
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: CAP PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION
DATE 6/27/00
CC: BUTTROSS
BOYD
COLE
SIMMONS

As discussed in my June 6 memo on this matter, the organization known as “Easter Seals MS” will no longer bear that name as of August 10 because it will no longer be affiliated with the National Easter Seal Society. Because Easter Seal MS has been contracted by this office to administer the \$111,000 federal Client Assistance Program (CAP) grant, you must redesignate the administration of the program. Mississippi’s CAP is a 100% federally funded statewide advocacy program. This CAP grant must be in operation in order for the Department of Rehabilitation Services to receive their federal funding which comprises approximately 80% of their total budget

The Code of Federal Regulations provides the requirements for such designation. I have been working with Jayne to ensure that we comply with the federal regulations, but I need your approval/disapproval on the recommendation below so that we may publish the required public notice and hold public hearings to receive oral and written comments on the matter, as required by the regulations.

Presley Posey emailed yesterday that Easter Seals Mississippi’s new name will be Mississippi Society for Disabilities. Lisa Avra, Executive Director/CEO of Easter Seals Mississippi faxed the attached letter yesterday expressing her organization’s desire to retain administration of the CAP grant in order to ensure continuation of services and for the convenience of clients.

The federal regulations provide for you to consult with the director of the state rehabilitation agency, as well as representatives of professional and consumer organizations serving disabled individuals. In conversations yesterday with Butch McMillan, Executive Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Services, he highly recommended that you designate the Mississippi Society for Disabilities as the administrator. He stated that he would welcome that designation and that Presley and Karen have always done their jobs and provided services the way the federal regulations require. He reported that they work towards the best interest of the clients and that they have done superb jobs in acting as buffers when clients are not allowed additional

services under federal regulations, but are demanding of additional services. Mr. McMillan is preparing a letter with these comments to you.

Jayne spoke to Mark Smith, Director of the Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities this morning and he did not foresee any opposition to your designating the Mississippi Society for Disabilities.

I recommend that you designate the Mississippi Society for Disabilities as the administrator of the CAP because such designation will provide for the continuation of services to clients, it will not pose an inconvenience for clients (no new location or personnel), and because MDRS and the Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities spoke favorably of such a designation.

Due to pressing time requirements for public notices and hearings, I need to obtain your approval or disapproval on this recommendation by tomorrow, June 28.