

**Senator Madaleno Among Those Honored at MHAMD Legislative Briefing;
Keynote By Doris Kearns Goodwin, Remarks From Lt. Gov. Rutherford**

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The Mental Health Association of Maryland launched its Centennial year during a legislative briefing last night that included the recognition of Montgomery County Senator Richard S. Madaleno, Jr. as “Legislator of the Year” for his public policy leadership that has delivered a lasting and profound impact on Maryland’s behavioral health system and the people it serves.

“Senator Madaleno has always ensured that the needs of people with mental health issues, substance use disorders and other needs are not ignored,” said MHAMD CEO Linda Raines. “Thank you for your compassionate leadership on behalf of vulnerable populations.”

Dr. Albert A. Zachik, deputy director, children’s services, at the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration, and Dr. Brian M. Hepburn, executive director of the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration, were also honored for work.

In presenting the Paula U. Hamburger Award to Dr. Zachik, Raines noted that Maryland’s child serving system is the envy of most states because the outlook for children from birth to adulthood has changed dramatically for the better under his leadership. She said he has played a central role in expanding school-based services across Maryland, and forged partnerships with juvenile services and other child serving agencies to tackle long-standing problems.

The longest-serving behavioral health commissioner in the nation, Dr. Hepburn has been the force behind dramatic improvements in care for the 160,000 plus individuals who rely on Maryland’s public behavioral health system. Outcomes have improved for young and old in every corner of the state because of his leadership, and he has moved the system toward evidence-based and outcome-driven care.

The event, emceed by MHAMD President Oscar Morgan, attracted a standing-room-only audience of nearly 400 at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis and featured the ringing of the 300-pound Mental Health Bell, made of discarded chains and shackles from asylums across the country to serve as a powerful reminder of the past.

World-renowned presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin engaged the audience with stories about past presidents and their leadership, including references to MHAMD’s history and mental health issues faced by some of the leaders she has researched. Goodwin is the author of six critically acclaimed and New York Times best-selling books, including her most recent, *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism*.

Following Goodwin’s question and answer session, Lt. Gov. Boyd K. Rutherford made an unscheduled appearance to express the Hogan Administration’s commitment to issues associated with behavioral health and MHAMD’s mission.

About MHAMD

The Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) is the state's only volunteer, nonprofit citizen's organization that brings together consumers, families, professionals, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health and mental illness. MHAMD envisions a just, humane and healthy society in which all people are accorded respect, dignity and the opportunity to achieve their full potential free from stigma and prejudice. For more information visit www.mhamd.org.

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