

DATE: April 26, 2007

SUBJECT: Status of the Tennessee Institute of Public Health

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Development of the Tennessee Institute of Public Health (TNIPH) has moved forward in the last quarter under the leadership of Dr. Jo Edwards, interim director. The TNIPH has achieved the following:

Board of Directors convened. The Board of Directors met by conference call February 28 to approve the mission of the TNIPH and to endorse next steps in the Institute’s development. The composition of the Board assures representation from public and private higher education, the legislature, the Department of Health, the community, and for-profit and non-profit health corporations and entities. The Board approved the TNIPH mission statement:

The Tennessee Institute of Public Health will promote multi-sector activities resulting in measurable improvements of public health structures, systems, and outcomes.

Next steps for Board activity include development and approval of a strategic plan, approval of proposed by-laws, and election of officers at a Fall 2007 meeting.

National Network of Public Health Institutes grant received. The TNIPH won a competitive grant, the Fostering Emerging Institutes Matching Grant, administered by the National Network and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The \$100,000 two-year (2007-08) 1:1 matching grant will support TNIPH organization for long-term sustainability.

Legislative Authorization. The legislation is awaiting the governor’s signature to become law as of July 1, 2007. The legislation:

The Tennessee higher education commission, in consultation with the department of health, the university of Tennessee system, the Tennessee board of regents, and private colleges and universities in Tennessee, shall develop an institute of public health.

Inventory of Public Health-Related Research Compiled. The TNIPH staff has collected information from Tennessee public and private colleges and universities about current research in public health and related fields. The purpose of the inventory is to encourage collaboration among institutions, the

department of health, and other entities in pursuing grant activity. The inventory will be routinely updated and will be posted on the TNIPH website.

Individual County Profiles for Tennessee County Health Rankings: THEC staff Bryce Durbin, Christine Luce, and Gopal Ojha have completed analyses of health indicators and outcomes for each Tennessee county. These county-specific profiles are designed to assist county leaders as they target improvement actions through cooperative public health agency, government, and community initiatives. The profiles will accompany the Tennessee County Health Rankings at <http://www.state.tn.us/tniph>.