



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CORDELL HULL BLDG.
425 5TH AVENUE NORTH
NASHVILLE TENNESSEE 37243

PHIL BREDESEN
GOVERNOR

SUSAN R. COOPER, MSN, RN
COMMISSIONER

February 1, 2009

The Honorable Phil Bredesen
Governor
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Bredesen:

This letter serves as my annual report to outline the Department of Health's activities in regards to the Federal Block Grant Review Act of 1996 as required per TCA 9-4-5404. This report covers the period of February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009. This report has been made available to the public by dissemination via the Internet and is available at <http://www.health.state.tn.us/data.htm>.

This Department has only two block grants which fall under the purview of the Federal Block Grant Review Act of 1996. They are the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant and the Preventive Health Services Block Grant. During this period, there have been no significant or substantive changes in the Federal programs and/or grant awards; therefore, the Department has not been required to make any specific funding or programmatic decision regarding these block grants.

However, I would like to describe the organizational structure which is in place in the Department which is utilized to implement the principles outlined in the Federal Block Grant Review Act on an ongoing basis. This structure ensures formal and informal participation of concerned citizens, regulated entities, religious organizations, non-profit agencies, and local government officials in the decision-making process.

The Department has established a Community Health Council in each county of the State. These councils include a broad range of individuals within each county consisting of 12-15 members who are representative of the community in terms of geography, race, profession, and institutional factors. Among its members are representatives of local health departments, regional health departments, hospital administrators, local elected officials, physician/medical providers, not-for-profit organizations and local citizens. The role of the councils is to function as a community advisory board to provide insight to community health needs, possible solutions, and funding requirements. This information is further communicated to the Commissioner through the Regional Health Councils which consist of selected members from each of the community health councils

along with that particular region's Regional Health Director, Regional Health Officer, and a representative from the Department of Health's Bureau of Health Services.

This community and regional health council structure provides an appropriate mechanism to disseminate information about our Department's programs and funding. Further, it allows any interested party the opportunity to voice concerns and to assist in the decision-making process not only in regard to block grants, but relative to all programs and activities.

If you or any members of your staff have any questions or concerns regarding this report or any other matters, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan R. Cooper MSN, RN". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Susan R. Cooper, MSN, RN
Commissioner