

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Julia E. Richardson Joins NAPHS as Director of Advocacy and Senior Counsel**

(Washington, DC, April 3, 2017) ....Effective April 3, Julia E. Richardson has joined the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) as director of advocacy and senior counsel. In this role, she will be responsible for developing strategies that increase the visibility of and action on NAPHS advocacy priorities and initiatives. She will be responsible for expanding the NAPHS advocacy network, enhancing capacity for advocacy, and facilitating effective collaborations with NAPHS members. Ms. Richardson will also manage the NAPHS PAC activities.

“Julia brings multiple strengths to this new role within NAPHS and to the overall association agenda,” said NAPHS President and CEO Mark Covall. “Her experience at both the federal and state level with policy analysis, legislative strategy, campaign finance, and election law will add to our advocacy expertise. We look forward to her role in helping our association deliver the message that behavioral health is integral to overall health,” he said.

Ms. Richardson has a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and the Florida Bar. Most recently, she served as director of the Office of Legislative Affairs for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. She previously served as senior counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules & Administration, chaired by Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY). Prior to her work in the Senate, she served as counsel to the commission chair and vice chair at the Federal Election Commission (FEC). She also served as a legislative assistant/director and district office coordinator in the Florida House of Representatives.

#### **About NAPHS**

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 800 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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