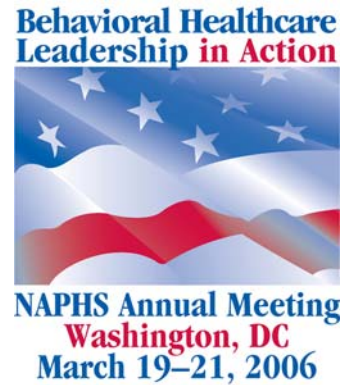


NAPHS HOSTS *THE* POLICY MEETING FOR LEADERS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS.....



Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich Addresses 2006 NAPHS Annual Meeting

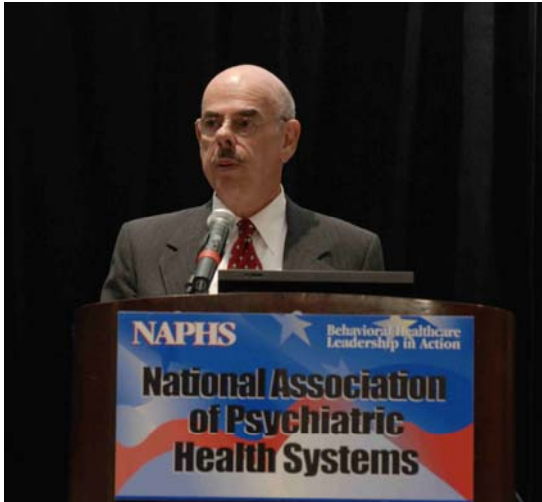


Newt Gingrich (at podium), former Speaker of the House of Representatives, presents the keynote address at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS). His focus was on "Saving Lives and Saving Money: Transforming Health and Healthcare In The 21st Century." Moderating the session was NAPHS President **Edward C. Irby** (center), CEO of Alternative Behavioral Services, Inc., in Norfolk, VA. Joining in the discussion is NAPHS Executive Director **Mark Covall** (left).

Rep. Gingrich now serves as chairman of The Gingrich Group and is the founder of the Center for Health Transformation. He urged those who are advocating for behavioral health to make an emotional connection with their members of Congress. He also recommended keeping messages short and to the point when visiting Capitol Hill.



Rep. Henry Waxman Shares Perspective from Capitol Hill



Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA), presented his vision of key issues impacting behavioral health. Rep. Waxman is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee and House Democratic leader in Medicaid and healthcare policy.

CMS Leader Discusses Medicaid Issues

Dennis G. Smith (right), director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, gives meeting attendees a glimpse into the major initiatives underway within the Medicaid program.



Political Analyst Charlie Cook Gives Election Predictions



Charlie Cook (center), editor & publisher of *The Cook Political Report*, prepares to deliver his "Predictions in a Congressional Election Year" at the NAPHS Annual Meeting. He is joined by session moderator **Joey Jacobs** (left), chairman, CEO, & president of Psychiatric Solutions, Inc., and NAPHS Executive Director **Mark Covall** (right). Mr. Cook is a political analyst for the National Journal

Group. He is also an analyst for NBC News as well as CNBC and MSNBC, appearing regularly on CNBC's evening program, *Capitol Report*. He is widely regarded as one of the most astute impartial analysts of the Washington political scene and one of the nation's leading authorities on U.S. elections.



Top Physician Leaders Look Ahead to the Future



Herbert Pardes, M.D. (left), president & CEO of New York-Presbyterian Hospital, told meeting participants that we are at an important point in the evolution of policy in this country. Policies that could help to create a more productive system include such things as a unified process by all payers and providers for claims processing, investment in information technology across the country, implementation of tort reform “to get irrationality out of decision-making,” use of any savings for appropriate attention to prevention and prophylaxis, universal health coverage, and support of outcomes research, among other things.

American Psychiatric Association President **Steven S. Sharfstein, M.D.** (right) noted that psychiatry is receiving more attention – both in the media and in policy arenas, “but we have a long way to go.” He encouraged a unified voice to continue to deliver the advocacy message that mental illnesses are real and effective treatments are available. Dr. Sharfstein is also president and CEO of Sheppard Pratt Health System in Baltimore, MD.



NAPHS President Urges Continuing Focus on Behavioral Health for Children



In his opening remarks, NAPHS President **Edward C. Irby**, CEO of Alternative Behavioral Services, Inc. in Norfolk, VA, noted that one of the most striking things to come out of recent research is that half of all people who will ever develop mental illness in their lifetimes show signs and symptoms by the age of 14. He challenged the field to do more to address the needs of children and youth – as well as adults.

He specifically encouraged meeting participants to continue to do more:

- to focus attention on prevention and early intervention
- to broaden community-based care for both children and adults
- to do a better job of coordinating care
- to build partnerships between the public and private sectors
- to use technology to the advantage of the individuals we serve

- to demonstrate that what we are doing makes a difference through performance measurement and outcomes
- to provide forward-thinking leadership – both within our own organizations and at the national level.

NAPHS 2006 Advocacy Priorities Outlined

NAPHS Executive Director **Mark Covall** – shown here (left) with Rep. Henry Waxman (right) – outlined the association’s 2006 advocacy agenda during the Annual Meeting. He noted that the association’s overall policy goals are as follows:

- Improve **access** and **coverage** for behavioral health services;
- Focus resources on the special needs of **children and youth**;
- Ensure **quality** and demonstrate the value of behavioral health;
- Ensure **fair payment**;
- Promote **innovation** and **efficiency**.



A top 2006 priority is **maintaining a strong Medicaid program** to ensure that people with mental illnesses – especially children and youth – have access to a comprehensive array of essential services. He encouraged those visiting Capitol Hill during the meeting – or talking with their members of Congress *after* the meeting – to ask their Senators to **co-sponsor / support the *Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Care Act* (S.1592)**. He also encouraged advocates to ask their members of Congress to **support health information technology legislation** and to **support passage of parity** in 2006.