

Roberta Kowald

WA | 360-932-8218 | rlgkowald@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Experienced, Award-winning Policy and Program Professional and Community leader

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Lead workgroups, Advisory Boards and Constituent groups on employment legislation and policy improvement
- Create safe feedback processes for internal and external stakeholders. legislative staff, the office of the Governor and members of underrepresented communities.
- Act as Legislative Subject Matter Data Expert for multiple Public Health agencies and constituent groups
- Establish multiple stakeholder groups to analyze and interpret policies, laws and regulations around critical public health issues.
- Educate, positively influence, and obtain critical buy-in from Bar and Restaurant owners in response to legislation around smoking in public places.
- Recognized by Regional Cross-Cultural Collaborative for work with the Pierce County Latino/Hispanic Community Action Coalition
- Recognized by WA State Department of Health for innovative Advocacy outreach work with Youth, Low-Income and Rural families in Washington State
- Recognized by Washington State NAACP for Advocacy work with African American youth
- Design and conducted first county-wide LGBTQ Health Assessment, establishing critical baseline data for program development, policy, future legislation, and outreach.
- Monitor Unemployment status data and answer complex, technical questions about Unemployment laws and policies.
- Appointed Member Olympic College President's Policy Council

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Meaningful member of the King County Community Partners for Transition Solutions Policy and Advocacy Action group.
- Partner with 10+ Tribal Nations to establish baseline data and assess community needs and policies
- Host 60-member community forum on African American Health policy.
- Establish 30-member Kitsap County key stakeholder Health Disparities Task Force.
- Manage and direct Work Plan Contracts Reporting and Strategic planning for \$350,000 program budget
- Lead federally funded, national pilot program with ECEAP and Head Start reaching over 50 programs across 12 school districts.

LEADERSHIP

- Multi-year Presenter at Washington State Diversity Conference on issues of race and social justice
- Agency leader in caucus groups, organizational learning sessions, trainings, and fact-finding sessions
- Appointed member of Statewide Diversity-Equity-Inclusion Task Force
- Appointed member of ESD Accessibility and Inclusive Technology Task Force
- Trained in group facilitation (particularly around difficult or sensitive topics) group mediation, Crucial conversations, and conflict management.

EXPERIENCE

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT ANALYST(MA4) | LEAVE AND CARE DIVISION: EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT | 2022- PRESENT

- Lead internal and constituent workgroups including underserved populations such as non-binary workers and Limited English Proficiency groups.
- Prepare and edit legislative reports and ensure timely filing with authorities.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS INSTRUCTOR |WORKSOURCE NORTH SEATTLE| FROM 2019-2022

- Teach 6-week 20-hour job skills intensive classes as well as statewide virtual workshops on core Job search skills
- Design and teach complex class units on workplace rights, disability accessibility and accommodation rights as well as Diversity and Equity.

WIOA (WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT) AND TRADE ADJUSTMENT ACT CASE MANAGER | WORKSOURCE KITSAP COUNTY | FROM 2018-2019

- Develop Individual Education and Training plans for adults seeking re-employment
- Educate and inform program participants on complex matters involving State and Federal Policy and laws.
- Partner with Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Labor & Industry, Colleges, businesses, and Worker Retraining programs to develop training and employment opportunities for clients

RISE (Resources to Initiate Successful Employment) PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR | WORKSOURCE NORTH SEATTLE | FROM 2017-2018

- One of only 7 instructors teaching in Federally funded \$22 million Employment and Training pilot program for people with significant barriers to employment

ADJUNCT FACULTY (SOCIOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE) | OLYMPIC COLLEGE | FROM 2012-2018

- Faculty and Policy advisor to LGBT Student Club.
- Appointed Faculty Mentor and Faculty Advisor for LGBT Students and Staff
- Concisely and thoroughly teach complex 5-Credit Law, Policy, Compliance, Technical Research and Data collection and assessment classes to diverse student population
- Supervise individual student Social Justice Projects

HEALTH POLICY EDUCATOR PREVENTION | FROM 2000-2009

Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department (2007-2009)

Kitsap County Health District (2003-2007)

American Cancer Society (2000 -2003)

- Manage and direct Work Plans, Contract Reporting and Strategic planning for multiple agencies
- Establish and support over a dozen community policy groups and coalitions across 10 counties in Western Washington
- Work closely with legislators and lobbyists to train community activists in preparation and presentation skills at public hearings and legislative meetings.

EDUCATION

LAW (JD Equivalent) RMIT University

BACHELOR OF ARTS Sociology (Minors Social Research & Philosophy) Deakin University