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ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS, LLC ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP ADVANCEMENTS AND NEW ADDITIONS TO TEAM

CLEVELAND – <u>Advocacy & Communication Solutions, LLC</u>, (ACS) one of the only female- and minority-owned consulting firms in Ohio, has promoted Lauren Sogor, MPH, to vice president, hired Allison Marker as its new senior strategist, and hired Amber Hill as its new executive administrator.

ACS works nationally in advocacy, communication and strategy development focusing on early childhood, K-12, workforce, Medicaid, and health and human services fields across the nonprofit, government, and philanthropic sectors.

Sogor joined ACS in 2020. In her new role, she leads strategy development and builds capacity for ACS' clients and contributes to new business development. She has 15 years of experience designing and implementing programs and strategies for organizations working to create a healthier, safer, and more just world. Prior to joining ACS, Sogor served as the senior health communications manager at the National Partnership for Women and Families and has supported the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and AARP Foundation. She has managed multi-stakeholder national public health campaigns for national nonprofit organizations, including Text4Baby and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Sogor is on the board of the Shaker Early Childhood Enrichment Center and Shaker Democrats in Shaker Heights, Ohio. She earned her master's degree in public health from George Washington University and a bachelor of science from the University of Michigan.

As a senior strategist at ACS, Allison Marker leads strategy and capacity building, communication, and engagement efforts for ACS clients. Marker came to ACS from YWCA Northeast Kansas, where she spent more than seven years as the director of Community Engagement in charge of fundraising, marketing and communication, advocacy, event planning, and donor cultivation. Marker's grassroots organizing and leadership for YWCA Northeast Kansas was instrumental in rallying voter opposition to successfully reject a proposed state constitutional amendment that

would have eliminated the right to an abortion in the state. In recognition of her efforts, YWCA Northeast Kansas received the Excellence in Advocacy Award from YWCA USA for achievement. Marker also led the organization's

antiracist programming, becoming one of the first local YWCAs in the country to adopt the Cleveland Racial Justice Challenge in 2021 and encouraging the city of Topeka and Shawnee County to declare racism as a public health crisis. Prior to her role at YWCA Northeast Kansas, Marker worked as director of Marketing at the Lawrence (Kansas) Community Shelter, for B the Change Media, and for the Kansas House Democratic Caucus. Marker serves as a member of the Greater Topeka Partnership Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Board and is an active Rotarian. Marker earned a degree in history and public administration from the Université Blaise Pascal in Clermont-Ferrand, France.

As executive administrator, Amber Hill keeps ACS organized and on track, managing all internal systems and team member needs, while also leading administrative engagement of clients and external partners across an array of projects around the country. She comes to ACS after more than a decade at Starbucks Coffee Company where she worked within and then led administrative and operational systems of Ohio's only 24-hour Starbucks located at the Cleveland Clinic. In her management role leading this \$4-million annual operation, Hill led teams of up to 55 employees; managed all accounts receivable and payable, human resources, payroll, and labor schedules; set budgets; and aligned Starbuck Corporate policy and Cleveland Clinic protocols and standards. During her time with Starbucks, Hill successfully tripled operations; secured growth margins for multiple quarters; and reduced employee turnover from 150 percent to 68 percent by focusing on diversity and inclusion efforts, in particular with the Disability Advocacy Network. She graduated summa cum laude from Arizona State University with her bachelor's degree in organizational leadership-project management.

Lori McClung, ACS CEO and co-founder, said the firm is proud to welcome Marker and Hill to the team.

"We are a firm led and run by seasoned female professionals creating change in communities locally and around the country. Allison Marker and Amber Hill have proven track records of doing the same and they both bring even more capacity to the ACS team in this vein. We are excited to bring their skillsets to our clients nationwide," McClung said.

Scarlett Bouder, ACS president and co-founder, praised Sogor's work for ACS.

"Lauren has proven herself to be a determined and steadfast leader at ACS, and we are proud to elevate her to a more strategic role to help grow our firm and build stronger partnerships with clients around the country," Bouder said.

About Advocacy & Communication Solutions, LLC

ACS is one of the only female and minority owned consulting firms in Ohio, receiving various local, national and international awards for their work. ACS has gained a national reputation for not only its advocacy, communication, and strategy development expertise but also a deep understanding of matters within the early childhood, K-12, workforce, Medicaid, and health and human services fields across the non profit, government, and philanthropic sectors. Learn more about ACS at www.advocacyandcommunication.org.