



Arkansas Methodist Medical Center

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GOV. BEEBE REAPPOINTS AMMC PRESIDENT RON ROONEY TO STATE TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CESSATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

PARAGOULD, AR -- Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe has reappointed Arkansas Methodist Medical Center's President and CEO Ron Rooney to the state's Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Advisory Committee. Rooney was initially appointed to the committee to complete the remainder of Jimmy Leopard's term in September 2007. Rooney's reappointment to the committee runs through October 1, 2011. Rooney serves the committee as a representative of the Arkansas Hospital Association.

According to a 2006 progress report on the state's Tobacco Prevention and Cessation program, tobacco use is the greatest public health problem facing Arkansans, contributing to more than 4,900 deaths and accounting for \$812 million in smoking-related healthcare costs each year.

The mission of Arkansas' Tobacco Prevention and Cessation program is to reduce disease, disability and death related to tobacco by providing tobacco prevention education and cessation programs, with the goals of:

- Preventing the initiation of tobacco use among youth
- Promoting tobacco cessation among youth and adults
- Eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke
- Identifying and eliminating disparities related to tobacco use

It's clear that the state's programs are working. The 2006 report cites reductions in tobacco use for both youth and adults.

"As tobacco is a very serious health issue for many Arkansans, I'm very proud to be serving my state and the people of Arkansas as a member of this committee," Rooney said.

Ron Rooney is a past president of the Arkansas Hospital Association. He continues to be an active AHA member promoting medical advances for our state. Ron is also a strong advocate for the region's industrial growth. He is a board member of the Economic Development Corporation of Paragould, and a past president of the Paragould/Greene County Chamber of Commerce.

Rooney earned his MBA from The George Washington University and holds a BA from Syracuse University. He is also board certified in healthcare management by the American College of Healthcare Executives. Rooney has been President/CEO of Arkansas Methodist Medical Center since 1988.

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, Paragould is a 129-bed, fully JCAHO accredited, not-for-profit medical center. AMMC has touched thousands of lives since 1949 as a Beacon of Health, Hope and Healing. Additional AMMC information is available at: www.arkansasmethodist.org.