

Melody Rank

From: Jay Ratchman
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Melody Rank
Subject: Fw: [NCI] Health Officer Vacancy
Attachments: Interim Health Officer for HR.pdf; Appleton Health Officer Letter May 11 2021.pdf

From: Culotta, Christopher D - DHS <ChristopherD.Culotta@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Jay Ratchman <Jay.Ratchman@Appleton.org>; Jake Woodford <Jake.Woodford@Appleton.org>
Cc: Rombalski, Jennifer J - DHS <jennifer.rombalski@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: [NCI] Health Officer Vacancy

Mayor Woodford and Mr. Ratchman,

My understanding is there are questions regarding the process to identify an interim health officer at the City of Appleton and the coordination with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health. The City of Appleton Leadership has been in communication with the Division of Public Health Northeast Region and has provided updates on the hiring progress.

A little about me and the Division of Public Health Northeast Region – we work with local health departments and tribes in a 17 county area that includes 19 local health departments and 3 tribes.

The pandemic has been difficult for staff and public health leaders and currently of the 85 local health departments in Wisconsin we have 30+ newer or interim health officers statewide.

To put in perspective for the NE Region – there have been 7 new health officers of the 19 local health departments since November 2020.

A review of documentation relating to this situation identifies the following key facts.

Mr. Eggebrecht the former city health officer retired June 4, 2021.

May 11, 2021 I sent the attached letter to the City of Appleton Mayor that discussed the interim appointment and the health officer qualifications under Wisconsin Statute 251.05. Copied on the letter include the State Health Officer and Division of Public Health Administrator and the Office of Policy and Practice Alignment Director.

May 18, 2021, Mr. Ratchman, Mr. Eggebrecht and Mayor Woodford and I had a phone call to discuss health officer qualifications and the hiring process.

Mr. Ratchman on June 4, 2021 provided me the resume and interim health officer appointment letter for the City of Appleton. Ms. Jensen has served as the Appleton Health Department Nursing Supervisor since March 2013 and also leads other regional public health groups.

I have served as the Division of Public Health Northeast Region Director since December 2013 and I have supported/assisted many jurisdictions hiring new health officers and my assessment is the City of Appleton has provided updates on the hiring progress for a full-time health officer and is making a good faith effort to identify and hire the next health officer.

Please contact me with any questions.

Chris



Christopher Culotta, MPA

Northeast Region Director & 140 Review Program Supervisor

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