

Under this administration, the costs associated with every program managed here at the Division of Medicaid will be reviewed with the goal of reigning in expenses while continuing to offer services to those in need.

A recent report quoted by “Governing Magazine” criticizes Mississippi for overuse of nursing homes. According to this same report “On average, long term care eats up 35% of state Medicaid budgets.” Compare that to Mississippi where our current FY '03 nursing home budget totals 17% of our total expenditures.

Mississippi Medicaid has a full array of long term care alternative programs, including Home and Community-Based programs for the elderly, disabled, mentally retarded, developmentally disabled, and for those with traumatic brain injury as well as spinal- chord injury.

Our covered population for institutional long term living has shown no net growth in the past four years. In fact, from 1998 to 2002, Mississippi tripled the number of individuals served in its home and community-based waiver program (a 316% increase).