

Talking Points for Rica Lewis-Payton  
Mississippi Division of Medicaid Disease Management Program  
Health Fair 06.18.03

- At the Division of Medicaid we understand that to be effective we must be willing to change. Therefore we value new ideas, innovation, and a positive response to change.

- This **Mississippi Care Center**, located here in the Jackson Medical Mall, is now an integral part of the **Mississippi Division of Medicaid Disease Management program**.

- This is why we are here at this **Mississippi Care Center Health Fair** today. As part of our continuing effort to control Mississippi Medicaid costs, the Mississippi Care Center, will now be open to offer new and helpful services to beneficiaries suffering from asthma, diabetes and hypertension.

**Some of our main goals are to:**

- increase the health and wellness of our Medicaid beneficiaries
- focus on the state's most vulnerable and sickest residents
- provide more comprehensive medical services for this population to save the state money by controlling chronic diseases
- I know there has been some concern that some of the options that are now being made available as part of our Disease Management program will adversely impact the quality of care rendered to our Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Let me assure you that this will not be the case. As I continue to meet my responsibility to reduce the cost of our Medicaid program, we will meet our responsibility to providing quality healthcare to Mississippi's most vulnerable citizens no matter what their socioeconomic status, together.
- Thank you for being here and let me invite you to visit all of our booths and to participate in this celebration.

If we look at the last 5 years of data, we find that in FY 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, costs in Pharmacy Expenditures rose 17.7%, 30.2%, 37%, and 24% respectively from May to May of each year.

I am very pleased to report that when we look at comparing May of FY 2002 to May of 2003, our Pharmacy Expenditures were minus 5.47%.

That's about a 5 ½% reduction!