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March 26, 2020

Ronny A. Bell, PhD, MS  
Chair, Department of Public Health  
East Carolina University

Dear Dr. Bell:

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 13, 2020 meeting to accredit the Public Health Program at East Carolina University for a seven-year term, with an interim report to be submitted in winter 2021.

The accreditation term extends until July 1, 2027, pending the program's continued documentation of compliance through the interim report, annual reporting, and any other reporting required by the Council.

The interim report will be due on January 20, 2021 and must address the criteria for which there was a "partially met" assessment. Specifically, the interim report should provide evidence that the program has:

- a) Implemented a data collection method that yields useful information about graduates' perceptions of their workforce preparation. The report must include updated data. (Criterion B4)
- b) Defined evaluation measures that relate to the program's specific mission and goals regarding service and scholarship. The program must present information in the format of Template B5-1 and provide evidence of initial data collection and analysis. (Criterion B5)
- c) Developed and implemented a systematic plan for data evaluation. In addition to a brief narrative description, the program must provide evidence such as evaluation timelines, schedules, meeting notes or minutes, etc. (Criterion B5)
- d) Documented positive doctoral student perceptions of faculty resources by collecting and reviewing feedback from DrPH students on perceptions of class size and faculty availability. The report must include initial data. (Criterion C2)
- e) Developed an appropriate assessment method for foundational competency 21. The program must provide evidence in the format of Template D2-2 with accompanying syllabi and/or additional information necessary to demonstrate compliance. (Criterion D2)
- f) Developed and implemented didactic preparation and assessment activities for all competencies designated as "CNV" in the Council's final accreditation report. The program must provide evidence in the format of Template D3-2 with accompanying syllabi and/or additional information necessary to demonstrate compliance. (Criterion D3)
- g) Developed appropriate assessment methods for concentration competencies 4 and 5 in the DrPH HPAL concentration. The program must provide evidence in the format of Template D4-1 with accompanying syllabi and/or additional information necessary to demonstrate compliance. (Criterion D4)

- h) Implemented policies to ensure that all DrPH students create applied practice projects that are meaningful to the organization and to advancing public health. If possible, samples of student work would be helpful. If students have not yet reached this point in the curriculum, the program must provide more detailed guidance and examples about the scope and nature of acceptable projects. (Criterion D6)
- i) Implemented a curriculum for all DrPH students that requires at least 36 hours of didactic coursework at the doctoral level. (Criterion D15)
- j) Delivered career counseling services that respond to student needs. The report must include data on student satisfaction, along with narrative as appropriate. (Criterion H2)

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 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](#).

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 finding for Criterion B6 (Use of Evaluation Data) from met to met with commentary and added language explaining its rationale.
- The Council changed the findings for Criteria B1 (Guiding Statements), D5 (MPH Applied Practice Experiences), E3 (Faculty Instructional Effectiveness), E4 (Faculty Scholarship), E5 (Faculty Extramural Service), G1 (Diversity), H4 (Admissions), and H5 (Public Information) from partially met to met and added language explaining its rationale.
- The Council changed the finding for Criterion D8 (DrPH Integrative Learning Experience) from not met to met with commentary and added language explaining its rationale.
- The Council changed the finding for Criterion H2 (Career Counseling) from met to partially met and added language explaining its rationale.
- The Council added language to Criteria A1 (Organization & Administration), C4 (Physical Resources), and D15 (DrPH Degree Length) acknowledging the program's response to the site visit team's report.
- The Council added language to Criteria B4 (Alumni Perceptions), B5 (Defining Evaluation Processes), C2 (Faculty Resources), D2 (MPH Foundational Competencies), D3 (DrPH Foundational Competencies), D4 (Concentration Competencies), D6 (DrPH Applied Practice Experiences) acknowledging the program's response and clarifying its concerns in light of the updated information.

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](#) 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 27, 2020, 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 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, appearing to read "P. Williams", written in a cursive style.

Phillip Williams, PhD, CIH  
President

cc: CEPH Councilors