

NEWS RELEASE

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NAPHS PUBLISHES “SURVEY ON EDUCATION SERVICES IN RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS”

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#### Survey Provides a Snapshot of Students, Education Services, and Challenges

(Washington, D.C., April 26, 2007).....As one of the first reports of its kind, a ***Survey of Education Services in Residential Placements*** provides a snapshot from a moment in time of the characteristics of students receiving special education services within psychiatric residential treatment programs. Conducted by the Youth Services Committee of the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS), the survey describes the types of services provided to young people with combinations of serious and complex special education and behavioral treatment needs. The study identifies barriers to getting youth and their parents the services they need and makes recommendations for policymakers and providers. The data, gathered summer 2006, is based on responses from 75 residential treatment centers throughout the United States.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

The survey found that **most young people (60%) bring an individualized education program (IEP) to the residential treatment centers when they are admitted** – an indication of the existence of a complex set of needs requiring special education. The combination of learning disabilities (addressed in 86.7% of surveyed facilities) and emotional disturbances (addressed in 94.7% of surveyed facilities) is further indication of a critical need for special education services in these settings, according to the report. **The vast majority of youngsters are publicly placed (mean = 70.7%) in residential treatment**, survey respondents said. **Residential treatment centers have strong links to community services, and contractual arrangements exist for a variety of purposes.**

#### **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on concerns raised by survey respondents, the report:

- **encourages states to have greater transparency in interagency agreements.** According to the U.S. Department of Education, there must be an interagency agreement or other mechanism that delineates who will be the funders of educational services for young people with disabilities. Yet the vast majority of survey respondents (82.9%) were *not* aware of any interagency agreements that the department of education has developed with other public agencies.
- **encourages residential treatment centers to make the effort to establish and strengthen their relationships with state departments of education and local education agencies.**

A free online copy of the report is available at [www.naphs.org](http://www.naphs.org).

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. The association was founded in 1933.