



# Human Services Council Newsletter

Issue #30 | July 2015

## Letter from the Executive Director Allison Sesso

A little over a year ago, when I was named Executive Director of *HSC*, I **pledged to elevate the voice of the nonprofit human services industry** and increase our sector's political clout. Myself, and the staff at *HSC*, have worked tirelessly this past year to **build upon our relationships with government partners, member organizations, and philanthropy** to ensure that the strengths our sector brings to our communities are not forgotten and that the challenges we face are not ignored.

In March, working collaboratively with the City, academia, philanthropy, and other human services organizations, *HSC* convened the *Strengthening Communities Summit* which explored the current difficulties faced by our various sectors in working together and focused on how we can **better partner with one another to improve the delivery of human services in New York City's communities**. A report summarizing the Summit, goals, and next steps for the *Strengthening Communities* group, will be released shortly. *HSC* is excited to continue our work with these sectors over the coming months and to implement the goals

## HSC Welcomes

...our new members: [Espoir Youth Program](#), [Lantern Community Services](#), and [Turning Point Brooklyn](#).

...our interns: Clifford Augustin, Eugenia Oei, Elizabeth Yates and Sarah Yo.



## HSC Thanks

...our Board's retirees: Richard Altman, Ellen Rautenberg, and Jack Lund.

...our interns: Jovonne Cameron, Kyjuan Cintron, Miriam Gadlin and Violet Suk.

Thank you all for your advocacy, leadership, and hard work with HSC!

## HSC News

*The Commission to Evaluate Nonprofit Human Services Closures* met on July 15, 2015 in a continuing effort to examine the struggles and pitfalls faced by human services organizations. Elana Broitman, Senior Vice President of Agency Relations at [UJA-Federation of NY](#), presented on the financial circumstances that led to *FEGS'* closure. Lisette Camilo, Director of the [Mayor's Office for Contract Services \(MOCS\)](#), spoke about her interest in working with the sector to devise solutions to these issues, and ultimately to discuss the Commission's recommendations.

The next meeting will be held on September 17, 2015. Click [here](#) for more information on the Commission.

*HSC* has an extensive history as a convener and coordinator for human services agencies engaged in disaster work. For the 18 months following Superstorm Sandy, we supported recovery efforts in a variety of ways. Having heard clearly from members over that period that the sector is not adequately prepared for another disaster, we shifted our attention from Sandy recovery to disaster preparedness and we are grateful

outlined in the forthcoming report.

The partnerships between all our sectors are especially critical as *HSC* continues its disaster preparedness work. With support from an Advisory Group comprised of members with expertise in disaster work, we are in the midst of **developing a Framework for Disaster Response and Recovery for Human Services Organizations**. This document will serve as an ongoing source of guidance to our sector in the event of disasters. At the same time, we have been coordinating with government to ensure our plans are highly aligned and, over the next months, will be bringing together *HSC* members, government partners, and others to share our progress and solicit input.

As important as the work on the *Strengthening Communities Summit* and Disaster Preparedness is, at *HSC* we realize none of it will be possible without greater investments in our sector's infrastructure and workforce. Through our advocacy this year, we **secured a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for human services workers from the City**, the first for our sector since 2008. It's a good start, but we'll continue to fight for an additional increase in the coming year. We also know implementation details matter and are working with the City administration to maximize flexibility.

At the State level, we **secured a \$50 million investment for nonprofit infrastructure needs** and have been discussing the RFP roll-out with our State partners. This fund will offer nonprofits one-time funding to support the infrastructure projects, including technology

for a three-year grant from [UJA-Federation of NY](#) making this effort possible. *HSC* is currently in the process of creating a *Framework for Disaster Response and Recovery for Human Services Organizations* with the help of an Advisory Group; this document will be purposed as a reference point for human services organizations in the case of a disaster.

We will be sharing updates as we continue to coordinate our efforts and plans with our members, government officials, and other partners.

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Last month, the *United States Department of Labor* released a proposed rule intended to increase the number of workers across the country who are eligible to receive overtime compensation. As this proposal is likely to have a significant impact on the charitable and philanthropic sector, and due to the complexity of the issue and the multiple considerations unique to our sector, [Independent Sector](#) is requesting a 60-day extension of the comment period. Please consider adding your organization to this sector-wide [request](#). Signatures will be collected until 12:00pm on Friday, July 31st. *HSC* has signed onto this and we urge you to do so as well.

Additional information and resources on the rule are available [here](#).

## Advocacy News

On June 26, 2015, the *New York City Council* adopted the [FY 2016 City Budget](#). This \$78.5 billion plan includes several new investments in the human services sector along with cuts to some programs. *HSC* is encouraged by the *Council's* recognition of the need for our services, however the FY16 investments are only a start to rebuilding our sector.

Accordingly, we are strengthening our advocacy efforts to secure a greater investment next year. Nonprofit human services providers have a critical role to play in achieving the [Mayor's goal of lifting 800,000 New Yorkers out of poverty by 2025](#), but it will take increased support and stronger partnerships for the sector to be successful. To read our statement, click [here](#).

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Recently, the [NYS Joint Commission on Public Ethics \(JCOPE\)](#) proposed broadening the definition of what's considered lobbying activity to also include all advocacy communications. The [Lawyers Alliance of New York](#) wrote a [blog post](#) on this issue recently.

[Comments](#) on the proposed changes have been submitted by the *Lawyers Alliance* on behalf of *HSC*, [New York City Employment and Training Coalition](#), [United Neighborhood Houses](#), [The Advocacy Institute](#), and [Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development](#).

upgrades, roof repairs, space improvements, and more. This is a groundbreaking step by the state and a new funding source for providers that we intend to expand in future years through our advocacy.

This is just the beginning of our work in fighting for our sector. This year, we created a ***Commission to Evaluate Nonprofit Human Services Closures*** to explore the recent closures and mergers of several nonprofit human services organizations. This work will examine contributing factors ranging from management and oversight to challenging fiscal environments that contributed to these closures or mergers. The Commission intends to issue a report by the end of the year with recommendations geared towards various stakeholders, including nonprofit executives and boards and funders, including government and philanthropy.

As HSC continues our work on increasing the stability of our sector, we are also working on strengthening ourselves. It is time for us to take a **hard look at the HSC model and engage in strategic discussions about our organizational direction and, and governance structure.** We'll be doing this work over the next several months and hope to make changes that will allow us to engage our members more effectively and have an even greater impact.

Our **sector's voice is growing.** With your help, I will continue to increase our sector's political clout and advocate for greater reinvestments to maintain a more stable human services sector for all of New York's communities.

## Member News

The [Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York \(NPCC\)](#) has selected Sharon Stapel as its new President and Executive Director, effective October 19, 2015. Ms. Stapel will be replacing Michael Clark, who has served as President and Executive Director of NPCC for the past decade.

We would like to thank Mr. Clark, who is also serving as a Board Member of HSC, for all his work and support of HSC and human services sector, and look forward to continuing our work with Ms. Stapel. View the official announcement [here](#).

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HSC would like to congratulate Nathaniel Fields, President and CEO of [Urban Resource Institute](#) and member of HSC's Equity Workgroup, for being named the [2015 Nonprofit Professional of the Year](#) by [Nonprofit Pro!](#)

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Larry Lee, Executive Director of the [New York Asian Women's Center](#), was recently interviewed by 106.7 LiteFM. He explains the stigma of domestic violence in Asian society, issues of forced labor in New York City, and assistance NYAWC Center offers. Listen to the interview [here](#).

## Partner News

Is your organization a 501(c)(3)? Are there 10 or more full-time employees? If you answered yes to both questions, be sure to check out the [Unemployment Services Trust \(UST\)](#). As allowed by federal law, UST is an alternative to paying state unemployment taxes just for nonprofits.

Watch this [one-minute informational video](#) to discover how UST has been helping nonprofits reduce their unemployment costs since 1983.

And be on the lookout for their upcoming mail, which will give you the chance to benchmark your organization's unemployment costs. Don't want to wait to find out if you're overpaying for unemployment taxes? You can fill out a free [Savings Evaluation](#) today. Use Priority Code 2015HSC-E to expedite your request.

## Upcoming Workshops and Events

In January, an impactful healthcare provision on employers was issued, requiring all employers of 50 or more full-time equivalent employees to offer affordable health insurance to their employees or be subject to large penalties. Alongside this Employer Mandate, employers face new complicated reporting requirements on health insurance coverage offerings. [Crystal & Company](#) will be hosting a webinar discussing frequently asked questions regarding ACA reporting on IRS Sections 6055 and 6056.

I want to **thank all of HSC's funders**, including our members and contributors, *Booth Ferris Foundation, Clark Foundation, New York Community Trust, United Way of NYC, and UJA-Federation of NY*. Without you, **none of our work would be possible**.



-Allison Sesso

 Forward to a Friend

## 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: Altman Foundation, Booth Ferris Foundation, The Clark Foundation, Mutual of America, New York Community Trust, UJA-Federation of NY, and United Way of New York City.

Thank you again for your generous support!

If you'd like to contribute to HSC, you can [donate online!](#)

Help the sector by asking other nonprofit human services agencies to join HSC. Our collective voice gets louder as we add more members. Please see our [website](#) or contact [Jason Wu](#) at 212-836-1667 for more information.

*HSC's mission is to strengthen the not-for-profit human services sector's ability to improve the lives of New Yorkers in need.*

**The Voice of the Human Services Community**



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The webinar will take place on Tuesday, August 4, 2015, from 2:00pm - 3:30pm. Click [here](#) to register.

The [Support Center](#) is offering several workshops in the fall, including:

- [Donor Retention](#), exploring principles regarding donor retention, September 9th, 9:30am - 11:30am
- [Building Supervisory Relationships](#), learn how to establish and maintain supervisor-employee relationships, September 10th, 9:30am - 4:00pm

The workshops are available at: 42 Broadway, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10004.

HSC members can attend these and all other [Support Center workshops](#) for only \$35. Please contact [Jason Wu](#) to find out how.

## Opportunities from our Members

[Brooklyn Community Services](#) is looking for a [Part-Time Psychiatrist](#).

[Care for the Homeless](#) is looking to fill several positions: [Full-Time Psychiatrist](#); [Health Information Associate](#); [Nurse Practitioner \(Part-Time 21 hours\)](#); [Outreach Site Relationship Manager](#); [Part-Time Psychiatrist](#); and [Referral & Managed Care Specialist](#).

[Center for Urban Community Services](#) is looking to fill [several positions](#).

[Community Resource Exchange](#) is looking for an [Associate Consultant](#); [Business Intelligence Associate](#); [Director of Business Development](#); and [Senior Consultant for Innovation and Organizational Fitness](#).

[Comunilife, Inc.](#) is looking for an [Assistant Program Director](#) and [Clinical Supervisors](#).

[Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies](#) is looking for an [Executive Assistant to CEO](#); [Policy Organizer](#); and [Senior Policy Analyst](#).

[Lantern Community Services](#) is looking to fill [several positions](#).

[Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services](#) is looking to fill the position of [Chief Program Officer](#) and [Quality Assurance Specialist](#).

[Seamen's Society for Children and Families](#) is looking for a [Chief Operating Officer, SVP](#).

[Urban Resource Institute](#) is looking for a [Vice President of Development and Communications](#).