

Date: August 24, 2018

To: Chair and Members of the Personnel and Finance Committee

From: Janel Heinrich, Director
Lesly Scott, Public Health Supervisor

RE: Approval to fill Disease Intervention Specialist, position #2846.

County Ordinance 29.52(15) requires the Personnel and Finance Committee, along with the County Executive, to approve filling positions that are new or have been vacant longer than six months. I am seeking approval to fill the above vacant position. This position would primarily work in the areas of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Acute and Communicable Disease (ACD).

Disease Intervention Specialists are the front line workers of sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention responsible for counseling people with STIs and their sexual partners. The DIS would also work to prevent acute communicable diseases from spreading. As a local health department, we are mandated to follow up on all reportable sexually transmitted diseases. Madison and Dane County have high rates of STIs requiring a significant amount of staff time to follow up on each case.

The DIS also conducts communicable disease follow-up interviews for any client diagnosed with a reportable communicable disease per Wisconsin State Statute and is responsible for documenting responses in the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS). Interviews are conducted primarily via telephone but may require home visit(s) to assure timely and accurate data collection. The DIS assures proper treatment and client isolation or quarantine.

The DIS educates individuals, groups, community organizations and health care providers about the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

In the event of a communicable disease exposure, outbreak or other public health emergency, the DIS responds to the alert as directed, assists with set-up of the immunization or dispensing clinic, assists with specimen collection and transport, assesses clients for eligibility and contraindications and administers the vaccine or dispenses the medication. This activity might occur on any day, time of day or location.

The DIS is a nationally recognized staffing model based on best practices with clearly defined standards and competencies related to disease knowledge, outreach, referral and treatment. Specifically the DIS functions as part of a disease investigation and intervention team. The DIS plans and participates in programs related to the control of various communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted infections and other acute and communicable diseases. Duties include: locating disease sources, carriers and at-risk groups to prevent, treat and thereby

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reduce the incidence and risk to citizens; providing counseling to patients diagnosed positive for a communicable disease, and to provide information on disease etiology and the prevention of communicable diseases.

This position is GPR funded but the work is a mandated Public Health function.

Attached is the class specification. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Janel Heinrich". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Janel Heinrich, MPH, MA
Public Health Director,
Public Health Madison & Dane County