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LAHSA HIRES LESLIE WISE AS DIRECTOR OF POLICY & PLANNING

(Los Angeles, CA) The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) announced today the hiring of Leslie Wise as its new Director of Planning & Public Policy. Wise comes to LAHSA from the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, where she served for two years as Homelessness Policy Coordinator. In this capacity, Wise advised the Mayor on key local, state, and federal policy issues concerning homelessness. She advocated at the state and federal levels for legislation to increase funding to Los Angeles, and worked with City Council Offices and City Agencies to direct budget and policy decisions toward addressing homelessness and housing.

Prior to working for Mayor Villaraigosa, Wise worked at the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) for three years as Program Manager. In 2003, she established the Los Angeles office of CSH, helping to strengthen the local supportive housing industry and create homelessness policy within the City & County that focused on housing as a solution to homelessness. She also led local and regional collaborative projects, and developed community acceptance strategies for the development of supportive housing.

"We are thrilled that Leslie has joined our staff," said LAHSA Executive Director Rebecca Isaacs. "Her depth of knowledge regarding homeless policy and housing development is substantial, and she has extensive experience collaborating with local government, non-profit organizations, and the foundation community. Leslie's presence at LAHSA will greatly assist our mission to end homelessness."

Wise will manage LAHSA's Policy & Planning Department, and will serve as a key member of the agency's management team.

"LAHSA's 2007 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count estimates that there are over 73,000 homeless people in Los Angeles City & County on any given night," said Wise. "While this is a daunting issue to tackle, I believe that it is possible to end homelessness as we know it in Los Angeles. There are many talented and committed people working hard to address these issues throughout the City & County. I look forward to working together in pursuit of this shared goal."

For more information about LAHSA's work, please contact Syd Peterson, Communications Manager, at 213.689.4094 or speterson@lahsa.org.

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 plans, funds and administers programs that assist homeless individuals and families in their transition to permanent housing. LAHSA is the lead agency in the HUD-funded Los Angeles Continuum of Care, and coordinates and manages over \$70 million dollars annually in federal, state, county and city funds for programs providing shelter, housing and services to homeless persons. Additionally, LAHSA partners with the city and the county to integrate services and housing opportunities to ensure wide distribution of service and housing options. LAHSA funds agencies that address many underserved homeless populations including battered women and their children, persons struggling with chronic homelessness, veterans, youth transitioning from foster care, and individuals with mental health needs. For more information, please see <http://www.lahsa.org>

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