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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) Recognizes Member for Grassroots Behavioral Health Advocacy

(Washington, DC, March 19, 2009).....The National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) this week presented the **2009 NAPHS Grassroots Leadership Award** to **Tim Mathern**, a North Dakota state senator. Mr. Mathern is also the public policy and non-profit development director at Prairie St. John's in Fargo, ND. The award recognizes an individual whose actions demonstrate strong commitment to improving the lives of individuals who face mental and substance use disorders. The award was presented at the NAPHS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

In announcing the award, NAPHS President/CEO **Mark Covall** noted that successful advocates are active in their communities and work to develop relationships with all key stakeholders. "These relationships are not built overnight, but take time and effort to foster. That is exactly what Tim Mathern has done. Change happens because of the action of individuals."

Mr. Mathern was recognized for his efforts to elevate the importance of grassroots advocacy within the association and for taking direct, 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.

The National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) advocates for behavioral health and represents provider systems that are committed to the delivery of responsive, accountable, and clinically effective prevention, treatment, and care for children, adolescents, adults, and older adults with mental and substance use disorders. Its members are behavioral healthcare provider organizations that own or manage more than 600 specialty psychiatric hospitals, general hospital psychiatric and addiction treatment units and behavioral healthcare divisions, residential treatment facilities, youth services organizations, and extensive outpatient networks. Founded in 1933, the association is headquartered in Washington, DC.

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