



Question for Statewide Candidates

**If elected, what will
you do to support our
mental health system to be
as responsive as possible to
adults, children and families
in Mississippi who are
affected by mental illness?**

Response from Candidate for Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann

I have proposed most state agencies, not including Mental Health and Education and a few other exclusions, find 1 percent in savings. Savings realized will go toward a position realignment raise for all State employees, including our mental health workers who are woefully under compensated. This is not a silver bullet, but compensation is an issue which impacts turnover and quality of services in mental health.

I have had many conversations with educators, law enforcement officers, and others who are concerned about the impact of addiction, mental health issues, and lack of treatment are having on their communities. We will be proposing solutions based upon these meetings and working with individuals in the mental health field. We also need a wholesale evaluation of our mental health system, from access to treatment generally to the effectiveness of community mental health centers and inpatient facilities.