

July 18, 2000

Mr. Timothy M. Westmoreland, J.D., Director
Center for Medicaid and State Operations
Department of Health and Human Services
Health Care Financing Administration
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Mr. Westmoreland:

The State of Mississippi is applying for the Nursing Home Transition Grant 2000 and I have designated the Division of Medicaid as the lead agency to oversee the planning and development of this initiative. The Division has authority to convene its Long Term Care Task Force to address and enhance choices available to Medicaid beneficiaries who are currently residing in nursing facilities. The Olmstead Supreme Court decision affirms the right of individuals with disabilities to receive services in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs and this grant application will identify and address those concerns we have in Mississippi.

We are committed to improving health care in the State of Mississippi and we pledge to work collectively with all levels of government and by including consumers, care-givers and the private sector in identifying those services and benefits necessary to provide individuals in nursing facilities with long term care alternatives. We believe we can set unprecedented goals for the care of our citizens and we can reach unparalleled quality of life for present and future generations of Mississippians. That is good for our state and for our nation.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please do not hesitate to call me if I may be of any additional assistance.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr

