



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

JOHN J. DREYZEHNER, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

June 16, 2017

Gary Mayes
Director, Sullivan County Health Department
P.O. Box 630
154 Blountville Bypass
Blountville, TN 37617

Dear Gary:

In 2013 Governor Haslam and the General Assembly agreed for the first time to dedicate funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement to the Tennessee Department of Health for tobacco use prevention. The Department launched a three-year demonstration which provided funding for county health departments to invest in local projects and partnerships. The Tennessee Tobacco Settlement Program targeted three goals:

- Reduce smoking during pregnancy to decrease associated expensive low birth weight births
- Reduce little children's exposure to second hand smoke that is a risk for emergency room visits for asthma attacks
- Help youth to choose not to start smoking and avoid excessive lifetime medical expenses associated with tobacco use

I am pleased to report to you that we have achieved statewide progress in each of the three goals. In particular, I want to congratulate your Sullivan County Health Department for ranking in the Top Five of counties for progress in reducing the number of pregnant women who reported smoking during pregnancy. Health departments wisely invested Tobacco Settlement funds to increase the availability of tobacco cessation services for pregnant women and to support media and events that warned all about the dangers of smoking to mother and child during and after delivery.

A plaque recognizing its achievement will be awarded to the Sullivan County Health Department. A congratulatory letter will also be sent to your county mayor. Congratulations to the County and thank you for your support. We look forward to continuing progress with new Tobacco Settlement funding that was awarded in 2017.

Sincerely yours,

John Dreyzehner, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Commissioner