

DATE: January 27, 2005

SUBJECT: Tennessee College of Public Health Update

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Staff will update the Commission with respect to efforts in the area of Public Health Education. The update will include:

1. A report on the activities in Memphis regarding a collaborative college of Public Health between the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences. There was a meeting on November 30, 2004 with several individuals necessary to establish the school, including UM President Raines and UTCHS Chancellor Rice. Harrison Spencer the president of the Association of Schools of Public Health also attended.

There also is a site visit meeting to occur on January 20 and 21 at the successful collaborative school of Public Health in New Jersey. This visit will provide additional information and understanding to determine the steps necessary for a collaborative school of Public Health in Memphis.

2. East Tennessee State University, which already has accredited Master of Public Health (MPH) programs, will be forwarding a report next week on the status of their proposed college of public health. The administration is considering the issue of whether the college of public health should be a new college or part of the existing College of Public and Allied Health.

3. Tennessee State University has drafted and will soon finalize the letter of intent to go forward with a proposed Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Public Health and a Master of Public Health (MPH) program. The MPH program would be accreditable. TSU would work with the other public health colleges and programs in Tennessee.

4. University of Tennessee Knoxville, which has an accredited MPH program, will re-convene its public health program/institute committee in early February. A UTK task force will present a report identifying the shared resources each of the administrative units comprising the Institute will contribute. These will include courses, faculty, funds, and other resources.

Currently, the Institute will include faculty and curricula from the following colleges and units: College of Social Work, College of Nursing, UT Extension, UT Medical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Education, Health and Human Sciences.

5. Commission staff is scheduled to meet with Andrea Willis, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, on January 24 to discuss further development of a health services research institute that will involve the Department and academic programs of public health in Tennessee.