

Agenda Item: I.D.

DATE: January 29, 2004

SUBJECT: Tennessee College of Public Health Update

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Since the last update, task force members met with the Dr. Kenneth Robinson, Commissioner of Health, to seek his endorsement. A budget and rationale has been developed to present to the governor to solicit his endorsement. Minimum start-up funds will support the initiative and allow it to proceed with hiring an Interim Dean to facilitate the Tennessee College of Public Health initiative.

As proposed, the design of the initiative combines education, research and community service and builds on the foundation and strengths of five institutions: East Tennessee State University, Tennessee State University, University of Memphis, University of Tennessee Knoxville and the University of Tennessee Memphis.