

Chairman-Elect of Mississippi Board of Health Is Ray Foxworth, DC

Editorial Staff

The Mississippi State Board of Health (MSBH) welcomes a new chairman on July 10, 2002: veteran chiropractor Ray Foxworth. Dr. Foxworth has served as the MSBH vice chairman the past two years under the leadership of Ed Thompson, MD, MPH. Dr. Thompson decided to retire from the position, but has subsequently been appointed to the National Public Health Anti-Terrorism Preparedness Task Force.

Dr. Foxworth was appointed to the MSBH Board by Republican Governor Kirk Fordice in 1994, the first chiropractor appointed to that body. He was reappointed by Democrat Governor Ronnie Musgrove last year.

"I have been amazed at the scope of my department," Dr. Foxworth admits. "We employ a force of roughly 3,000, setting policy, rules and regulations concerning everything from radiation and nuclear issues, to milk and my own profession. One of the first things I was involved in was the accreditation of hospitals; though there isn't a hospital here that has a chiropractor yet, there is now a mechanism to include chiropractors."

Dr. Foxworth is a *cum laude* graduate of Cleveland College of Chiropractic, Kansas City, and has done extensive postgraduate studies at National Chiropractic College. He has maintained an active practice in Jackson, Mississippi for 17 years. He is the president and owner of ConservaCareCorp, an 80-doctor, statewide network that credentials and contracts with managed care companies, including Mississippi Physicians Care Network, which is owned by the Mississippi State Medical Association.

"I wear several hats," Dr. Foxworth explained. "I have my practice, and, as vice chairman, I meet with the board quarterly." He notes that he serves on several committees - an understatement to be sure. He is a member of the ACA; a committee member of the HMO Quality Assurance Committee; chairman of the Funding for Public Health Care Committee; a member of the North American Federation of Chiropractic Networks; a member of the Tobacco Settlement Recommendations Committee, the Long-Term Care and Alzheimer's Task Force, and the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Mississippi chiropractic credentialing committee for rehabilitation.

Dr. Foxworth served three terms as president of the Mississippi Associated Chiropractors, was a member of the ACA's Medicare subcommittee, and served as a consultant to the governor's task force on workers' compensation.

Dr. Foxworth has been the recipient of numerous awards, including "Chiropractor of the Year" of the Mississippi Associated Chiropractors in 1990, 1991, and 1992.

Dr. Foxworth encourages other chiropractors to "get out of their comfort zone and get us involved in

the mainstream - where we can really influence public policy and perception."

Noting that Mississippi (1973) and Louisiana (1974) were the last two states in the U.S. to license chiropractic, he adds, "We've come too far to slow down."

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