August 11, 2021

Betty Bekemeier, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN

Director, Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

University of Washington School of Public Health

3980 15th Ave NE

Seattle, WA 98105

Dear Dr. Bekemeier,

I am happy to offer this letter in support of your application to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) *Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Training Program*. We see the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (NWCPHP) as a critical, collaborative partner to us in supporting the needs of our local public health workforce here in Oregon. As you know well, our Oregon public health workforce has suffered greatly in the past 1.5. years from dealing with the huge burdens of responsibility to care for their communities when responding to this pandemic has been made so political and disproportionately difficult for our rural and underserved communities. We are grateful for your support of our workforce and your willingness to help respond to the needs of our public health staff for mental health resources and assistance in dealing with burnout and its symptoms. We see the NWCPHP as particularly qualified to help us address our issues of workforce resiliency in our Northwest region.

Our public health practice workforce has been critical to addressing this pandemic and need resources to assure the mental health and resiliency of our public health workers into the future. We are, thus, excited to support this important burnout and mental illness prevention opportunity and are eager to be a partner with the NWCPHP to advise and promote on related opportunities. We are eager for you to be funded!

Thank you for seeking this funding and are hopeful for its success!

Sincerely,

Morgan Cowling…..

Council of Local Health Officials