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# HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

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## National Human Services Assembly

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1910s—1930s

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**1919:** Committee of the American Association for Organizing Family Social Work met with the American National Red Cross to discuss how to avoid duplication of efforts.

**1920:** *Name: Association of National Executives/ Conference of Executives of National Organizations*

Recognizing the similarities of their problems and desiring closer coordination of their work, 12 social work organizations began monthly meetings.

**1923:** *Name: National Social Work Council*

Formed at the Milford Conference where David Holbrook invited social agency executives to discuss informally and unofficially their various specialties of work with the hope of achieving clearer understandings and cooperation in over-lapping areas.

Admin duties shared on a volunteer basis by two executives of national organizations until 1925: Howard S. Braucher and David H. Holbrook.

24 members, 6 of which are still with NHSA (ARC, BSA, YMCA, GSUSA, YWCA, Travelers Aid).

Meetings largely concerned with financial support, budgets, and endorsement.

Other topics included:

- ◆ Better understanding and closer cooperation between agencies;
- ◆ Relationships between national organizations and their local agencies;
- ◆ Problems arising from the Great Depression;
- ◆ Defense mobilization and its social repercussions; and
- ◆ Demobilization and the social needs and problems created by massive relocation.

**1932:** Sponsorship of the Committee on the Care of Transient and Homeless

## 1940s—1950s

**1942:** Six national agencies, five of which were members of the National Social Work Council, combined to establish the American War Community Services to promote joint financing and joint planning of their war service projects in local communities.

**1945:** **Name: *National Social Welfare Assembly***

Legal structure put in place, and incorporated in NYC to attain tax exempt status.

20 members, 12 of which are still members of NWSA (ARC, BSA, CWLA, GSUSA, YWCA, YMCA, Traveler's Aid, Salvation Army, Urban League, Jewish Federations, Catholic Charities).

Attention to problems associated with the millions of returning veterans who had to find their places in home, school, and community, as well as to the internment of Japanese-Americans.

**1947:** Created film "Make Way for Youth" in partnership with the American Jewish Committee that was set in a school, and depicted children as either free from the xenophobia of adults or obliquely addressing the irrationality of racial, ethnic, and religious intolerance.

**1948:** Formation of the Young Adult Council.

Assembly took a lead role in organizing the World Assembly of Youth.

Developed a correspondence exchange service with German youth leaders financed by the Rockefeller Foundation. Nine youth leaders came from Germany and Austria to study and observe group work and recreation programs in the United States. This evolved into the International Exchange Program, that has been funded by the Department of State since 1951.

**1950:** Formation of the National Council on Aging as a result of the recommendation in the 1940s to create a national entity to coordinate efforts on behalf of older adults.

During the Korean War, the Assembly moved to reactivate the USO and with United Community Funds and Councils of America formed the United Community Defense Services and the United Defense Fund.

**1953:** The National Assembly prepared the report on voluntary social welfare . This report to the UN provided information about social welfare for the use in the field.

In coordination with the American Council on Education, the NSWA helped to influence the formation of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

## 1960s—1970s

**1964:** Signed statement of understating with the United Community Funds and Councils of America, forming a close collaboration of national, state and local planning forces in resolving serious social problems.

Jointly prepared with the National Health Council the “Standards of Accounting and Financial Reporting for Voluntary Health and Welfare Organizations” that helped renew and strengthen public confidence in volunteer organizations.

**1967: Name: *National Assembly for Social Policy and Development***

Reconstituted to become a national citizen’s organization that sought to develop and influence public welfare policies.

**1973: Name: *National Assembly of National Voluntary Health and Social Welfare Organizations***

Returned to previous purpose of coordinating and assisting work of its constituent member organizations.

Creation of the National Collaboration for Youth, a coalition of national organizations advocating with and on behalf of youth and, in research-driven “positive youth development”.

## 1980s—1990s

**1985:** Issued report: "Competition Between the Nonprofit and For-Profit Sectors" following reports by the U.S. Small Business Administration and National Federation of Independent Business that alleged that nonprofits had an unfair competitive edge due to tax exemptions, postal rate reductions and other preferential treatment for nonprofits.

**1988:** Authored the book Unfair Competition? The Challenge to Charitable Tax Exemption as a follow-up up the 1985 report. The forward written by the former IRS Commissioner.

Set up booth at National Federation of Independent Business annual conference to make the case for nonprofits.

**1989:** Conducted the study: "A Study in Excellence: Management in the Nonprofit Human Services", in which 270 local, state or regional managers deemed to be outstanding by their national organizations were asked to complete a survey designed by Lester Salamon. About a quarter were selected for intensive study, including in-depth interviews in addition to members of their boards and staff.

**1990:** The National Collaboration for Youth graded the country's progress in dealing with problems faced by youth in "Making the Grade", resulting in over 350 town summit meetings or community forums , and was featured on an ABC News special.

200 children from National Collaboration for Youth agencies participated in the ABC July 4th literacy special with Barbara Bush.

**1990s:** Worked closely with the White House Office on National Service by providing guidance and written plans on what a national service program should look like, emphasizing the role of the nonprofit sector.

More than 200 young people from NCY agencies participated in a program at the White House lawn where President George H.W. Bush announced his Points of Light Initiative.

Worked to establish the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and its reauthorizations.

**1997: Name: *National Assembly of Health and Human Service Organizations***

**Late 1990s:** The National Collaboration for Youth created the National Youth Development

## 2000s—PRESENT

**2002:** Continuing its efforts to safeguard clients, the National Assembly and its members forged a partnership to perform background checks on volunteers.

The National Assembly launches the Family Strengthening Policy Center.

**2004:** Creation of the National Assembly Business Services (NABS) and the PurchasingPoint® Program, which offers members and their affiliates access to discounted pricing from vendors, thereby reducing overhead expenses.

National Collaboration for Youth establishes core competencies for frontline youth workers for use by member organizations and other youth-serving agencies.

**2005: Name: *National Human Services Assembly***

**2008:** The National Assembly “Reinventing, Re-Imagining Voluntarism and the Private Sector” published in the Nonprofit Times.

Held a national convening for member C-Suite executives to share lessons on coping with the U.S. economic crisis.

**2009:** With funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the National Assembly launched the Bridging the Gap initiative that connected working families with access to “earned benefits” – public and private assistance programs like tax credits, nutritious food programs, child care subsidies and free or low-cost medical care.

*“Through a New Lens: Toward a Fundamental Reframing of “the Client”* published.

**2010:** With funding from the Ford Foundation, the National Assembly developed a pilot program to test the viability of working with member organizations as employers to help frontline human service workers achieve greater financial stability through enrollment in public benefits and other work supports.

**2011:** NABS partners with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to offer access to the PurchasingPoint® Program to all domestic grantees.

National Assembly publishes “Putting Human Needs on the National Radar Screen”.

Formation of the eleventh peer network: the Learning & Development Council.

**2012:** The PurchasingPoint® Program exceeds \$50 million in collective purchasing.

National Assembly publishes “A Shared Vision for Youth: Common Outcomes and Indicators”.

Initiative to reframe human services progresses with support from the Kresge Foundation. The Frame Works Institute engaged to conduct research on reframing.

**2013:** By the June 11 observance of the Assembly’s anniversary, eleven peer networks had each met at least once, projects noted above were progressing (i.e., reframing, bridging the gap, middle school youth work competencies), reframing began to evolve into reinventing human development, a new diversity and inclusion partnership was in the works, and membership approached 90 as the members celebrated the Assembly’s 90th anniversary!