

## MEMORANDUM

October 28, 2003

TO: Governor Musgrove

FROM: Shannon

RE: Delta Regional Medical Center event

Attached are your remarks for the announcement concerning the delivery of health care in the MS Delta.

Making the announcement with you will be:

- Carl McGee, Delta Regional Medical Center Chairman
- L. Ray Humphreys, CEO, Delta Regional Medical Center (he will also be introducing you and sitting next to you)

You will be seated on a platform outside at the site.

Here is the background information from Brad Prewitt:

The event will NOT be a groundbreaking. The event will announce formally the new hospital master site plan and an unveiling of the DRMC vision of the hospital of tomorrow for the entire Mississippi Delta region, which in this case means the tristate ArkLaMiss service area. Delta Regional serves the most disadvantaged region in the United States in terms of economy and education and health care, and this is borne out most significantly in the African American population which bears enormous health disparity burdens and historically poor access. Obviously, the hospital relies most heavily on government subsidized health care, including both Medicare and Medicaid. Mississippi's commitment to the Medicaid program is very important to this region and this health care organization and team. Delta Regional is a nonprofit, countyowned hospital. Washington County's commitment to this hospital and the ultimate financing of the new facility demonstrate that public, not for profit health care continues to work, can be profitable, and ultimately returns those profits to the community and the patients of DRMC.

The new Delta Regional Medical Center will replace a fifty-year old facility which must be replaced to adequately serve this most needy population. The master plan calls for a \$140 million facility and allows for a total renaissance in the way health care is delivered in the Mississippi Delta. Delta Regional is the only full service hospital in the Delta region, and this new facility will usher in an even higher standard of care and applied

technology. DRMC new facility will signal to people in the Delta that the best care can be Delta Regional health care. The facility will also serve as a new recruitment tool to attract physicians to this service area, which suffers from the lowest physician to patient ratio in the country. Finally, the new DRMC facility will become the largest economic development project the region has seen over the last 30 years. The facility will become an oasis for economic regeneration in a NAFTA impacted economy and become a great selling point for industries wishing to locate in this community and region. This could very well be the "Nissan of the Delta."

The Governor may want to speak to the Medicaid program, economic development, and health care delivery. We also would love for the Governor to express the commitment of MDA to fund the project infrastructure requirements of \$8.6 million, as reflected in the PowerPoint. Jen Waller of the campaign indicated she would contact Steve Hale to determine if he could produce the letter stating that commitment. Steve Hale said during our meeting he would prepare a letter stating MDA would fund the project as an Economic Development Highway Fund program as funds became available post 2004 legislative session.