

“Investing Intellectual Capital in Early Childhood Health”
Wednesday, October 18, 2000
Charlotte, NC
9:15 a.m.

Opening

1. Pleasure to be here
2. Would like to thank Governor Hunt for leadership role in this worthwhile effort
3. Story

Main Points

1. Facing a nationwide healthcare crisis
 - a. Healthcare resources
 - i. Access to healthcare (rural)
 - ii. Affordable healthcare
 - iii. Healthcare providers
2. We are “fighting back” for our people
 - a. Access to healthcare/providers
 - i. Physicians Assistants – bill passed this past leg. Session
 - ii. Scholarships for those Medical Students choosing to practice in rural/areas of poverty
 - b. Medicaid

- i. Responsible for healthcare of approx. 25% of state's citizens
- ii. Service
- iii. Accessing federal funds

c. Affordable healthcare

i. Children's Health Insurance Program

- 1. January 2000 – fewer than 525 Mississippi children enrolled
- 2. Estimate more than 85,000 eligible
- 3. Unacceptable
- 4. Goal of our administration to enroll every eligible child in Mississippi.

ii. CHIP Outreach

- 1. New strategies
 - a. Marketing/Advertising Plan
 - b. Simplified application
- 2. Partnerships formed –
overwhelming response from agencies, non-profit groups and civic groups to aid in our efforts.
 - a. Mississippi Hospital Association – housing applications statewide

- b. Department of Education - \$20.00 incentives for successfully enrolled children.
- c. Department of Health – promotion and training for assistance to enroll in the program

3. Recent approval to implement a zero waiting period.

- a. Removed a big obstacle
- b. Begin receiving benefits immediately
- c. Alleviates the fear of no insurance coverage for our children

3. Healthy Children make better students, healthier adults

1. Healthy students

- a. Immunizations – (critical) – As of Oct. 1, 2000 DHS requires evidence of immunization to receive child care vouchers

- b. More productive in the classroom
- c. Preventive healthcare (screenings, healthcare education, check ups etc.)

2. Healthier adults

- a. If preventive measures are taken as children –
 - i. Less medical problems later
 - ii. Lower medical costs

Closing

1. We are all facing challenges in our states.
2. Some of those challenges are similar – some are very different.
3. We have to find innovative solutions that work for our people
4. We have to pool our resources.
5. We must create partnerships that will utilize our strengths and allow us to benefit more people.
6. In Mississippi we have already begun developing those partnerships to promote CHIP and to recruit physicians to rural areas.
7. We are determined to do more.

