

11th Annual Mental Health Community Conference
Thursday, May 24, 2001
12:00 Noon
Crowne Plaza

(Message: 15 minutes on the importance of health care, especially mental health, in Mississippi)

Opening

- Good Afternoon
- (the President of the Mental Health Consumer Coalition will introduce you.)
- (Story about the 6 old men on the front porch of the country store – remembering, respecting and taking care of the people who influenced our lives.)

Main Points

1. Health Care
 - a. Mississippi must provide an environment of healthy, educated employees.
 - i. Industries want this for their employees.
 - ii. I have said that education and economic development go hand in hand, but having healthy, happy people is essential for expanding economic development and teaching our children.

- b. A sound, solid health care system is a vital component to our state's success.
- c. Mississippi is looking for ways to strengthen and improve access to health care across our state.
- d. We are providing more opportunities in the health care system for our state's underserved and rural communities.
- e. The Mississippi Rural Health Care Fund will make great strides in helping to find solutions that meet our people's health care needs.
 - i. People in every county, in every area of our state deserve to have access to life-saving, life-enhancing services.
 - ii. This fund will provide assistance to community health centers, rural clinics, hospitals, physicians, pharmacists and dentists in medically underserved areas of Mississippi.
 - iii. The Rural Health Care Loan Fund will provide more Mississippians better access to a variety of health care options.
 - iv. That means more Mississippians will be getting the medical attention they need.

- v. Better health care services for our people will lead to better economic opportunities for these communities.

2. Mental Health

- a. Dr. Hendrix and Staff
 - i. Doing a great job!
 - ii. I want to recognize them for their hard work and dedication.
- b. Crisis Care Centers
- c. Mental Health Summit
 - i. Being planned for next year.
 - ii. Address the needs in Mississippi.

3. Health Care Summits

- a. These health care summits will be helpful to every Mississippian ranging in age from birth to senior citizens.
- b. The summits will bring together health care experts with people who utilize medical services through a series of health care summits to create solutions that make health care opportunities and access better for every Mississippian.
- c. The health care professionals and providers involved in the summits come from different

areas of the state, with different areas of interest and expertise.

- d. We do have one thing in common; we are committed to ensuring that every person in the state of Mississippi has access to top quality health care options and has the opportunity to have their medical needs met.
- e. The first summit in the series, *Governor's Health Care Summit-Solutions For the Uninsured*.
 - i. It will address the health insurance needs of the people of our state.
- f. The second summit in the series, *Governor's Health Care Summit – Measuring Up*.
 - i. It will focus on the health care issues where Mississippi faces challenges. For the last several years Mississippi has been ranked near the bottom in areas such as heart disease, diabetes, breast cancer screening, overweight teenagers and adults, physical inactivity, emergency room visits and teenage births.
- g. The third summit in the series, *Governor's Health Care Summit – Defining the Needs of Mississippi's Senior Adults*.
 - i. It explore new ways to develop feasible and accountable solutions, which will

address the health care needs of Mississippi's growing senior adult population.

Closing

- We are committed to having healthier children - healthier adults - healthier Mississippians.
- We are looking for solutions that will create an even better atmosphere for living in our state.
- A better Quality of Life for all Mississippians.
- Mississippi is moving ahead of the nation, improving our people's lives and making Mississippi even more attractive to industries and individuals.