

*Remarks for the  
Tate County ICF/MR Community Homes Groundbreaking  
March 22,2002*

Thank you, Dr. Haney.

(recognize Randy Hendrix, Ed LeGrand,  
George Harrison, members of the  
Mississippi Board of Mental Health)

In my State of the State address I outlined  
four priorities for the people of Mississippi –  
jobs, education, safety and health care.

The priority of health care extends to every  
Mississippian, including those with  
developmental disabilities.

The health of our people is part of the foundation of our success as a state. I want to make sure that foundation is strong.

That is why last July, I announced the creation of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities to develop a system for program planning and advocacy on behalf of individuals with physical, mental and developmental disabilities.

Dr. Randy Hendrix serves on the Commission and I appreciate his dedication to it.

Today, we're demonstrating our commitment, to move beyond talk and into action.

Every individual in this state has a gift, a talent and incredible potential to offer – we have to help them make the most of those gifts and those talents. Our first step in that effort is in working to meet their needs.

With the construction of these new community homes, we will provide 20 Mississippians with a place to live that not only serves their disabilities but respects and enhances their abilities.

We will provide them with the opportunity to live more independently.

It has been said that “without a sense of caring, there can be no community.” I’m proud of the shared efforts of the North Mississippi Regional Center, the Board of Mental Health and people from around this state that made today possible.

Because we share a sense of caring, we are building a community. That’s how we succeed as a state; and more importantly, that’s how we succeed in serving each other.

I know these community homes will have a tremendous impact here in Senatobia and Tate County. For those who will live in them, I wish the very best of happiness and comfort. For those who will serve in them, I wish a continued dedication to the work they do and those they serve.

And for those of us here today, I wish a continued strength of caring and a renewed commitment to building community.

Thank you.

