
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOYD
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: MID-SOUTH PROMISE PARTNERSHIP'S YOUTH SUMMIT
DATE 6/8/00
CC: SIMMONS

The agenda for yesterday's Mid-South Promise Partnership youth summit focused on the findings and recommendations of a survey of youth and adults in the quad county (Chicot County, Arkansas; East Carroll Parish, Louisiana; Washington/Issaquena counties) area. The following is an abbreviated list of the survey's findings and recommendations:

1. A wide range of agencies in the Quad County area provides a variety of services to youth. However, a formal system of coordination of these agencies would promote more efficient and effective delivery of needed services to youth.
2. Churches are influential and important in the lives of many Quad County youth. Nonprofit agencies and churches should consider how they could work together to build bridges to better the lives of young people and their families.
3. Communities may be able to address the need for a "caring adult" by developing more mentoring and counseling programs for youth.
4. The Quad County Promise Project plan should address the reduction of use of alcohol, drugs and cigarettes.
5. Quad County should also address dental care, given that over one-third youth, mostly African American, report receiving no or sporadic care.
6. The quality of the public schools must be improved.
7. Students need career counseling and information on how to get jobs and the range of career choices available to them.
8. Properly organized and supported, the youth of the Quad County area may be a valuable resource for helping others in need.
9. Information about available programs and services should be disseminated more effectively to families in the Quad County area.

The Governor gave an excellent keynote address at the opening session. He spoke of helping others and the fact that everyone deserves a chance. He discussed his classroom technology, CHIPS, and teacher salaries initiatives. I received compliments through out the day on his address and on his initiatives.

Mike Moore spoke after lunch on encouraging tobacco-free youth. He roamed the audience with a cordless microphone and had approximately 20 children of all ages on the stage that he interviewed as to their role models and values. He made the following points concerning the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi and his initiatives during the course of his presentation:

- He is utilizing a portion (\$5 million/year??) of Mississippi's \$62.5 million tobacco settlement on an anti-smoking campaign, which focuses on 3 age groups: K-3 initiative; RAT (Reject all Tobacco w/ mascot Terrance the Rat for elementary students) and a SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco for high school students) program.
- Mississippi leads the nation in enforcing tobacco laws.
- He plans to double the number of Boys and Girls clubs in the state. The Legislature gave him \$1 million during this past session towards this initiative. He is about to have 300 churches working with the Boys and Girls clubs.
- The United States puts more people per capita in prison than any other country in the world and Mississippi has the largest per capita number of inmates. If we would invest the money in prevention with youth, maybe we wouldn't have to spend so much on prisons. He mentioned increasing teacher salaries and said, "I know y'all are all excited about it, but we won't be able to afford our teacher pay raise plan if I have to keep building prisons."
- He had 5 staff members with him, 2 of whom attended the conference for most of the day: Sandra Shelson, Head of his new Children's Division; Merrill King, intern; Steve Smith, Community Services; Nicole Boyd, Special Asst AG for the Partnership; and, Jonathon Compretta, Mississippi Mentoring Network.
- The MS Mentoring Network hopes to establish a Public Service 101 and 102 for college students. IHL Board member Ricky Garrett praised him for this idea during the questions and comments. He also wants to explore having kids mentor other kids in exchange for scholarships. He has 50 of his 100 staff attorneys serving as mentors and he plans to have all 100 mentoring by the end of the year.
- He stressed that, when trying to establish a mentoring program or a Boys/Girls club, the key to getting the support of the business community is to tie it all in to crime prevention (getting kids off of the streets from 3:00 to 7:00)
- He referred to himself as a "provocator."

- He wrapped up by stressing that you “have to give back and then receive God’s blessings for doing it.”