



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 Governor Tate Reeves

Mental health will be a top issue for the next Governor of Mississippi, and if elected, I will work to continue to build on the progress we have made in our state's mental health system. As Lt. Governor, I pushed legislation to create a mental health advisory committee to bring together key stakeholders and come up with innovative solutions to problem areas in Mississippi's mental health system. I supported funding the Department of Mental health at the level it requested and increased investments in home and community-based care. And since 2012, we have seen a 46 percent increase in the number of people enrolled in the home and community-based waiver program.

But more work still needs to be done. I want to ensure all of our citizens are aware of the services offered by our federal, state, and local partners. We need to increase collaboration among agencies to bridge the gap between them to ensure all Mississippians are getting the care they need. We also need to recognize mental health issues as quickly as possible in our young citizens, which is why I would support programs that encourage mental health counselors in our state's schools to identify mental illnesses and develop a plan of action.



Mississippi is a national leader in telehealth infrastructure. As Lt. Governor, I have been a strong supporter of legislation that expands telemedicine capabilities throughout all regions of our state. This technology can be used to dramatically increase access and quality of mental health care in more remote and rural regions of our state as well as making care more affordable.

As Governor, I will prioritize improving our state's mental health system. From continuing to invest in new home and community-based care programs, to expanding telehealth resources to every area of the state, to incentivizing collaboration among primary care providers and mental health professionals to better treat patients, I will work to create new, innovative solutions that will benefit Mississippians living with mental illnesses.