

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 865

ORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, good oral health and overall good general health are inseparable-the burden of dental and oral disease significantly diminishes the quality of life at school, work, and home;

WHEREAS, low-income, minority, and disabled populations have higher rates of oral health disease due to a lack of access to care, and lack of understanding of the importance of oral health to overall well-being;

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General reports that severe inequities in oral health occur among the financially disadvantaged, immigrants, seniors, the physically and developmentally challenged, and those in rural communities;

WHEREAS, 28% of Mississippi's children under age 5 live in poverty. Severe tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease in this group;

WHEREAS, less than fifty percent of Mississippi homes have access to fluoridated water, which is an important preventive public health measure, used to prevent tooth decay;

WHEREAS, upon review of the statistics and facts during the National Governors Association Oral Health Policy Academy hosted in Jackson, Mississippi, the members of the Mississippi Team agreed that the problem of oral health care needs for Mississippi's children has reached a critical level and warrants action;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi do hereby create and establish the Oral Health Task Force.

I. MISSION

Mississippi will be a state where every child enjoys optimal oral health; where prevention and health education are emphasized and treatment is available, accessible, affordable, and timely; and where the total well being of the child is promoted.

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Task Force shall consist of the following members, or their designees, who shall be appointed by and serve at the will and pleasure of the Governor:

1. Executive Director of the Mississippi Division of Medicaid;
2. Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality;
3. Representative from the Mississippi Department of Education;
4. Representative from the State Children's Health Insurance Program;
5. Bureau Director of Maternal/Child Health, Mississippi Division of Medicaid;
6. Chief, Bureau of Child Health, Mississippi Department of Health;
7. Epidemiologist, Bureau of Child Health, Mississippi Department of Health;
8. Pediatrician, Bureau of Child Health, Mississippi Department of Child Health;
9. Pediatric Dentist, Bureau of Child Health, Mississippi Department of Health;
10. State Health Officer;
11. State Dental Director;
12. Dean of the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry;
13. Representative from the Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners;
14. Executive Director of the Mississippi Dental Association;
15. A member of the Mississippi Dental Hygienists Association;
16. Representative of the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association;
17. President of the Rural Hospital Association;
18. President of the Spina Bifida Association of Mississippi;

19. Family Practice Physician;
20. Four (4) Dentists licensed to practice dentistry in Mississippi;
21. An Oral Surgeon;
22. At least two Public Health Advocacy representatives;
23. Representative from the Governor's Office;
24. One (1) Senator as designated by the Lieutenant Governor;
25. One (1) Representative as designated by the Speaker of the House;
26. Any other members designated by the Governor

The State Health Officer shall serve as chair of the task force, and the Department of Health, Bureau of Child Health, shall provide administrative support for the task force.

FUNCTIONS

The Oral Health Task Force will meet at least quarterly and provide annually a report to the Governor of the oral health status in Mississippi, including recommendations for action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, this the 19th day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand and two, and of the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE