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Puanani Nihoa, MPA
Assistant Director, MPA Program
The Evergreen State College

Re: Charnay DuCrest, MPA Program Applicant

Dear Puanani,

My name is Alisa Solberg. I am the Program Director of the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department Treatment Services and Meds First. These programs provide medication and counseling for the treatment of opioid use disorder for more than 1,000 patients in Pierce County.

Charnay Ducrest has been an invaluable asset to these programs and to the patients we serve since before I started my tenure with the agency 5 years ago. In her role as Lead Peer Counselor, she works as a part of our multidisciplinary team to support patients who need assistance accessing primary care, behavioral health care, and financial and social support programs.

She calls on her own lived experience with opioid use disorder to build trust and often develops a level of rapport with patients that other providers may not be able to achieve. I have been so impressed with her ability to connect with the most vulnerable and hardest to reach people, to use that connection to provide trauma informed care, and ultimately to help them improve their health.

Her work on the Pierce County Opioid Task Force has been instrumental in building community both within our agency and among partner agencies, a safety net of providers who are better integrated and work more efficiently together because of her coordination. Patients and staff alike rely on the sense of community she creates to more easily navigate a complex health care system.

Charnay has been a tremendous colleague and friend. I wholeheartedly recommend her for the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at Evergreen State College. As an alumna of the program, I recognize the excellent fit between Charnay's knowledge, skills, and abilities, and the purpose/goals of the MPA program.

I believe she will be as much of an asset to the MPA program as she has been to Treatment Services! Please reach out to me if you have questions or concerns, my email address is asolberg@tpchd.org. My cell phone number is 253-377-4032.

Sincerely,
Alisa Solberg, Program Director
Tacoma Pierce County Health Department
Treatment Services and Meds First