Obesity Summit to Be Held Thursday in Jackson

JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), in partnership with Families First for Mississippi, will host a summit on obesity this week. The Taking Charge for a Healthy Mississippi event is part of Gov. Phil Bryant’s obesity initiative, where stakeholders will discuss innovative solutions to reduce obesity.

The goal of the summit is to identify the best practices, opportunities and challenges faced while implementing evidence-based initiatives designed to lower obesity rates in Mississippi.

Mississippi, at 37.3 percent, has the second highest rate of adult obesity in the nation. That number rose from 23.7 percent in 2000. Children in the state are following in the unhealthy steps of our adults: 40 percent of school-aged children and youth are overweight or obese.

The group will be discussing obesity prevention strategies and ways that community-based organizations, traditional health care systems and government agencies can collaborate to better serve our communities.

WHAT: Taking Charge for a Healthy Mississippi

WHEN: Registration begins at 8 a.m.
Event to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Thursday, May 16, 2019

WHERE: Marriott Downtown
200 E Amite St.
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs and Executive Director of Mississippi Families First Nancy New, Ph.D., will be available for interviews from 8-9 a.m.

For more information on the summit, visit HealthyMS.com/takingcharge.

Follow MSDH by email and social media at HealthyMS.com/connect.

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CONTACT: Office of Communications, 601-576-7667
Note to media: After hours or during emergencies, call 601-576-7400
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