

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tommy G. Thompson Honored by National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems

~~~

#### **Award Recognizes Commitment to America's Mental Health**

(Washington, D.C., May 2, 2007)...**Tommy G. Thompson** was honored this week by the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) for his "commitment to a fair and comprehensive system of care for those with serious mental illnesses." The award was announced at the NAPHS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

In announcing the award, NAPHS Executive Director **Mark Covall** noted that "Sec. Thompson has been an outstanding leader on complex policy issues that have a direct impact on the lives of millions of children, adolescents, adults, and older adults in need of care. He brings much-needed attention to healthcare issues at the national level." Sec. Thompson, who has announced that he is a candidate for the presidency in 2008, served as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) from 2001 to 2005. He was also a four-term Republican governor of Wisconsin. Today he is chairman of the Deloitte Center for Health Solutions and a partner at the law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld.

At Deloitte and at Akin Gump, Secretary Thompson is building on his efforts as HHS Secretary and governor to develop innovative solutions to the healthcare challenges facing American families, businesses, communities, states, and the nation as a whole. These efforts focus on:

- improving the use of information technology in hospitals, clinics and doctors offices;
- promoting healthier lifestyles;
- expanding the use of medical diplomacy around the world; and
- strengthening and modernizing Medicare and Medicaid.

"We applaud and want to recognize the commitment Sec. Thompson has made to improving mental health care for all Americans."

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.

####