

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) Recognizes Members for Grassroots Behavioral Health Advocacy and Quality Leadership

(Washington, DC, May 2, 2007).....The National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) this week presented awards to two individuals whose actions have demonstrated their strong commitment to improving the lives of individuals who face mental and substance use disorders. The awards were presented at the NAPHS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

In announcing the awards, NAPHS Executive Director **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 these individuals have done. Change happens because of the action of individuals."

The 2007 **NAPHS Grassroots Leadership Award** was presented to:

- **Brent Turner**, executive vice president, finance and administration, Psychiatric Solutions, Franklin, TN, 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 – like 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. Mr. Turner is a member of the NAPHS Board of Trustees and serves on the association's Finance Committee and Grassroots Steering Committee. He is also the Board Liaison to the NAPHS Political Action Committee.

A special 2007 **NAPHS Quality Leadership Award** was presented to:

- **Frank Ghinassi, Ph.D.**, vice president for quality and performance improvement, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside, Pittsburgh, PA, for his effort to promote the measurement of quality performance in behavioral health. Dr. Ghinassi is also assistant professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Ghinassi was recognized for his leadership and clinical expertise, which have proven invaluable in development of public-private partnerships and consensus-building with consumers, families, and many other stakeholder groups. These efforts have made significant contributions to the ongoing national "Hospital-Based, Inpatient Psychiatric Services" (HBIPS) Core Measures initiative now underway. Since 2005, Dr. Ghinassi has served as the chair of the Technical Advisory Panel overseeing the HBIPS. (See <http://www.jointcommission.org/PerformanceMeasurement/PerformanceMeasurement/Hospital+Based+Inpatient+Psychiatric+Services.htm> for details.)

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, D.C.

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