

**Oklahoma Department of Mental Health  
and Substance Abuse Services**

September 29, 2010  
**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Traci Castles, ODMHSAS  
405-522-8019

**CANDIDATE FORUM TO FOCUS ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES**

Collaborating community partners, the United Way of Central Oklahoma, NorthCare, Red Rock Behavioral Health Services and the Folds of Honor Foundation will host the 2010 Children's Mental Health Candidate Forum on Friday, Oct. 1, from 9-11 a.m. at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 222 N.W. 15<sup>th</sup> St. in downtown Oklahoma City.

Candidates for Governor and State Superintendent of Public Instruction have been invited to discuss children's mental health services in Oklahoma. The three candidates for State Superintendent of Public Instruction – Janet Barresi, Sen. Susan Paddac and Richard Cooper – will be taking part in the event. Gubernatorial candidate, Lt. Gov. Jari Askins, will be represented by her campaign manager Sid Hudson.

The event will provide an opportunity to hear directly from candidates about the increasingly important issue of children's mental health. The relationship between mental health and long-term outcomes for children will provide a platform for discussion. There will also be a question and answer session between the candidates and audience members.

The forum is open to the public.

###