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**For IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ANCOR Announces New Collaboration with Consulting for Human Services to Connect Community I/DD Providers with Industry Insights, Discounted Consulting Services**

**CHICAGO, IL April 25, 2023** —This morning, Barbara Merrill, chief executive officer for ANCOR, announced at the association’s Annual Conference the launch of a new collaboration with Consulting for Human Services (CFHS), a leading advisor in the human services sector.

This new arrangement dedicates a trusted human services strategist to ANCOR and its members as we pivot beyond the COVID-19 public health emergency and look ahead to a service delivery landscape defined by even more significant recruitment and retention challenges in the direct support workforce.

As part of this new collaboration, ANCOR members will receive a new, bimonthly newsletter, *Industry Insights*, that offers analysis of key trends, curated resources helpful to providers across the disability and behavioral health sector, and leadership insights and commentary from Stacy DiStefano, chief executive officer for CFHS.

As an additional component of this new collaboration, ANCOR is pleased to announce that members will have exclusive access to discounted pricing on consulting services delivered by DiStefano and her growing team of industry experts.

“Stacy [DiStefano] is a well-respected leader and long-time supporter of ANCOR’s mission, and we have been impressed by the depth of expertise on her team as it has grown over the past few years,” said **Barbara Merrill, chief executive officer for ANCOR**. “CFHS is leveraging an experienced group of former executives and subject matter experts that are dialed into the work that matters to organizations providing community-based long-term services and supports to people with I/DD. We are thrilled to seeing how this new collaboration will support ANCOR members in new and exciting ways.”

**Stacy DiStefano, chief executive officer for CFHS**, added, “I’ve long admired ANCOR as a driving force in our field, and we are thrilled to formalize this new relationship with Barbara [Merrill] and her team. At the core of CFHS’ mission is to close the business acumen and profitability gap between private equity-backed and nonprofit provider organizations. By doing so, we can improve the overall system of care for everyone. Bringing our guidance directly to the ANCOR members allows us to support the evolution of disability services and enhance the critical work being done across the country by ANCOR staff and members.”

## **ABOUT ANCOR**

For more than 50 years, the American Network of Community Options and Resources ([ancor.org](http://ancor.org)) has been a leading advocate for the critical role service providers play in enriching the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). As a national nonprofit trade association, ANCOR represents nearly 2,000 organizations employing more than a half-million professionals who together serve more than a million individuals with I/DD. Our mission is to advance the ability of our members to support people with I/DD to fully participate in their communities.

## **ABOUT CONSULTING FOR HUMAN SERVICES**

Consulting for Human Services (CFHS) is built on the belief that mission and margin shouldn't be competing concepts for our clients. Our team of experts includes current and retired C-Suite executives, operations leaders, clinicians, award-winning branding and marketing strategists, and certified project managers who share a passion for helping mission-driven organizations thrive. Today, we partner with nonprofit provider organizations, payors, state systems, associations, start-ups, and private equity firms across all verticals of complex care.