

## CARES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

1801 N. West Street

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for children.

Many of these children are in the custody of the state and also have psychiatric and or behavioral problems. These problems temporarily (nine months) prevent them from being able to function in Foster Care or in regular school. Medicaid funds the psychiatric treatment for these kids.

If we were to cut “optional” services in Medicaid the impact on these kids would be as follows:

- They would lose their psychiatric treatment
- They would lose the safety of their home
- They would lose the safety of their school
- Medicaid currently spends 17 million dollars for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility

John Damon, Deputy Director of the facility will be available to talk to the press about the impact of cutting optional services on his facility.

Chris Cherney, Director will try and be there as well.

MESSAGE:

I've given the legislature a plan that will fund the '02 Medicaid shortfall.

My plan is based upon realistic numbers and it will not slash services to children like the ones here today.

These kids do not have the means to hire **a high powered expensive paid lobbyist** in the Capitol, but they do have Ronnie Musgrove and I will not allow these kids to suffer because others want to play politics with Medicaid.

CARES is providing a safe and secure environment for these children and giving them the tools they need to function in society. We cannot let these kids down.

This is about more than just dollars, this is about providing a chance at a future for these kids; a chance for them to become productive citizens in the state of Mississippi.

(Does Ed Buelow want to come down here and choose which of these children will never have the opportunity to reach their full potential?)