



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

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**‘MENTAL HEALTH DAY’ SLATED TUESDAY AT CAPITOL;  
MORE THAN 800 CONSUMERS TO RALLY FOR SUPPORT**

Mental health consumers from across Oklahoma will arrive at the state capitol by the busload **Tuesday, March 2**, to rally for greater support of mental health services.

More than 800 consumers are expected to attend the event, coordinated by the “New Beginnings Network” of Tulsa.

Gov. Brad Henry, Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin and Dr. Terry Cline, commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, will speak at the rally. Additionally, three legislators – Sen. Ben Robinson, Sen. Cal Hobson and Rep. M.C. Leist – will be recognized for their work in promoting mental health issues in Oklahoma.

Consumers plan to meet with individual lawmakers after the rally to encourage them to increase funding for mental health services. Inadequate funding for these services has resulted in hundreds of people not receiving adequate mental health services. This, in turn, has led to some clients ending up in jail, on the street or in homeless shelters, or having to access expensive crisis intervention services.

**DATE: Tuesday, March 2**

**TIME: 10:30 a.m.-noon**

**PLACE:** State Capitol, second floor rotunda

**VISUALS:** Consumers arriving by the busload (anticipated time, **10-10:15 a.m.** on south side of capitol); award presentation; and consumers meeting with legislators to encourage increased mental health funding.

**For more information,** contact Pam McKeown, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services public information office, 405-522-5102.