

For Immediate Release

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State Medicaid Director Rica Lewis-Payton Selected As 2003 Toll Fellow

(Jackson, MS) – State Medicaid Director Rica Lewis-Payton has been named as one of 40 emerging state leaders from across the United States selected for the prestigious Toll Fellowship Program sponsored by the Council of State Governments.

The Toll Fellows Program is focused on developing the next generation of leaders from all three branches of state government. This experience gives these leaders perspectives they would not ordinarily obtain during the course of their regular governmental service.

Governor Ronnie Musgrove appointed Rica Lewis-Payton to her current position at Mississippi Medicaid in July of 2000.

“This is great recognition for Rica and the leadership she is providing for Mississippi’s Medicaid program,” said Musgrove. “She is known around the country for her talent and dedication, and we are fortunate to have her working here for the people of Mississippi.”

She earned her bachelor of arts degree in economics from Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama, and her Master of Science degree in hospital and health administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Prior to her appointment as State Medicaid Director, she held various positions of increasing management responsibilities at the G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

As an advocate for quality healthcare services for all, Ms. Lewis-Payton has committed her energies and efforts to increasing access to care for and improving the health status of Mississippians. She was selected for the 2003 Toll Fellowship from many outstanding applicants by a committee of state elected and appointed officials as one of the most promising leaders in state government.

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