Healthy Homes Partnership (HHP)
Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) sets forth the mutual purposes and understanding between signatories, who having a shared interest in advancing “healthy homes” strategies, regulations and best practices for the benefit of residents in the City of Memphis and Shelby County (“Local Jurisdictions”), agree to establish through this MOU a “Healthy Homes Partnership” (“HHP” or “Partnership”).

Background
Substandard housing conditions are known to be a contributing factor to the poor health of residents in the Local Jurisdictions, including high rates of asthma hospitalizations\(^1\) and child lead-based paint poisoning.\(^\text{ii}\) According to the National Center for Healthy Housing and the 2011 American Housing Survey, Memphis has a high percentage of substandard housing conditions relative to other cities.\(^\text{iii}\) A number of these conditions lead to indoor environmental hazards that impact human health, contributing to annual statewide healthcare expenditures for asthma for children (ages 1-17) of more than $41.4 million, with Shelby County leading all regions of the state in both the number and rates of inpatient hospitalizations and emergency department visits.\(^\text{iv}\)

Signatories to this MOU are in concurrence that the Local Jurisdictions’ housing and health codes do not sufficiently address substandard housing indoor environmental health hazards. Furthermore, signatories concur that increased collaboration between housing and legal services agencies and healthcare providers is needed, including service resource coordination and referrals to assist affected individuals and families.

Purpose of the Healthy Homes Partnership (HHP)
The purpose of the HHP is to conduct research, identify, develop and advance best practices and strategies, including but not limited to appropriate legal, policy and regulatory measures to increase the availability of and access to healthy housing for residents in the Local Jurisdictions.

Membership
Any individual or organization with interest in improving health conditions in housing may decide to join or leave the Partnership “at will.”

Coordination of Partnership
The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and Le Bonheur Community Health and Well-Being (“Coordinating Partners”) will voluntarily and jointly coordinate and provide support for Partnership meetings until the coordination role is re-assigned by majority consent of all members participating in the Partnership or until the Partnership dissolves. The Coordinating Partners or other HHP members may also, with approval of a simple majority of active partners, seek funding to support the activities of the HHP.

Duration and Term
This MOU is at will and may be modified by majority consent of the participating partners. The MOU shall remain in effect until terminated by collective consent of any remaining active partners.

Signature: ______________________________ Date: __________________
SIGNATORY NAME / TITLE ___________________________________________________________
ORGANIZATION NAME ________________________________________________________________

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\(^\text{ii}\) Division of Epidemiology and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Shelby County Health Department
\(^\text{iii}\) http://www.nchh.org/Policy/2013StateofHealthyHousing/LocationSummary/tabid/858/maj/22/Default.aspx