
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: SMITH
SUBJECT: MISSISSIPPI HEALTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM FORUMS
DATE: 10/16/01

Mississippi Health Advocacy Program and Mississippi Forum on Children and Families are co-sponsoring nine fall forums titled: *Women and Children First, Solutions for the Uninsured*. The nine forums are intended to serve as a follow-up to the *Governor's Health Care Summit, Solutions for the Uninsured*, held in Jackson in June. They have requested that you, or one of your staff, speak at the forums. Suggested times for a presentation are 9:00 am or during the luncheons scheduled at noon. Their director, Roy Mitchell, also asked if the Governor's Office would like to co-sponsor these forums.

I've asked around and none of us know a lot about this organization but I found the following information on their web site:

MS Health Advocacy Program is a non-partisan, non-profit public interest organization. Their office is located at the Jackson Medical Mall. Their director is Roy Mitchell, an attorney here in Jackson. Their goal is provide Mississippians with the latest information on Medicaid waivers, as well as to help Mississippians craft community strategies for preserving, strengthening and expanding the Medicaid and CHIP programs. These discussions will offer information from service providers, local policy makers and national experts on issues related to expanding coverage to parents and children. MHAP is sponsored by Sisters of Mercy Health System. The following is their mission statement:

The Mississippi Health Advocacy Program strives to be a strong, effective voice for improved health care for all throughout the State of Mississippi, especially those whose health is threatened by poverty, racism, malnutrition, and violence. Mississippi Health Advocacy Program will work with communities to identify health needs and formulate strategies for change, and will research, analyze, propose and promote policies that will enhance the health status of every person, regardless of financial status.

I thought these forums might be an opportunity to get your Health Care Proposal out there and hopefully gain support. This may be something you want to do.

Jill and I looked at your schedule and you are only available for three of the dates at this time. Is this something you would be interested in doing?

YES _____

NO _____

Additionally, they would like someone on your staff to speak during the *Women and Children Coverage Proposal Panel*. Would you like for me, or Rica, to do a presentation on specific expanding coverage proposals for Medicaid expansion, CHIP expansion, and tobacco settlement funding?

YES _____

NO _____

Would you like one of us to present your Health Care Proposal during the forums that you cannot attend?

YES _____

NO _____

I have attached additional information about these forums for your review. Thanks.