



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

JOHN J. DREYZEHNER, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

February 26, 2013

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, 2012 through January 31, 2013. The Department has 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 (approximately \$11.6 million) and the Preventive Health Services Block Grant (approximately \$1.1 million) of available grant funds during this reporting period. Both grants are awarded on a federal fiscal year and have not had any significant changes since the Department's last report to you dated February 1, 2012.

Items I would like to highlight:

1. As part of a departmental initiative to promote TDH collaboration with communities, we have participated with Community Health Councils (CHCs) in training workshops to help CHCs identify and interpret health statistics to write county based problem statements that strengthened county needs assessments and planning for Block Grant activities.
2. In FY 11-12 we completed community health assessments in 93 of 95 counties in consultation with the CHCs and in FY 12-13 a second more detailed assessment is underway in fifty-one (51) counties.
3. Enhanced by Community Health Systems (CHS) and the Office of Policy, Planning and Assessment (PPA) staff, we are integrating CHCs with other health organizations to gain insights about factors related to single county health issues.
4. These collaborations are creating results which are being targeted in planning current and future county plans for state wide Primary Prevention Initiative activities.

The Department has in place an organizational structure to meet the Federal Block Grant Review Act.

- Our 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.
- CHCs serve in an advisory capacity in each county of the State.
- CHCs have a broad range of individuals with 15-20 members who are representatives of the community including health departments, hospital administrators, 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.

The Preventive Health Services Block Grant funding is used to support prevention activities across the state. Activities are based on evidence-based guidelines as identified in the annual work plan. These activities include:

- Public health educators informing, educating, and mobilizing community partnerships to develop policies and plans statewide that address the prevention of cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and obesity. Fifty-one (51) health educators across the state work directly in Tennessee communities to promote prevention strategies.
- The Tennessee Poison Control Hotline operates 24/7 providing information, education, and links statewide to services for poison education and control with over 130,000 calls received annually.
- Public health educators providing rape and sexual assault awareness activities to at risk individuals statewide. Media campaigns are coordinated and implemented in the general population as well as at-risk communities. Tennessee rape and sexual assault centers provide a 24-hour crisis hotline for counseling within their respective service areas with referrals for medical follow-up to individuals calling the 24-hour rape crisis hotline.

The Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funds a mix of direct and enabling services, as well as infrastructure and capacity-building activities. Examples of projects funded using the MCH Block Grant include:

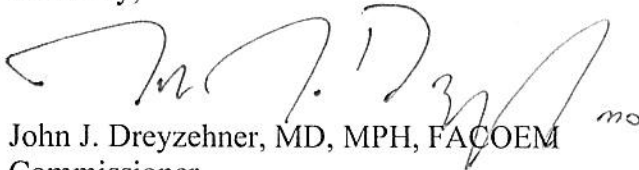
- A network of specialty genetic centers provides medical care and consultation to children with life-threatening illnesses identified through the newborn screening program. Out of approximately 80,000 live births per year, more than 99% of infants receive a newborn screen and over 2,000 require some additional follow-up because of abnormalities identified on the initial newborn screen.
- The Children's Special Services (CSS) program supports children with special health care needs and their families. Over 6,500 children with special health care needs receive individualized care coordination services and assistance in paying for medical services not covered by other forms of insurance.

Public awareness campaigns promote optimal health and well-being for Tennessee women and children. Recent campaigns funded through the MCH Block Grant include the "Healthy Babies Are Worth the Wait" effort to reduce early elective deliveries and the "ABC's of Safe Sleep" campaign to reduce sleep-related infant deaths.

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 with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,



John J. Dreyzehner, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Commissioner