

Governor's talking points for CHIP/School Press Conference
10:00 AM, Tuesday, July 25, 2000
Capitol Rotunda

- Continuing our commitment to education and children's health, I asked the Division of Medicaid to partner with our public schools and Head Start Centers to boost enrollment in Mississippi Health Benefits.
- This initiative will reward schools for enrolling needy children of working families. The Division of Medicaid will pay each public school and Head Start center \$20 for every eligible child successfully enrolled in Mississippi Health Benefits.
- The Division of Medicaid, along with the Department of Human Services and the State Department of Education, will be working with teachers during the first several weeks of school to ensure that all eligible children have adequate health insurance.
- These school superintendents are here today because their schools will likely receive the greatest benefit from this initiative.
 - (The CHIP program is based on the number of free and reduced meal enrollments. These five superintendents have the highest number of enrollees in the free and reduced meal program.)

Questions:

1. Where is the money coming from? And, how much will be made available for this?
 - a. The Division of Medicaid has funds available enrollment and marketing. Together with the media's support, we will be able to enroll every eligible child.
2. How many children are currently enrolled?
 - a. As a result of our efforts and those of our advocates, more than # children have been enrolled in Mississippi Health Benefits.
3. How many do you expect to enroll in Mississippi Health Benefits through this initiative?
 - a. Every eligible child.

Attending: Governor Ronnie Musgrove

Unconfirmed: Dr. Richard Thompson, State Superintendent
Mrs. Reka Peyton, Executive Director, Medicaid;
Dr. Bettye Fletcher, Executive Director, Human Services
Dr. Jayne Sargent, Jackson Public Schools
Mr. Henry Arledge, Harrison County School District
Dr. Arthur Cartlidge, Greenville Public Schools

Mr. Robert Puckett, Vicksburg-Warren Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Baird, DeSoto County Schools
Mr. David Little, Meridian Public Schools