

RESOLUTION: Approve the extension of current project employees working for the Winnebago County Health Department past their two-year limit and the previous 12/30/2022 extension

TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic the Winnebago County Health Department found a need to hire temporary staff to assist with its response. Duties included: contact tracing, disease and outbreak management, communications, data analytics, planning for testing and vaccination efforts, administration of vaccines and much more; and

WHEREAS, the longevity of the pandemic resulted in the continual utilization of this staff and warranted their conversion from temporary staff to project employee status after 26 weeks; and

WHEREAS, Winnebago County Human Resource handbook states project employees 'may be used for a maximum of two years.' That provision is in place to assure that if a department is truly in need of an employee for that long, the employee be reclassified as a regular employee; and

WHEREAS, given the tenacity of the pandemic a request to extend project employees past the two-year limit was made in April 2022 for a limited number of project employees and this request was approved with a deadline of December 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to be an issue especially for our most vulnerable populations (those residing in long term care settings such as nursing homes, daycares, etc.); and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Health Department is managing outbreaks in those settings with the assistance of project employees. Furthermore, the Winnebago County Health Department continues to provide multiple access points for vaccines. The Winnebago County Health Department is anticipating a surge in vaccine seekers as a new bivalent COVID-19 vaccine will be available soon. Finally, some project employees are assisting with the monkeypox outbreak; and

WHEREAS, Projects employees not only allow for the Winnebago County Health Department to respond promptly to the situations outlined above but also allow our permanent employees to transition back to their regular job responsibilities, much of which was put on hold due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Health Department has funding from various sources to continue to support the COVID-19 response and the extension of project employees past their two-year limit. An extension past 12/30/2022 will not result in any budgetary issues. Funding for COVID-19 currently has a deadline of October 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby approves the extension of current project employees working for the Winnebago County Health Department past their two-year limit and the previous 12/30/2022 extension.

Fiscal Note: *No budget transfer is necessary. Wages and benefits for these employees are included in the 2022 adopted budget and the 2023 Executive budget.*

Respectfully submitted by:

43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54

BOARD OF HEALTH

Committee Vote: **7-0**

Respectfully submitted by:

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Vote: **3-1**

Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Those Present**

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2022.

Jonathan D. Doemel
Winnebago County Executive