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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jane Pauley, Tommy G. Thompson, Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy, and Others to Speak at 2007 NAPHS Annual Meeting

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### **Medicaid, Youth Services, Mental Health Reform, and Other Policy Issues To Be Featured**

(Washington, D.C., January 8, 2007)...Top policy experts will help those who deliver psychiatric and addiction treatment services explore "Behavioral Healthcare Leadership in Action" at the Annual Membership and Board of Trustees meeting of the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS). The meeting will be held **April 29 – May 1, 2007**, at the **Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.**

Award-winning journalist **Jane Pauley**, who shares her personal experience with bipolar disorder in her autobiography *Skywriting: A Life Out of the Blue*, will present the keynote address.

Former Health and Human Services Secretary and former Wisconsin Governor **Tommy G. Thompson** will look at behavioral healthcare policy and trends. He will offer ideas on Medicaid, information technology, wellness, and the future.

**Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy** (D-RI) will provide perspective from Capitol Hill. Rep. Kennedy is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, a staunch advocate for mental health parity, and co-chair of the House Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus.

Additional sessions will encourage dialogue on programmatic challenges, including **improving patient safety** and reducing risk and liability, **emergency department** challenges, **workforce** issues, and **special education**.

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.

**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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