

DATE: April 24, 2008

SUBJECT: Status of the Tennessee Institute of Public Health

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Institute staff, Board of Directors, and THEC staff have accomplished the following since the last report to the Commission.

Strategic Planning. The Board of Directors, as facilitated in its work by a consultant from Dannemiller Tyson, Associates, has completed a Strategic Plan for the Institute. This process engaged a core advisory committee of the Board to draft the plan, required a number of review steps to revise the plan, and will culminate in final validation and approval action by the Board. Next steps for the Institute will include building a business plan, Board development, and grants and contracts cultivation. The Strategic Plan can be found on the TNIPH website at <http://www.state.tn.us/tniph>.

Tennessee Department of Health Grant. THEC (TNIPH) has received a grant from the Department of Health in the amount of \$1 million for the period May 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The purpose of the grant is for the Institute to coordinate tobacco use prevention and cessation interventions and education in the nine GEAR UP TN counties. The project will target the GEAR UP TN population but will also serve the larger communities for outreach to youth and their families. The program will use the GEAR UP TN blueprint for operation by employing local county project coordinators and regional coordinators to work with counties in using interventions the counties themselves select as most appropriate to their need. The TNIPH will provide state-wide coordination in applying Department of Health-selected intervention materials and tobacco use prevention/cessation steps, coordinator training, and alliances with the Center for Communicable Diseases and other health organizations. THEC will subcontract with State universities for program evaluation and coordinator training. In short, the project represents the type of partnership building declared in the Institute's purpose and mission.

2007 Tennessee County Health Ranking and County Profiles. The *2007 Ranking*, released to the public today, can be found on the TNIPH website at <http://www.state.tn.us/tniph>. Institute and THEC staff have worked with State Regional and Metro health directors in refining the *Ranking* to be a tool that has broad application. The 2007 document is the second annual release of the index modeled on United Health Foundation and Wisconsin Population Health publication design. Staff will walk through the *Ranking* and representative individual county public health profiles and invite Commission questions and remarks.

Institute Leadership. Dr. Jo Edwards, who has provided exemplary leadership for the Institute in its first two years of development will continue to be associated with the TNIPH through a THEC dual service arrangement with Middle Tennessee State University. Dr. Edwards is the director of the MTSU Center for Health and Human Services and holds the Adams Chair of Health Care Services.

Dr. Beth Fuller is the newly appointed (January 1, 2008) director of the Institute as a half-time THEC employee. This position is supported through a Robert Wood Johnson match grant. Dr. Fuller holds the DrPH in Sociomedical Sciences from Columbia University, the MSPH in Health Policy from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and a BA in Political Science from Emory. Beth has extensive experience in children in poverty research, youth violence prevention, and public health advocacy. She will direct the DOH grant to THEC for Tobacco Use Prevention/Cessation in the GEAR UP TN counties. Dr. Fuller is also providing primary leadership for the TNIPH strategic plan and business plan development.