

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2008 NAPHS ANNUAL MEETING TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF “BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP IN ACTION”

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#### **Gen. Barry McCaffrey (ret.), Sen. Benjamin Cardin, and Policy Leaders to Speak**

(Washington, D.C., January 16, 2008)...Top policy experts will help those who deliver psychiatric and addiction treatment services explore “Behavioral Healthcare Leadership in Action” at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS). The meeting will be held **April 6–8, 2008**, at the **Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.**

The event, which marks the association’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will include a look at future trends as well as past history.

Retired U.S. Army **Gen. Barry McCaffrey**, one of the nation’s top experts on drug policy and the military, will be a keynote speaker. After leaving the military as the most highly decorated serving general, he was for five years the nation’s cabinet officer in charge of U.S. drug policy. After leaving government service, he became the Bradley Distinguished Professor of International Security Studies at West Point, where he continues today as adjunct professor of International Affairs. Gen. McCaffrey is also a frequent commentator for MSNBC and NBC.

**Sen. Benjamin Cardin** (D-MD) will provide perspective from Capitol Hill. As a member of the Senate Budget Committee, Sen. Cardin has worked to ensure that critical healthcare programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) are priorities in the federal budget.

Futurist **Joe Flower**, founder and chief executive of Imagine What If, Inc., will talk about “The Next Health Care” and how providers can begin to prepare. He will look at how trends – from digitization and the Internet to powerful new pharmaceuticals and diagnostic techniques, to the increasing failure of current financing structures—can help leaders begin to imagine what kind of future they will likely shape.

**Stuart Rothenberg**, nationally recognized political analyst, publisher, editor, and writer, will provide predictions on what election-year politics may mean for health care in the years ahead.

A special **anniversary luncheon** will offer perspective on the evolution of behavioral health and the critical role of grassroots advocacy in keeping the needs of millions of Americans with psychiatric and substance use disorders in front of policymakers. The meeting will also provide time for participants to **visit with congressional representatives** to gain support for expanding coverage and access, coordinating care, and ensuring fair funding for behavioral health.

Additional sessions will focus on **quality issues**, including the development of **psychiatric core measures** and **emerging youth services issues**.

**For registration information**, visit [www.naphs.org](http://www.naphs.org) or call NAPHS at 202/393-6700, ext. 106.

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.

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