HEALTH LINK TO HOST ANNUAL MANAGED CARE CONFERENCE

TUPELO, Miss.—“Staying on Track with Health Care Reform” will be the theme of the 15th Annual Health Link® Managed Care Conference Thursday, Aug. 25, at the BancorpSouth Conference Center, 387 Main St., Tupelo.

The free program will be offered from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for Health Link employers and providers. Health Link, a division of North Mississippi Health Services, offers an array of managed care services throughout Mississippi and portions of Alabama and Tennessee.

“Batteries Not Included” and “Sure, Like I Got All Day” will be presented by Bobbie Staten, a southern motivational humorist. Staten bases her presentations on a paradoxical foundation: graduate health degrees combined with a healthy and sometimes irreverent sense of humor about people and the lives they lead. In her witty way, she manages to have audiences laugh through topics of wellness, happiness, life and stress management, customer service and people skills.

Staten began her career as a nurse, and holds a bachelor’s degree in nursing and a master’s degree in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has been speaking professionally since 1986 and now pursues this full time. She has earned the coveted Certified Speaking Professional credential of the National Speakers Association.

“Health Care: The Continuing Evolution” will be presented by Gerald Wages, North Mississippi Health Services executive vice president for external affairs. Since joining NMMC in 1969, Wages has served in a variety of administrative positions. In his current role, he is responsible for the operation of the NMHS community hospitals.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Hospital Association, and chairs the AHA Regional Policy Board for Region 4. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Hospital Association (chair 2005-2006) and Healthcare Providers Insurance Company (chair 2003-2004). Wages is a Fellow in the American
College of Healthcare Executives and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

“Mississippi’s Health Insurance Exchange Product” will be presented by Mike Chaney, Mississippi’s Commissioner of Insurance. Prior to his election in 2007, he served seven years in the Mississippi House of Representatives and eight years in the Mississippi Senate. As commissioner, he is responsible for execution and regulation of all laws relative to insurance companies.

The conference includes door prize giveaways, lunch and time to visit exhibitors. The Health Link Office Manager of the Year, Health Link Regional Office Manager of the Year and Health Link Employer of the Year awards will also be presented.

Reservation deadline is Aug. 19. For more information on Health Link and the managed care conference, call 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).

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