



**MEDIA TIP /// MEDIA TIP /// MEDIA TIP /// MEDIA TIP**

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
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**MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS IN OKLAHOMA  
MOVING AHEAD RAPIDLY**

**May is Mental Health Month**, designed to promote awareness about mental health and the prevalence of mental illness both nationwide and in Oklahoma.

In Oklahoma, statistics on mental health are cause for concern. An estimated 230,000 Oklahomans suffer from clinical depression each year and more than 10 percent of adults over age 18 have a serious mental illness. Additionally, an estimated 20 percent of children will have a diagnosable mental health illness at some point in their childhood.

**Dr. Terry Cline**, commissioner for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the state's top mental health leader, believes that mental health issues are coming to the forefront. A number of programs recently have been initiated to more fully meet the needs of people with mental illness.

Some of the more visible initiatives are the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence; the multi-agency Partnership for Children's Behavioral Health; the Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT), which brings treatment to the patient; the "Systems of Care" program for children with serious emotional disturbance and their families; and the Oklahoma County Mental Health Court.

**Cline is available to discuss** how mental illness impacts all Oklahomans and why investment in mental health is directly related to the future of our state.

**TO SET UP AN INTERVIEW**, contact Pam McKeown, ODMHSAS Public Information Office, at **405-522-5102**.