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March 15, 2021

Lori Heisler, PhD
Associate Dean, College of Education, Health and Human Services
California State University, San Marcos
Sent via email

Dear Dr. Heisler:

On behalf of the Council on Education for Public Health, I am pleased to advise you that the CEPH Board of Councilors acted at its March 7-8, 2021 meeting to accredit the MPH Program at California State University, San Marcos for a five-year term, with an interim report to be submitted in winter 2022. I have attached a seal that reflects the program's accreditation status. Based on CEPH procedures and the documents submitted, the program's initial accreditation date will be recorded as October 7, 2017.

The accreditation term extends until July 1, 2026, pending the program's continued documentation of compliance through the interim report, annual reporting, and any other reporting required by the Council. Additionally, since your site visit occurred via distance technology to accommodate COVID-19-related travel restrictions, this accreditation term is also contingent on the program hosting an on-campus visit no later than March 8, 2022 to validate the program's continuing eligibility for accreditation.

The interim report will be due on January 12, 2022 and must address the criteria for which there was a "partially met" assessment. Specifically, the interim report should provide evidence that the program has developed and implemented didactic preparation and an appropriate assessment for foundational competency 10. The report must include the information in the format of Template D2-2 and must include relevant syllabi and attachments (e.g., more detailed assignment instructions) to allow for full validation. (Criterion D2)

Please be aware that failure to come into compliance with all accreditation criteria must trigger specific actions on CEPH's part. These actions, mandated in federal regulations governing accrediting agencies that are recognized by the US Department of Education, include initiating adverse action or, if good cause is demonstrated, extending by one year the period during which the program or school may come into compliance with the remaining criteria, after which CEPH must take adverse action. CEPH is required to deny or revoke accreditation when a school or program fails to demonstrate that it has come into compliance. Thus, interim reports have serious consequences. Additional information about preparing interim reports is available on the [CEPH website](http://www.ceph.org).

We are enclosing a copy of the Council's final accreditation report. The report is also being transmitted to the chief executive officer of your university as the Council's official report. This differs from the team's report that you received prior to our meeting in the following areas:

- The Council changed the team's finding for Criteria B5 (Evaluation Plan) from met with commentary to met and added language explaining its rationale.
- The Council added language to Criterion D2 (Foundational Competencies) acknowledging the program's response to the site visit team's report and clarifying the nature of its concern.

I would like to call your attention to the disclosure provisions in our adopted procedures. The program is expected to make its official accreditation report available to the public on request 60 days following the accreditation decision. **The program may make the report and final self-study available in full on its website, or it must clearly indicate on the website how to request a copy of either document.** See Section 7 of the [Accreditation Procedures](http://www.ceph.org) for additional information.

You may append a written response whenever you distribute the report. The official report also will be available on request from CEPH after 60 days, but it is our intent to refer all initial requests to you. If you provide this office with a copy of a written response by April 26, 2021, we will be pleased to append it whenever we respond to a request for the report. Please note that this response is optional.

We would also like to remind you that whenever an accredited school or program undergoes a substantive change, it is obligated to provide written notification to CEPH of the intended change. Substantive changes are defined in the procedures manual, but generally include offering a new degree, adding or discontinuing an area of specialization, offering a degree program in a different format or at a distant site and making major revisions to the curricular requirements. Additional information about substantive changes is available on our [website](#).

We appreciated the many courtesies and helpfulness extended to the site visit team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce Gaufin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Joyce Gaufin
President