

DATE: November 15, 2007

SUBJECT: Tennessee Institute of Public Health Update

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In the last quarter, the development of the Tennessee Institute of Public Health (TNIPH) has moved forward in these respects:

- **Meeting of the TNIPH Board of Directors.** The full Board met September 18, 2007, with excellent attendance. A representative from the National Network of Institutes of Public Health and the director of the Illinois Institute of Public Health were present to talk with the Board about the potential for the Tennessee Institute in light of its commonality with 30 similar entities in other states. These presentations stressed the need for solid strategic planning and a balanced participation of public and private, profit and non-profit, and academic and service partners. The Tennessee Institute was commended for its achievements in the early stage of development. A representative from the Center for Non-Profit Management led the Board through a visioning process as an essential first step toward the development of the strategic plan. The Board will be directly involved in the construction of the plan.
- **Strategic Plan.** We are in the process of awarding a contract to a vendor to develop the Strategic Plan for the TNIPH Board of Directors. The cost for plan development is funded through the Robert Wood Johnson Emerging Institutes grant.
- **Resources.** Our proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support a second TNIPH grant was not selected for funding. The RWJ notification letter, however, complimented the Institute on its proposal and invited continued responses to calls for proposals for other grants. We continue conversations with various grant and foundation funding agencies to secure funding for the following immediate TNIPH operating needs:
 - A permanent director for the TNIPH
 - Sponsor for publishing the *County Rankings*
 - Development of a state public health workforce study
- **2007 Tennessee County Health Rankings.** THEC staff is completing the data retrieval and analysis for the release of the *2007 Tennessee County Health Rankings*.

- **Tennessee Public Health Roundtable.** The Institute hosted a roundtable of representatives from Tennessee institutions and public health organizations at the October 31-November 2 annual meeting of the Tennessee Public Health Association. Roundtable participants presented summaries of initiatives and program development in an information-sharing session.