

# Connecticut Association for Human Services Joins With AIDS Connecticut

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hartford - The Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS) is pleased to announce that it has affiliated with AIDS Connecticut, effective May 1, 2020. Both organizations will retain their respective names as divisions within a new parent company, Advancing Connecticut Together (ACT). The collective impact of this new joint venture will strengthen and broaden the range of services provided to families throughout Connecticut.

CAHS provides advocacy and public policy research on behalf of low- and moderate- income residents of Connecticut while coordinating programmatic programs that better inform those advocacy efforts. AIDS Connecticut provides advocacy and services to people living with HIV/AIDS, harm reduction services for persons using substances, and prevention and rapid rehousing funds for individuals facing or exiting homelessness.

The Boards of Directors for both organizations, as well as the membership of ACT, overwhelmingly approved this union. Elsa Nunez, President of the CAHS Board stated, “In the face of increasingly limited resources for the non-profit community and an ever expanding need for services, this union is a model we hope to continue to replicate in the future with other non-profits in Connecticut.”

John Merz, Executive Director of AIDS Connecticut, will be the CEO for the new agency and Rob Blakey, CFO and Interim CEO of the Connecticut Association for Human Services, will be the CFO for the new agency.

AIDS Connecticut and CAHS have worked closely together for many months in preparation for this affiliation. Both Boards are convinced that clients facing barriers to resources will be served better, community resources will be used more efficiently, and staff will have more opportunities to enhance their work through the synergy created by the affiliation. Both organizations come to this union from a position of strength.

“The affiliation will allow Advancing Connecticut Together to make an even greater impact on the community for years to come,” said Sandy Weicher, who served as President of AIDS Connecticut and who will remain as President of Advancing Connecticut Together. “Each agency’s current programs will complement those offered by the other with no duplication. All services the two organizations historically provide independently will be available from Advancing Connecticut Together after the affiliation.”

Sincere thanks go to the Pro Bono Partnership for their help with securing free legal representation from attorney Robert Hurwich and the office of Dechert LLP who were instrumental in finalizing the union.

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