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For Immediate Release

Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Chief Michael Arnold retires after nearly of decade of successful programs targeting an end to homelessness

Arnold will leave LAHSA, a LA City and LA County Joint powers Authority by the year's end after the agency searches for his replacement



Executive Director Michael Arnold

Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 02, 2014 – The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority today announced that the agency's Executive Director, Michael Arnold, has decided to retire by the end of the year, starting a smooth leadership transition process that will occur over the next several months.

Arnold's decision to retire will bring to a close nearly nine years of public service to LAHSA and its stakeholders.

"Mike Arnold has been a very strong leader and has managed the organization through some of its most difficult times," said Chairperson Kerry Morrison, LAHSA Board of Commissioners. "The Board is grateful for his long lasting contributions to LAHSA and his distinguished tenure as Executive Director over the last six years."

Arnold came to LAHSA as a consultant hired by the County of Los Angeles in 2005 when the organization was going through a particularly difficult time with government regulators and auditors, and led the organization through almost eight years

of stability and growth, first as acting Chief Financial Officer, then as Chief Operating Officer and as Executive Director.

Larry Adamson, immediate past Chair of the LAHSA Commission said, "As one of the longest serving Commissioners for the organization, I have personally witnessed the remarkable impact Mike has had on LAHSA. Mike Arnold brought a level of competency and professionalism that literally transformed the agency from within. LAHSA does an incredible amount of work, and thanks to Mike's leadership, does it very well and very efficiently. Mike's ability to understand key business processes, and implement and execute operating strategies has left LAHSA in a much better place than it was nine years ago."

"It's been a privilege to serve the wonderful and committed staff at LAHSA, the City and County of Los Angeles, the 10 dedicated men and women who serve as Commissioners for LAHSA, the hundreds of agencies who work incredibly hard to reduce and end homelessness in Los Angeles, and the tens of thousands of homeless men, women and children who experience homelessness in Los Angeles each year," Arnold said. "After almost 10 years of working with and for LAHSA, it's time to get on with my

retirement and ensure an effective transition to a new generation of leadership. I look forward to working with the Board and the management team during this transition period and to supporting its continued efforts to end homelessness in Los Angeles."

The Board of Commissioners will meet in the next several weeks to develop the process to choose Arnold's successor.

During Arnold's tenure at LAHSA, LAHSA:

- Grew from 33 employees to 89 employees
- Increased HUD Homeless Continuum of Care funding by more than 51 percent from \$52.2 million to \$79.5 million
- Resolved more than \$8 million in HUD questioned costs and moved the LAHSA from "High Audit risk" to "Low Audit Risk" Status with its external independent auditors
- Increased Continuum of Care investments in Permanent Supportive Housing from 43 percent of the total CoC award in 2006, a \$22.6 million annual investment to 66 percent of the total CoC award, or a \$52.1 million investment in PSH in 2013, a \$29.5 million yearly increase in the amount of funding dedicated to Permanent Supportive Housing.
- Implemented strategies that helped to reduce homelessness in Los Angeles by more than 25 percent from 47,669 homeless men, women and children in 2007 to 35,524 homeless men women and children in 2013 enumerated in the street and shelter counts.
- Re-tooled and re-implemented the Homeless Continuum of Care Homeless Management Information System, moving from 401 beds participating in the system in 2007 to more than 14,400 beds participating by 2014, resulting in Los Angeles data participation in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress for the first time since the inception of the report.
- Achieved breakthrough innovations in program service design, including the development of an integrated families homeless housing and services system County-wide; standardizing assessment tools and creating streamlined access to homeless housing and services throughout Los Angeles County Greatly expanded partnerships and strategic linkages that expanded access and resources for homeless programs Countywide

Prior to joining LAHSA, Arnold was a practicing certified public accountant and spent more than 15 years in Big Eight (now Big Four) public accountant firms in financial and strategic management practice areas. Additionally he served in senior management roles at UCLA, MedPartners/Caremark, Evergreen Healthcare and Institute for Systems Biology.

About the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is a joint powers authority of the City and County of Los Angeles, created in 1993 to address the problems of homelessness in Los Angeles County. LAHSA is the lead agency in the HUD-funded Los Angeles Continuum of Care, and coordinates and

manages over \$70 million annually in federal, state, county and city funds for programs providing shelter, housing and services to homeless people.

[**Editors:** For media interviews, images, video, release forms or media kits please **contact** George McQuade III, at above phone numbers. After hours call: Cell 818-618-9229 or 213-247-1318. For more information, please visit: www.lahsa.org.]