

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Carole Szpak
202/393-6700, ext. 101
comm@naphs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2009 NAPHS ANNUAL MEETING FOCUSES ON “BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP IN ACTION”

~~~

#### **Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), Former Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, and Policy Leaders to Speak**

(Washington, D.C., January 9, 2009)...Held on new days of the week (Monday-Wednesday) and in a new location, the **2009 Annual Meeting** of the **National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS)** will focus on “Behavioral Healthcare Leadership in Action” as a new administration and a new Congress address healthcare reform. The meeting will be held **March 16–18, 2009**, at the **Mandarin Oriental Washington DC**.

**Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)** will be a keynote speaker. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Wyden 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.

Former Congresswoman **Nancy Johnson**, senior public policy advisor and member of the Federal Public Policy Group at Baker Donelson, will provide perspective on current healthcare reform proposals to address such thorny problems such as the uninsured and the future of the employer-based healthcare system.

**Michael F. Hogan, Ph.D.**, commissioner, New York State Office of Mental Health, and former chair of the President’s Commission on Mental Health, will focus on the implications for behavioral health of healthcare reform issues, such as implementation of the federal parity law, quality, the financing and management of chronic illness, the roles of the public and private sectors, and more.

**Michael D. Bromberg**, chairman of the Capitol Health Group, will look at the impact of the election and its “Perspectives on the Congressional Agenda for 2009 and Beyond.”

A **luncheon** will celebrate the passage of federal mental health parity legislation 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. Guest speakers will be Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness President and CEO **Pamela Greenberg**, who chaired the Coalition for Fairness in Mental Illness Coverage, and NAPHS President/CEO **Mark Covall**. 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 provide perspective from the administration and Capitol Hill.

**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.

####