our work on behalf of the human services sector.

Valued supporters of HSC include:

Booth Ferris Foundation*

The Buchman Foundation, Inc.

The Clark Foundation

The Gimprich Family Foundation

IBM Corporation

Mutual of America

New York City Council and Speaker Christine Quinn

New York Community Trust

United Way of New York City

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Thank you again for your generous support!

If you'd like to contribute to HSC, you can make a tax-deductible donation by sending a check to:

Human Services Council

130 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022

Or by [clicking here](#) to donate online.
Thank you!

* A special thanks to the Booth Ferris Foundation, whose generous support enables us to publish this Newsletter.

We would also like to thank our members for their continued membership and support. We realize that the not-for-profit sector is facing the toughest budgetary constraints in years and that our [200 members](#) make difficult trade-off decisions daily regarding where and how to spend limited funds. We are pleased and grateful to have you with us!

Finally, you can help the sector by asking other not-for-profit human services agencies to join HSC. Our collective voice gets louder as we add more members. Please see our website for our application form, HSC video, and information about the benefits of joining HSC. Or contact [Cynthia Tao](#) at 212-836-1623 for more information.

Please remember that you can follow us on Twitter or find us on Facebook. We'd love to have you become our fans!

Find us on Facebook 

Follow us on 

We hope you enjoyed reading this quarter's edition of the Human Services Council Newsletter. Please feel free to share your thoughts about this newsletter with us. We'd love to hear from you.

Our collective voice gets louder as we add more members. Please see our website, www.humanservicescouncil.org, to learn more about HSC's mission and work. You can also visit our website for an HSC application form, HSC video, and information about the benefits of joining HSC. If you have any questions, please contact [Cynthia Tao](#), Director of Communications, Membership, and Development, at 212.836-1623.

HSC's mission is to build broad recognition and support for the substantial and essential contributions of the not-for-profit human services sector to the citizens and the fabric of New York City.

The Voice of the Human Services Community

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