



**Mental Health
Association
in New Jersey, Inc.**

Important Message from the President: Parity Legislation Signed into Law

Governor Murphy signed the Parity Bill into law in April 2019! It has been a long road and we are proud to say that the Mental Health Association in New Jersey has been a strong member of the Parity Coalition. Barbara Johnston, our Director of Policy and Advocacy, has worked to define and develop parity in healthcare coverage over the past several years. With our partners, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, and others, we have been a strong voice for accountability and transparency between insurance coverages for physical and behavioral health treatment. This new law will hold managed care organizations (MCOs) accountable for reporting inequities to the Department of Banking and Insurance. The department will report their findings to the legislature on a yearly basis. We will finally have data that identifies differences in restrictions such as prior authorization, step therapy, and network adequacy. Thank you all for your support and activity on this issue. It's one more step toward equality for those with behavioral health issues.

— Message from Carolyn Beauchamp, MHANJ President and CEO



Left to right: Commissioner Carole Johnson, Department of Human Services (DHS); Valerie Furlong, Denied Treatment Group; Senator Tom Kean; John Jacobi, Seton Hall University; Ed Martone, National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence (NCADD); Governor Phil Murphy (seated); Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; Phil Lubitz, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) New Jersey; Commissioner Marlene Caride, Department of Banking and Insurance (DOBI); Barbara Johnston, Mental Health Association in NJ (MHANJ); and Mary Abrams, NJ Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies (NJAMHAA)