

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM DIRECTORS (NASMHPD)**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION  
EXPLORES OPTIONS FOR ENHANCED PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT  
IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS**

(October 16, 2002)..... In a major step toward public-private collaboration, behavioral healthcare associations representing state hospitals and private-sector provider organizations have signed a Teaming Agreement to work on Performance Measurement focused on finding common ground in data-collection to improve patient care. The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS), and the NASMHPD Research Institute, Inc. (NRI) are collaborating on performance measures that will be useful throughout the behavioral health field.

In several exploratory meetings, the organizations have determined there is significant congruence between measures and concepts already identified through independent performance measurement projects underway within each of the organizations. Some 240 state hospitals currently participate in NRI's Performance Measurement System for the public sector. NAPHS has pilot-tested a select group of performance measures in the private sector through its "Performance Measurement Initiative." The NASMHPD has been implementing its Performance Measurement Framework designed for use by state mental health agencies.

Given the intense interest in moving forward to provide benchmarking information to the field and to be in a position to help shape the development of core measures, the Boards of NASMHPD, NRI, and NAPHS have endorsed the cooperative project. The groups are set to pilot test several agreed-upon measures (including readmission, restraint, seclusion, injury to patients, and injury to staff). Based on the pilot, the data collection effort will be expanded to include larger segments of the public and private sectors.

The collaborative relationship is based on philosophical agreement among the groups that any behavioral health performance measurement system should:

- have as its ultimate goal the improvement of patient care;
- use limited resources wisely and provide value for the investment required;

- strive to find the common elements in service delivery and outcomes that can be measured and reported by both public and private sectors;
- operationalize a set of performance measures and definitions that are applicable across the public and private sectors; and
- work toward developing a national standard for assessing and rating the acuity of psychiatric patients.

### **About the Organizations**

**NASMHPD** is the membership organization of the 55 state, territorial, and District of Columbia mental health agencies. Its activities in performance measures include a special steering committee on quality and accountability, promulgation of a comprehensive performance measurement framework, and interorganizational policy dialogues regarding accountability with other health and human service associations. See NASMHPD's web site at [www.nasmhpd.org](http://www.nasmhpd.org).

**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, and adults with mental and substance use disorders. NAPHS represents behavioral healthcare provider organizations, including more than 300 psychiatric hospitals, general hospital psychiatric units, residential treatment centers, youth services organizations, and behavioral group practices. The association was founded in 1933. The NAPHS web site is [www.naphs.org](http://www.naphs.org).

**NRI**, an independent 501 [c] [3] organization, compiles data and information on public mental health programs. It serves as the performance measurement vendor for virtually all state hospitals in the country, analyzing selected performance measures and reporting these confidential data to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The NRI also issues periodic reports on selected performance measures. The NRI's web site is [www.rdmc.org/nri](http://www.rdmc.org/nri).

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