

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the County Council

FROM: Sara Evers, Department Acting Director *SME*

RE: Missouri State University agreement

DATE: 2/1/2023

Department of Public Health (DPH) is seeking approval to enter into a preceptor internship agreement with Missouri State University to increase its experience with Master's Level students. This will allow the Department of Public Health to accept Master of Public Health students for preceptorship, internship, and shadowing. The Department of Public Health, as with all employers, has been experiencing shortages of applicants for public health positions. Supporting programs within the state that educate and credential students in public health fields is a good way to put the word out to those in the needed fields. Many current employees applied for positions with County departments after being introduced to Public Health during internships and preceptor opportunities. The Department of Public Health hosts nursing, public health, nutrition, data analytic, and epidemiology interns and students whenever possible to continue to help expand student experiences and allow our staff to share the knowledge they have gained in their respective professions. This program will increase our County's visibility with these Master's candidates.