
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: SMITH
SUBJECT: MISSISSIPPI HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH CENTER
DATE: 7/7/03
CC: LEE ANN, SEWELL, RENICK, BOYD, KINNEY

I recently met with Ellen Jones at the new Mississippi Health Policy Research Center located in Jackson. The center opened about three weeks ago. Ellen Jones and Dr. Art Cosby with the Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University, will be the directors at the center and will develop one page fact sheets about health topics on request of legislators, state agencies, etc.

The Mississippi Health Policy Research Center was established by a partnership between The Bower Foundation and the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University to provide clear, concise, information about health issues to policymakers in an effort to promote good, sound health policy. I have attached an example of a fact sheet provided to me during the meeting titled *Poor Health Threatens the Academic Achievement of Mississippi Children*.

As you can see, the Bower Foundation is taking a bigger role in improving the health care status of Mississippians. A similar fact sheet is being developed related to the impact of the Medicaid Program from an economic perspective, as well as from a health perspective. Dr. John Bower, Dr. Art Cosby, Ellen Jones, Ann Travis (Dr. Bower's daughter), and I are meeting Thursday to discuss the Medicaid fact sheet. Rica is on vacation but has provided information to be included in the fact sheet. I will also get with Lee Ann before the meeting to discuss further.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.