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March 31, 2021

Marilyn M. Gardner, PhD, MS
Coordinator, Public Health Programs
Western Kentucky University
Sent via email

Dear Dr. Gardner:

Thank you for submitting your CEPH annual report. At its March 7-8, 2021 meeting, the Council on Education for Public Health reviewed your annual report for 2019-2020. As you know, all accredited schools and programs of public health are required to submit an annual report to CEPH, using a prescribed format. The purpose of the annual report is to allow the accrediting body to monitor significant changes in the school or program between on-site visits. Specifically, CEPH uses annual reports to

- 1) Identify any major changes that have occurred in the past year.
- 2) Identify any compliance concerns that may have newly arisen.
- 3) Identify and monitor growth at accredited institutions. Current US Department of Education regulations require us to “[monitor] the growth of programs at institutions that are experiencing significant enrollment growth.” (32 CFR §602.19 (d)) The regulations define “significant” growth as $\geq 50\%$, so CEPH’s threshold is 50%, as measured by the number of new enrollees.
- 4) Monitor graduation and job placement rates as measures of student achievement.
- 5) Review and assess financial information and other resources as indicators of program success.

Based on its review, the Council noted that the program reported a 67% graduation rate for MPH students, which does not meet the established threshold of 70%. However, the Council determined that it does not require further information or action from your program at this time given that this issue was addressed in the program’s recent interim report reviewed in August 2020 and that rates have improved in more recent years. The Council will continue to monitor graduation rates through annual and other reporting.

You will receive an email in mid-September 2021 that will direct you to the weblink for this year’s annual reporting, and you can anticipate a due date of **December 3, 2021**. Please feel free to contact CEPH staff if you have any questions. They will be pleased to provide clarification or other assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Gaufin".

Joyce Gaufin
President