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At the Office of the Governor, Division of Medicaid, we are working to ensure quality health care services to the 650,000 Mississippians who depend Medicaid for meet their needs.

Medicaid Among Top Ten in Nation for CHIP enrollment

When Governor Ronnie Musgrove took office in 2000, there were 542 children ages 0 to 19 enrolled in CHIP II. As of April 1, 2002 there were 48,974 children 0 to 19 enrolled in CHIP II. (*Source: DHS HB621A 5/01/02.*)

During FY2001, the Mississippi Health Benefits Program and the State's Children's Health Insurance Program advanced the accomplishment of its mission: To ensure that every child in the state of Mississippi has access to quality health care. Phase II of the Mississippi Health Benefits Program was implemented, which expanded health coverage to children. Children under age 19 in families with income under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level can be covered under a separate health insurance plan administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi. In its *State Children's Health Insurance Program Annual Enrollment Report*, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services cited Mississippi as one of the top ten states with the largest increase of children ever enrolled for (federal) FY2000-FY2001.

1 Medicaid Awarded Grants

The Division of Medicaid will use an \$891,363 grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to study and develop additional methodologies to measure the accuracy of payments for Medicaid services and create effective models for use by other states and the nation.

Additionally, Medicaid will use a \$149,920 State Coverage Initiative grant from the Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy to examine the needs, coverage issues and current state of affairs of the uninsured population throughout the

state. The goal of the project is to develop an action plan addressing a state coverage initiative for uninsured families and children.

“Medicaid will work collaboratively with the State Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Finance and Administration and the Bower Foundation to accomplish these goals and objectives,” said Rica Lewis-Payton, Executive Director of the Division of Medicaid.

New Pharmacy 1Cost Containment Measures at Medicaid

With Medicaid prescription drug costs increasing almost 40% over last fiscal year, the green light was given to Health Information Designs, Inc. of Auburn, Alabama, to administer a new Pharmacy Benefits Management and Drug Utilization Review service. Health Information Designs will evaluate the Medicaid pharmacy program and recommend changes to reduce drug costs. Medicaid’s prescription drug costs were the program’s biggest single expenditure in FY2001, consuming 22% of all Medicaid expenditures.

“We expect the level of health care delivered to our beneficiaries not just to be maintained, but to be improved by the use of the contractor’s services,” said Payton.

Other positive changes include counter-detailing of prescribers to provide education regarding the availability of less costly but equally effective drug therapies, detection of “doctor shopper” beneficiaries who inappropriately see multiple physicians, and increased review of drug therapy to insure medically justified diagnoses.

1National Governor’s Association Selects Mississippi Medicaid Among Eight States for Policy Academy on Chronic Disease Prevention and Management

The National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices has selected Mississippi Medicaid to participate in the Policy Academy on *Chronic Disease Prevention and Management*. The academy is designed to help governors formulate and implement policies and programs to prevent and manage chronic diseases. States were

required to clearly define existing challenges in addressing chronic diseases, explain current thinking on how to address those challenges, and demonstrate a high level of support for working on chronic disease issues in their state.

1 Medicaid Addresses the Oral Health Needs of Children

Representatives from six states met in Jackson this past October at the invitation of Governor Musgrove to participate in the NGA's Policy Academy addressing children's oral healthcare needs. Governor Musgrove appointed Rica Lewis-Payton to serve as the Chair of the Mississippi Policy Team. The overall objectives of the program are to help state policy makers develop an action plan that could be realistically implemented to improve oral healthcare for children; to create and reinforce relationships between governors' offices, state legislators, key program administrators, and stakeholders from the private sector; and to assist state officials in identifying issues or areas of concern that might result in a formal request for technical assistance.