**Missouri Council for Public Health Nursing History & Structure**

The Council of Public Health Nursing (CPHN) was established in April, 1997, and the first meeting was held in October, 1997. The CPHN membership was all DHSS staff and the chair was the DHSS public health nursing liaison.

In May, 1999, the CPHN was restructured and expanded to include two standing committees, one representing DHSS and the other representing the local public health agencies (LPHA). The DHSS committee was composed of one representative from each division, center, and district within DHSS, and the LPHA committee was composed of one LPHA nurse from each district.

In July, 2003, the CPHN was again restructured to include greater representation from the LPHAs, and added representatives from nursing education and a public health related organization. An executive board was established with the chair being a representative from a LPHA. The DHSS public health nursing liaison became an ex-officio member of the executive board. The name of the CPHN was changed to Council for Public Health Nursing at this time.

In 2016 the name of the Council was changed to the Missouri Council for Public Health Nursing to more accurately reflect the scope of the Council.