
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: SMITH
SUBJECT: SB 2327
DATE: 2/12/03
CC: RENICK, PHILLIP, LEE ANN

SB 2327 passed and is coming to you. It is the appropriation bill to hire DHS social workers. Bill, Lee Ann, Thelma, Phillip, and I met about this bill and other DHS issues today. We agree that we should stay on message and thank the Legislature for finding the money to hire social workers but this is a reoccurring problem, and reoccurring expense. DHS can hire the social workers and when the agency runs out of funds to pay those social workers, they'll have to come up with more money.

The total amount in the bill is \$250,000 from the AG's Bridgestone/Firestone settlement and \$900,000 from the Budget Contingency Fund for a total of \$1,150,000. The funds can only be used for counties where the caseload is (50) or more. Current state law says that social workers have to be permanent state service employees and cannot be contract. Money will be transferred by March 1, 2003.

The funds are for FY03 but the repealer is June 30, 2004. Bridget Logan thinks that they have 18 months to spend the money (per Representative Diane Peranich).

Gordon Myrick and Bridget have called asking that they be notified of when you sign this bill so they can be present.

Thank you.

s and the members from the Senate. The original bill specified that the members could choose the chair from anyone on the committee. Page two list the differences in appointments of members to the MAC Oversight Committee in HB1070 and HB1070 (Committee Substitute).

HB1070	HB1070 Committee Substitute
Governor appoints six members - at least five of whom must be persons with disabilities	Governor appoints two , each of whom must be person with disability
A representative from the Governor's Office	A representative from the Governor's Office
Lieutenant Governor appoints four members, at least three must be persons with disabilities.	Lieutenant Governor does not appoint any members
Executive Directors of Department of Mental Health, the State Department of Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Human Services and the Division of Medicaid	Not specified as members of the MAC Oversight Committee but will be required to submit reports twice a year specifying the agency's budgetary and program implementation response to the MAC plan.
Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Public Health and Welfare Committee and the Appropriations Committee of the House and Senate, as non-voting members .	Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Public Health and Welfare Committee and the Appropriations Committee of the House and Senate, as voting members .
The members shall select one member to serve as chair.	Requires that the chair of the committee will be one of the legislative members, alternating between the House of Representatives and the Senate.
Recommends coordination with the Governor's Commission on Disabilities.	Deletes all references to the Governor's Commission on Disabilities.

The attached summary outlines needed services identified in the MAC Plan and responsible parties. As you can see, there are many agencies and interested parties that have been assigned specific duties besides Mental Health. Note that the MAC Oversight Committee, **in conjunction with the Governor's Commission on Disability, establish a single point of intake for persons with disabilities to provide an independent identifying, screening and referring process to assist persons with disabilities to access appropriate services.** This requirement and all references to the Governor's Commission on Disability were **deleted**. However, **Senate Bill 2662 (Committee**

Substitute) was amended to state that the Department of Mental Health shall have authority for the development of a consumer friendly single point of intake and referral system within its services areas for persons with mental illness, mental retardation, developmental disabilities or alcohol or substance abuse who need assistance identifying or accessing appropriate services.

In June 2000, you appointed the Division of Medicaid as the lead agency to develop, **in coordination** with the Department of Mental Health, Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Human Services, and the Department of Rehabilitative Services, a **comprehensive**, effective plan for addressing the issues related to the Olmstead decision. The MAC Plan was developed after statewide public meetings and work groups with input from persons with disabilities, advocacy groups, consumers, providers, state agencies, and other organizations.

Mississippi was one of four states that had MAC Plan's that were recognized by the National Conference of State Legislatures. Why would we want to disregard recommendations in a nationally recognized plan that includes the interest of **all** people with disabilities- not just mental disabilities? This appears to be discrimination. Turf battles among state agencies are causing barriers for the people of this state.

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