

10th Annual Mental Health Community Conference
Wednesday, May 17
Crowne Plaza
12:00 noon

This conference is sponsored by the Department of Mental Health. You spoke to them as Lt. Governor. The audience will be people diagnosed with mental illness, family members and mental health professionals.

Remember to stand up straight and use low tones.

Opening

1. Pleasure to be back speaking with you.
2. Spoke to you as Lt. Governor

Main Points

A. Very supportive of the Department of Mental Health, and familiar with efforts to improve mental health services.

- i. As a Legislator, Lt. Governor and now as Governor
 1. 1993 and 1996 Mississippi Connections Project
 - 2.
 - 3.
- ii. Last week announced COMPASS project grant
 1. Based on keeping children with mental illness in their home communities and schools
 2. partnerships with families

B. Quality of Service

- i. We must empower those who have been diagnosed with Mental illness
 1. Voter empowerment
 - a. Encourage them to get involved in the voting process.

- i. Letting their voice be heard
 - 1. Register to vote
 - 2. Contact their Legislators
- ii. Provide them with services that work to improve their quality of life.
- iii. Productive people who want to have responsibilities.
 - 1. Employment Program – rehabilitation program that allows people with mental illness to re-enter the job market.
 - a. Recovering workers taking entry-level positions
 - b. Working in hard-to-fill jobs
 - c. 100% guarantee through the program that someone will always be on the job.
 - 2. Participating Agencies – employ workers who have been through the program.
 - a. Department of Transportation
 - b. Gaming Commission

C. Commitment to Funding

- i. Finding new funding
- ii. Pooling funds
- iii. Sustainability
- iv. Using dollars effectively

Closing

As we become more and more educated about mental illness and its effects on people, we have the opportunity to make great improvements in areas of service, treatment and funding. We are working to find solutions that are helpful to people who are living with mental illness, their families and mental health professionals.

We are committed to working with you to find those solutions.

Thank you.