



Office of the Governor
Division of Medicaid

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Medicaid Gets Grant to Help Kids

*Home-and community-based alternatives for the emotionally disturbed
to be studied under new waiver*

JACKSON, MS.- (January 11, 2007) – The Division of Medicaid announced today it has been awarded a grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the specific purpose of creating home-and community-based alternatives for children currently institutionalized for serious emotional disturbance.

Mississippi is one of ten states receiving these federal grants. The other states are Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Programs approved for funding under this demonstration grant will include 24-hour support and crisis intervention in the community setting, training for families, respite care for those families, and after-school support programs for children within the grants. Mississippi Medicaid's resulting research data will be evaluated for cost effectiveness, quality of treatment, and outcomes for the children involved.

According to Medicaid Executive Director Dr. Robert L. Robinson, "The ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life and functional independence of these children up to age 21 and their families in a cost-effective manner." The project will be administered by the Mental Health Services Bureau within the Division of Medicaid.

This Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) demonstration grant, under the direction of Kristi R. Plotner, LCSW and Director of Mississippi Medicaid's Mental Health Services, will only operate as a waiver and will compare cost of PRTF care to the cost of the waiver. The amount of this grant is \$49 million to be dispersed over a five-year period. It can only be used for the expenses incurred by this waiver program.

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