

DATE: April 17, 2003

SUBJECT: Tennessee College of Public Health

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Tennessee lags behind most of the nation in many of the health indicators as identified by the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the Tennessee Department of Health. This can be collaboratively addressed by strengthening the public health system in Tennessee. During the last six months, discussions and planning activities have taken place to design a proposal to establish the Tennessee College of Public Health as a statewide academic unit. The College will combine educational, research and community service programs throughout the state into an integrated network of activities that work to enhance the health Tennessee citizens. The design builds upon the foundation already established in the various public universities in the state, maximizing available resources and eliminating the need to duplicate efforts. The proposed Tennessee College of Public Health is designed as a partnership with institutions in the Tennessee Board of Regents (ETSU, U of M, TSU) and the University of Tennessee (UTK and UTMHSC), and also the Tennessee Department of Health, to bring experts together from a wide range of fields to create a comprehensive public health care unit.

PROPOSED START-UP DATE: Upon approval

MISSION: The mission of the proposed Tennessee College of Public Health is “To enhance the health and well-being of all people of Tennessee and the region through interdisciplinary and integrated education, research and outreach programs, focusing on recognition, assessment, prevention and improvement of significant public health and health care delivery issues.”