



Mississippi Department of Human Services Press Release



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Gov. Bryant Appoints Berry to Lead MDHS

(JACKSON, Miss.) — Governor Phil Bryant has named Richard “Rickey” Berry of Brandon as executive director to lead the Mississippi Department of Human Services, one of the largest agencies in the state.

“Rickey Berry has the strong background, vast knowledge of the welfare system and the necessary experience to hit the ground running. I am pleased he has accepted this vital and challenging position in state government,” Governor Bryant said. “Rickey has over 30 years of experience in human resources and management with the bulk of that dedicated to state service. He has a tremendous wealth of knowledge and programmatic experience that will serve him well as executive director of the Department of Human Services and I know he shares my personal concern for the well-being of our neediest citizens.”

Rickey Berry, a Clarksdale native and Delta State University alumnus, has served as the MDHS, Deputy Administrator for Programs since 2004 and prior to that was Director of Resource Development for the agency. He also worked with Mississippi Vocational Rehabilitation, Steel Service Corporation and the Mississippi Employment Security Commission. Rickey was awarded the Mississippi Association of Adult and Community Educators “Friend of Education” Award in 1996 and was appointed by former Governor Haley Barbour to the Mississippi Early Childhood Advisory Council.

Rickey is married to Donnie Taylor Berry. They have two adult children and five grandchildren.

MDHS employs nearly 3,400 people and oversees the myriad of state and federal programs designed to ease the burden of poverty and promote self-sufficiency for children, families and seniors in all 82 counties.

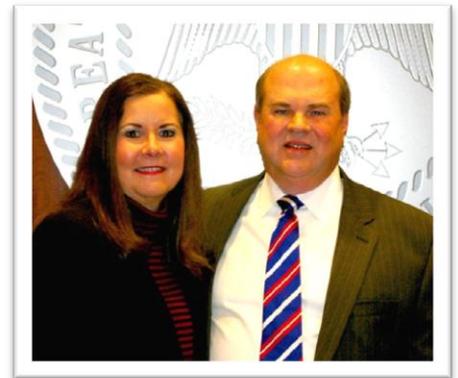


Photo Cutline: Rickey Berry was appointed to lead the Mississippi Department of Human Services by Governor Phil Bryant. MDHS is one of the largest agencies in the state and charged with administering federal and state programs to help vulnerable and low-income residents. From left: Donnie and Rickey Berry.

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