

DATE: July 25, 2007

SUBJECT: Status of the Tennessee Institute of Public Health

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:

- **NNPHI Grant.** As a recipient of funding from the Fostering Emerging Institutes Project (FEIP) through the National Network of Institutes of Public Health (NNPHI), the TNIPH is working with assigned mentors Elissa Bassler and Laura Lundrum of the Illinois Public Health Institute. We have completed an Intake Assessment and other telephone conferences. The NNIPH staff and grant mentor site visit is scheduled for September 18, to coordinate with the meeting of the TNIPH's Board of Directors. The NNIPH staff and grant mentor will present an overview of network institutes and the potential impact of TNIPH on Tennessee.
- **Strategic Plan.** We have begun the bid process for contracting with a vendor to develop the Strategic Plan for the TNIPH Board of Directors. The cost for plan development is funded through the Emerging Institutes grant.
- **Resources.** We are initiating conversations with various grant and foundation funding agencies to secure funding for the following immediate needs:
 - A permanent director for the TNIPH
 - Sponsor for publishing the *County Rankings*
 - Development of a state public health workforce study
- **Robert Wood Johnson Second Round.** Our proposal has been selected to continue in the next step of the competitive application process for the Advancing Public Health Practice and Policy Solutions through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The grant opportunity is for two-years and a total of \$400,000 with no match required. The TNIPH is one of 47 finalists out of 329 proposals. Only half of the 47 will be funded. The due date for the full proposal is August 15.
- **County Profiles.** The individual county profiles for all 95 counties based on the Health Index and Rankings are available on the web site. Legislators received a copy of the report and copies of the profiles for each county they represent after the legislative session with a thank you for their support of the legislation that authorized the Institute.

- **2007 Rankings.** The process for validating the data sources for updating the *Tennessee County Health Rankings*, a planned annual process, has begun. Tracy Cummings, a Vanderbilt graduate student, has begun this process of preparing for the 2007 edition.
- **Department of Health.** THEC staff and TNIPH staff have met with the new Commissioner of Health and the assistant commissioner. The Tennessee Department of Health is a key partner with the TNIPH.
- **NNPHI Training Session.** Cindy Chafin and Jo Edwards attended the first training sessions for the FEIP grant in New Orleans in May. Follow up conference calls and training sessions are in progress to comply with the requirements of the grant.
- **Promoting the TNIPH.** A Brochure and an exhibit are being developed to showcase the TNIPH. They will be on exhibit at the Tennessee Public Health Association Meeting.
- **Community-Based Research and Service Projects Inventory.** In March the TNIPH began the process of collecting information for a statewide inventory of Community-Based Research and Service Projects. The inventory identifies research and service being done in Tennessee to support partnership development and avoid duplication of efforts. Survey instruments were distributed to institutions and organizations likely to be involved in public health-related research and service endeavors. Recipients of the survey instrument were asked to submit information by categories modeled after those of Healthy People 2010. To date, 196 separate entries are included in the inventory (some projects are included in multiple categories). The inventory consists of basic information on research and community service projects, with contact information for principal investigators are included.