



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

PART 2: AWARDS

Award Recognizes Grassroots Advocacy

Tim Mathern, a state senator from North Dakota, received the NAPHS Grassroots Leadership Award, presented here by NAPHS President/CEO **Mark Covall**. Mr. Mathern is also the public policy and non-profit development director at Prairie St. John's in Fargo, ND. The award recognized Mr. Mathern's efforts to elevate the importance of grassroots advocacy within the association and his personal action to educate members of Congress about issues – such as mental health parity and emergency psychiatric care – that have a direct impact on whether people have access, coverage, and fair funding when they need mental health services.



Parity Celebration Looks at Next Steps

Last year's historic passage of federal parity legislation (the *Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008*) would not have been possible without the strong partnership of many different



interests – including business and insurance leaders, consumers, families, and others. In recognition of her successful efforts to reach consensus, NAPHS presented an award to **Pamela Greenberg**, who chaired the Coalition for Fairness in Mental Illness Coverage (of which NAPHS was a founding member). Ms. Greenberg is also the president and CEO of the Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness. Here **Andrew Sperling**, director of federal legislative advocacy for the National Alliance on Mental Illness and a fellow coalition member, helps to celebrate what has been called “the civil rights victory” for the behavioral health field. NAPHS and the coalition will be working with Congress and the administration as regulations to implement the federal law are developed this year.