



Virginia Garcia Memorial
HEALTH CENTER

Candidate Questionnaire

Kathryn Harrington, Candidate for Chair of Washington County Board of Commissioners
Run-off through General election, November 6, 2018

Questionnaire Completed: Sept 28, 2018

1. ***What is the role of the county in addressing health issues? If you believe the county has an increasing role to play, where will the revenue come from to pay for these potential services?***

I have reviewed the adopted strategic plan for 2016 – 2020 for the Department of Health and Human Services and scanned the Public Health Strategic Plan. What is clear to me from the HHS strategic plan is that general fund dollars available for HHS programs are very restricted. With the new composition of the Board of Commissioners, I see an opportunity to revisit the county's strategic plan to identify clear Commission priorities and review funding priorities for general fund resource allocation as well as other discretionary funding sources (SIP/GainShare.) It's imperative that we meet the public health needs of all of our citizens. New leadership on the Commission will provide an opportunity to consider what we are able to accomplish today and what's required to meet the public health needs of our fast-growing county in the years ahead.

Source: HHS strategic plan document, section Assure Resources for Changing Community Needs, Reality column.

2. ***How will you work to address social determinants of health in Washington County?***

As Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, I will commit to ensuring that every person has the opportunity for a vibrant and healthy life, with three fundamentals being stable housing, family-wage employment opportunities, and particularly for our young community members, educational opportunities. Having reviewed the Washington County Community Health Improvement Plan (September 2017), I understand that it identifies fundamental goals, three priority areas and pursues various strategies to be successful. I am committed to learning more about how Washington County (the agency) is pursuing these goals so that over time we can measure progress and ensure we're getting the results our citizens need and deserve.

3. ***How do we/should we measure success in health care?***

This is not an area that I have studied. I am aware that Washington County has a somewhat new strategic plan in place for health and human services. I do not know what model(s) Washington County currently uses to measure success in health care. But I am aware that various levels of government (State of Oregon, federal government agencies) and various non-profit organizations (OR Health Foundation and others) have models and measurements they expect agencies like Washington County to use to receive grants or program funds. What is important to me is

that the near-term, short-term and long-term health of our community members improves and that Washington County is a much more effective partner with its peer counties (Multnomah and Clackamas Counties specifically) as well as partner service agencies, such as Virginia Garcia, that care for patients day in and day out.