



Snohomish County Council

Committee: Committee of the Whole
ECAF: 2022-1248
Motion: 22-518

Analyst: Nicole Gorle
Date: December 2, 2022

Consideration:

Confirm the nomination of Dennis Worsham as the Director of the Snohomish County Health Department.

Background:

The County is in the process of transitioning the Health District into a newly created Health Department which goes into effect January 1, 2023. Adopted Ordinance 22-061 established the new Health Department under what will be SCC 2.300 and includes three sections that relate to the Health Department Director.¹ These sections outline the general role and responsibilities of the Director and the appointment process.

Snohomish County Code 3.40 gives the Executive the authority to nominate/appoint each department director, and each of those appointments is subject to confirmation or rejection by the Snohomish County Council through motion. Action on nominations must take place within 60 days of the nomination or the appointment is confirmed without action.

Current Proposal:

Scope: Motion 22-518 would confirm the appointment of Dennis Worsham as the Director for the new Health Department. Dennis has extensive experience working in the governmental public health sector, most recently serving as the Interim Public Health Director for King County from May 2021 to September 2022. Before that, he served as the Prevention Division Director for King County since 2016.

Duration: n/a

Fiscal Implications: Per the offer letter, Dennis will be hired at a pay range 115, step 15 with an annual salary of \$187,178.

2022 Budget: No (in speaking with the Executive's office, the start date will be January 5, 2023)

¹ 2.300.040 Director.

The director of the health department shall serve as the executive secretary and administrative officer to the board of health and shall be responsible for administering the operations of the board of health, including such other administrative duties required by the board of health, as provided in RCW 70.05.045.

2.300.050 Appointment of director.

The director shall be nominated and appointed by the executive with the advice and consent of the council. The director shall serve at the pleasure of the executive and shall be subject to the county exempt personnel system.

2.300.060 Organization by director.

Subject to the approval of the board of health, the director may create divisions and reassign positions and functions within the department; provided, that appropriate budget and personnel transfers are made with executive and council approval and in conformance with the personnel rules and policies of Snohomish county.

Future Budget Impact: Yes – funding was included in the adopted 2023 budget for the new Health Department, including funding for employee salaries.

Handling: Urgent

Approved-as-to-form: n/a

Risk Management: n/a

Executive Recommendation: Approve

Attachment: None

Amendments: None

Request: For Council to consider taking action.