
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: BOYD
SUBJECT: DR. ED THOMPSON
DATE: 8/23/00
CC: MADER
SIMMONS

I met with Dr. Ed Thompson and Kaye Bender per the scheduling committee's request. Thompson had three agenda items: 1) CHIP, 2) Immunizations, and 3) Tobacco.

CHIP: The Health Department wants to be involved in the CHIP program by providing technical assistance and enrollment opportunities through the Health Department. Thompson has purchased buttons and posters for display in all county health offices. **I suggested and he agreed to hold a joint press conference with you during the week of Labor Day.** I see this a good opportunity to continue raising the awareness of CHIP and the Mississippi Health Benefits Program. Additionally, this would be a good opportunity to proclaim September as CHIP Awareness Month and include Medicaid, DFA, and DHS staff in the press conference.

Immunizations: Thompson mentioned that you and the first lady were already signed on to the Hallmark greeting cards (see attached). According to a Health Department annual immunization survey, 88.7% of children have received their immunizations by the 27th month. The national goal is for states to reach 90% in 2001, and Thompson would like your assistance in elevating the awareness for this project. If you are not available, Thompson has also requested the First Lady.

Tobacco: Thompson was very interested in determining what your involvement would be for tobacco cessation. He noted that it "would be so much the better for everybody" if leadership came from the Governor's Office on tobacco cessation. He noted that AG Moore had stepped up to take the lead in the absence of the Gov. Fordice on the issue.

As this is a two-way communications, I asked that the Health Department work with DHS and CHIP applicants to provide birth certificates free-of-charge for eligibility determination, or that DHS have access to verify birth information electronically from the Health Dept. Second, Carol Trevathan approached me earlier this week regarding the Department of Health have some potential funding available for a blood donor database. I asked Thompson to look into their current programs for potential funding.

Please advise.