

Kim VanPelt
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To Whom It May Concern;

I wish to apply for the Director of the Snohomish County Health Department. I currently serve as Deputy Director for Programming and Development at the Pima County Health Department in Southern Arizona, a large local health department that serves more than a million residents in urban, rural, and indigenous communities. I offer skills and expertise in the following areas:

Understanding of Public Health – I have developed a broad understanding of public health from the various positions I have held over the years. As the senior deputy for a large local health department, I have gained insight into a wide array of public health programming to include infectious disease surveillance and control, health prevention and promotion, emergency response, environmental health and food safety, vital records, mental health and substance misuse prevention and response, and clinical services. As the former executive team member for the state health department, I became familiar with how state and local health departments interact and how policy decisions at the statewide level impact local efforts. I have also served in other roles such as a health policy advocate and health philanthropy leader that helped me understand public health issues from a community perspective. My experience also includes serving as the former President of the Arizona Chapter of the American Public Health Association. I currently serve as the Senior Deputy representative on the Big Cities Health Coalition, a national organization that represents the interest of the 35 largest local health departments.

Leadership, Planning Experience – I possess 23 years of public management and administrative experience. In my current position, I supervise approximately 150 staff (including five direct reports) and a wide array of programs including maternal and child health programs, chronic disease prevention programs, workforce development, built environment, and community mental health and addiction programs. I also established and oversee an office that helps bolster PCHD's capabilities in the areas of DEI, community engagement, and public policy. In my current position, I help develop and oversee a department budget of approximately \$52 million that includes a diverse array of funding sources, including \$31 million in federal, state, and private grants. I helped reorganize the department and recruit and select most of the senior leadership team, including two fellow deputy directors. I have also helped manage the response to recent federal funding cuts, including formulating layoff plans and identifying opportunities to adjust/secure additional funding.

During my tenure as Chief Regional Officer at First Things First, Arizona's early childhood development and health agency, I managed 56 staff and 15 regional offices. Additionally, I oversaw \$126 million in grantmaking (contracting) to organizations across the state, including urban, rural,

and indigenous communities. During my service, staff engagement increased dramatically, as measured by the Gallup Employee Engagement Survey.

I possess considerable planning experience. As Strategic Planning and Quality Improvement Manager for the Arizona Department of Health Services, I served as a member of the executive team and worked closely with agency leadership to create a strategic plan, performance measures, and a \$1+ billion budget. At First Things First, I helped lead efforts to develop strategic plans at both the statewide and regional level. In my current position, I have helped oversee needs assessments and community health improvement plans and accreditation efforts.

I possess a Master of Public Administration degree. My six years of experience at the Arizona Office of the Auditor General also helped me hone my understanding of program oversight, efficiency, evaluation, data analysis, and accountability. I have also completed additional certification in project management and administration/management.

External Engagement Experience – I possess significant experience working with elected officials, boards and commissions, and executive agencies. In my current position, I work closely with our Board of Health and County Administration on budget, policy, human resource, and programmatic issues. For example, I help inform County Administration on the impact of federal policy and budgetary changes weekly and help formulate departmental responses to those changes. I currently convene representatives from various jurisdictions in our county to collectively identify uses of opioid settlement funding. I also work closely with County Administration, other department and jurisdictional leaders, and university and community-based organization partners to identify and implement strategies to address poverty in Pima County.

I have served on numerous commissions for both Republican and Democratic Governors. I have led large statewide coalitions, and worked closely with leaders from the business, philanthropic, social services, faith, tribal and advocacy communities. I am adept at working with leaders at the grass-tops and grassroots levels. At Vitalyst Health Foundation, I worked closely with business, healthcare, faith-based, and non-profit organizations to successfully advocate for expansion of Medicaid in Arizona. While at Vitalyst, I also co-led a coalition of 150+ businesses working with the City of Phoenix and the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce to address Arizona health workforce issues. I also worked closely with the state's Medicaid agency to help define a new model for integrated acute care and behavioral health care in Arizona, engaging people with lived experience in model development.

I also served as a lobbyist and as a legislative research staff member, where I gleaned an in-depth understanding of public policy. I served on the state's Medicaid advisory committee for more than a decade, and I also served on various boards, including the board of a federally qualified health center.

Communications – I possess strong communications skills. While at Vitalyst, I served as the primary media spokesperson for the organization. I conducted hundreds of presentations on an array of topics to groups including chambers of commerce, legislative committees, universities and community colleges, faith-based organizations, and non-profits. I also was a frequent presenter at national conferences and authored numerous publications. While working at Children’s Action Alliance, Arizona’s Voices for Children affiliate, I received a grant to train numerous non-profits and community partners on how to effectively persuade policy makers based on research-informed communication methods for achieving social change.

I am intrigued by this opportunity for several reasons. First, I am excited to be able to continue my growth as a public health professional by leading a local health department. Second, I am very interested in living in Washington State. My husband and I are avid hikers who love spending time outdoors. I have visited the state frequently (my daughter attended University of Washington), and have long considered a move to the state.

I look forward to talking with you more about what I could offer Snohomish County. Please reach me at your convenience at kmvanpelt@cox.net or (480) 717-8437.

Sincerely,

Kim VanPelt