



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

JOHN J. DREYZEHNER, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

February 1, 2012

The Honorable Bill Haslam
Governor
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Haslam:

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, 2011 through January 31, 2012. 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, the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant did not have any significant or substantive changes; however, the Preventive Health Services Block Grant funding was reduced by 25%. In spite of this, the Department was not required to make any significant or substantive programmatic changes.

I would like to describe the organizational structure in place at the Department 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 to serve in an advisory capacity 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 with respect to 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 councils provide the Department 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 both generally and for the purposes of the Act.

In addition, both Federal Block Grants require annual public hearings which allow for additional public input into the program and funding decisions. These forums allow any interested party the opportunity to voice concerns and to assist in the decision-making process directly to the Department as well as all programs and activities.

If you or any members of your staff have any questions or concerns regarding this report or any other matters, I would be pleased to speak to you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

John J. Dreyzehner, MD, MPH
Commissioner