



Garfield County Public Health
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PRESS RELEASE

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Garfield County appoints new Environmental Health Manager

GARFIELD COUNTY, CO – Garfield County’s new Environmental Health Manager brings 11 years of public health experience and an education in natural resources and environmental management with a minor in geology to his new role. Joshua Williams most previously served as the Administrator of the Delaware County Health Department in Indiana. In that role, Williams directed the department, while in Garfield County he will manage a division within the Garfield County Public Health Department.

Williams’ career in public health service in Indiana has included work as Environmental Health Specialist with the Boone County Health Dept. and the Delaware County Health Dept., an Assistant Supervisor with the Marion County Health Dept. in the Vector Control section, Manager and Chief Sanitarian of the Huntington County Dept. of Health, and Director of Environmental Health for the Boone County Health Department.

Williams has extensive experience regulating onsite wastewater treatment systems, mosquito control programs, air quality sampling, housing compliance and well inspections, and food safety, among a few environmental health concerns.

“My role in Garfield County will be more an educational one, doing collaboration and outreach,” said Williams. “I would like to focus on advancing the county’s fairly new Environmental Health program, developing more efficient operations, program planning and a continuous improvement process.” Williams would like to seek national accreditation for his staff.

Another goal for the new manager is to focus on technology to interface with the community to deliver tracking and data online. He led a technology committee in Indiana

and implemented delivery of data such as animal bites, meth lab locations and other community hazards online.

Williams has done his research. He is eyeing the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's state health improvement plan as a measure of setting goals possibly locally. This plan has identified "10 winnable battles" to focus on in improvement of public health. Williams would like to set county priorities similarly, to implement elements of prevention and change for better public health outcomes.

He plans to support Garfield County's air quality monitoring program locally, and will work on goal-setting in water quality, food safety, disease trends, public health preparation and health-related emergency response.

"I didn't have as much room for growth in my last position as this one offers," he said. "I am glad to get back to the work that I am passionate about, using effective programs to affect better public health."

And, Williams would like to see those same outcomes affect his personal life. "I believe Garfield County embraces a work/life balance. I feel this opportunity will let me work where there are healthy lifestyle opportunities in a place with beautiful scenery, in an area of the country that seems to have growth potential and is a great place to raise a family," he said.

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