
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: SMITH
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MISSISSIPPI ACCESS TO CARE PLAN
DATE: 9/21/01

I received the attached draft of the Mississippi Access to Care Plan from Rica this week. She plans to submit the plan to the Legislature September 30, 2001, as required by House Bill 929. The Mississippi Access to Care Plan was the result of the efforts of a workgroup with representatives from Department of Mental Health, Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Rehabilitation, advocacy groups, consumers, providers and other organizations. The Division of Medicaid was the lead agency.

Surveys were sent out to consumers and public meetings were held across the state. 5,318 completed surveys were returned from people with disabilities and their caregivers. Many services were identified, that if made available, could prevent institutionalization of many people with disabilities. Expansion of current waivers and application for a Serious Emotional Disturbance Waiver (for children under age 21) are included in this plan.

I met with Rica and her staff this morning to discuss questions I had related to the plan. I think the plan looks good and that it will meet the needs of people with disabilities by providing community-based service options, thereby preventing or post-poning institutionalization. If you have questions or would like to discuss further, please let me know. Thanks.