

Children's Mental Health Institute/ Announcement of COMPASS
(Children Of Mississippi and their Parents Accessing Strength-based Services)
Tuesday, May 9, 2000
11:30 a.m.
County Line Road Hilton

You spoke to this group last on May 14, 2000 during a candidates forum. You discussed children with serious emotional behavioral disorders or mental illness. Mississippi Families as Allies recommends a type of service delivery that is called a System of Care or Wraparound. A system of care involves a partnership between many entities such as schools, churches, mental health, juvenile justice, social services, families and foster families.

I. Greeting

A. Pleasure to be here as we recognize
Children's Mental Health Month

II. Content

A. Very supportive and familiar with
efforts of the Children's Mental Health
Services within the Department of Health
and Human Services

i. Legislator

ii. Lt. Governor

B. Pleased and proud to announce that the
State Department of Health has been
awarded a five year grant from the Division

of Children's Mental Health Services within the Department of Health and Human Services. The project has been named the COMPASS (Children Of Mississippi and their Parents Accessing Strengths-Based Services) Project

The formation of COMPASS is due to:

- i. Efforts in 1993 and 1996 creating the Mississippi Connections Project
- ii. Cooperative effort of all agencies at the state and local level

C. COMPASS - guided by the input of families and children on all levels – practice, program and policy.

- i. Based on state-of-the-art practice in children's mental health including:
 1. keeping children in their communities, homes and schools
 2. strengths-based partnerships with families

3. creative blending of funding and services across systems and agencies

4. incorporation of informal supports into interventions with children

5. cultural competence

6. closely evaluating the outcomes of the services delivered

ii. Five year grant increasing from \$1,000,000.00 during the first year to \$2,500,000.00 during the peak years (a 1:3 match is required during the first year, with this becoming 3:1 by the fifth year)

D. Funding – the grant money is seed money that will get the project started. It is up to us to find the permanent funding for COMPASS. We must do all that we can to help our children –

i. Finding new funding

ii. Pooling funds

Department of Mental Health, Education and Human Services have already committed to providing the matching dollars required by the funding source.

House Bill 250 (is due from Gov. 5-23-00), supports blended funding efforts and inter-agency collaboration.

iii. Sustainability

iv. Using dollars effectively

E. Service

i. Hinds County youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families

ii. Would like to service entire state of Mississippi

F. Values

- i. Reach out to the students so that service is easily accessible
- ii. Partnering with parents * (very important) *

G. Introduction of Parent

- i. Teresa Blackmon, a parent who will share with you how this project will benefit her family

After Mrs. Blackmon's remarks, they will present you with a Declaration of support for the children and families served through this project.