January 10, 2018

Dear SBARE members,

I am writing on behalf of City-County Health District as the chair of the health board to show support for Family and Community Wellness (FCW) Extension Agents. Our health district collaborates extensively with the Barnes County FCW agent to provide science-based programming to meet the health education needs of our rural residents. The beauty of our partnership is in the expertise that both entities bring to the table; in other words, by working together we are not duplicating services, but instead, enhancing the education for our community.

The Family and Community Extension Agent works closely with the nurses and dietitians of our City-County Health District to provide for the needs of Barnes County residents. Together, we provide On The Move health education in schools across the county. Extension plays an executive role on the ON THE MOVE community coalition which works to promote policy, systems, and environmental changes related to wellness. In addition, our agencies partner to provide diabetes and pre-diabetes education programming. Currently, the health district and Extension are waiting to hear word about a federal grant as well as a state grant which will extend the partnership. Without the partnership, neither entity would have the expansive reach nor resources necessary to have successful education for our rural community.

City-County Health District in Barnes County supports the work of the Extension Family and Community Wellness Agents. Our partnership strengthens the work each of us do to promote wellness to improve the quality of life for Barnes County residents as well as reducing the health care costs for the state. Please consider increasing funding for this essential piece of our state’s wellness platform.

Sincerely,

Sharon Buhr, MPH, RND, LRD
City-County Health Board Chair