

Date: June 5, 2014

To: Jeff Pertl, Chair
Personnel and Finance Committee

From: Janel Heinrich, Director
Public Health Madison and Dane County

Subject: Public Health Planner

County Ordinance 29, 52(16) requires the Personnel and Finance Committee to approve filling positions that are new or have been vacant longer than six months. I am asking for approval to fill a 1.0 FTE Public Health Planner (Food Security), which is included in our 2014 Adopted Operating Budget. A freeze appeal has already been approved by the County Executive.

As planned for in our 2014 budget, we have created a new division called Policy, Planning and Evaluation. This reflects the continued transition of our local health department and is aligned with the mandates and transformation described in the National Prevention Strategy (another product of the Affordable Care Act that prioritizes prevention and identifies ways to work across systems and settings and in doing so articulates the role of different professions--clinical care, public health, community services providers--in this pursuit). It also reflects the accreditation requirements that I expect will become a mandate to receive funding in the future.

What is the nature of the work or what is the essential function of the position?

The Food Security Planner position will work with in collaboration with internal and external partners to identify and develop population health approaches to improving food security and nutrition, particularly focusing on those that produce equitable health outcomes over time. This position is responsible for analyzing public health programs, policies and procedures and working with colleagues to make information accessible for decision making in public policy, systems improvement and planning.

How has this function been fulfilled during the vacancy? This is a new position.

What will the impact be on the department's function and mission if the position remains vacant?

A freeze appeal has been approved and I am now seeking the permission of Personnel and Finance so that we may begin recruiting for this position.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.