



Public Health

MADISON & DANE COUNTY

Healthy people. Healthy places.

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Date: December 2, 2014
To: Chair and Members of the Personnel and Finance Committee
From: Janel Heinrich, Public Health Director
Subject: Dietetic Specialist

County Ordinance 29, 52(16) 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 asking for approval to fill 1.0 FTE Dietetic Specialist for our WIC program that is in our 2014 and 2015 budget. A freeze appeal has already been submitted and approved for this position.

In March of this year, one of the two WIC Lead Workers was hired as the Public Health Supervisor for the WIC program. This has created a need for additional WIC clinic coverage to maintain federally mandated service goals for serving clients and provide needed coverage as our client numbers increase. In January of 2014 the WIC program served 5,678 clients in Dane County and that number increased to 6,060 in October of 2014. This equates to serving an additional 20 clients per day.

We are requesting that the 1.0 Dietetic Specialist position be filled as soon as possible. The Dietetic Specialists are cross trained to function in all clinical positions responsible for providing clinical, nutrition, and administrative support to the PHMDC WIC program.

Without this position being filled, we are either dependent on contract Nutritionists to work in clinics, or we have to decrease the number of appointments we can offer to clients. The latter option has significant implications for client services and programming because it creates an inability to serve our growing client base as mandated and ultimately decreases WIC funding. This position will be 100% funded by State WIC grant money.

Janel Heinrich, MPH, MA
Director, PHMDC