

Graduate Statement of Purpose

Jim Harvey, Ed.S., AAC, SUDPt, MHP, CMHS, BCPC

Date: October 31, 2023

Statement of Intentions

My name is James Harvey, and I am applying for graduate school to pursue a Master of Public Administration degree with an emphasis in public policy. My desire to complete this degree is to eventually return to working for the Washington State Government in management and policy planning. Once this degree is complete, I would also like to continue toward completing a doctorate in Human Services.

The COVID-19 pandemic delayed much of my efforts to return to graduate school. My spouse's employment was displaced to Oregon for over a year while trying to manage the care of our newborn daughter, who is now three years of age. When I decided to return to graduate school a year ago, my heart was directed at my past public service work.

I eagerly wanted to embark more on quality management, policy, and quality improvement engagements. Achieving this degree would open doors to better career opportunities within the Washington State Government and more exposure to unique opportunities within a behavioral health administration.

Public Administration Experiences

I currently work for Lifeline Connections as a Clinical Supervisor overseeing Progressive Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) for adults who struggle with co-occurring disorders and other mental and substance abuse disorders. This program provides seven days a week peer support, nursing, case management, and clinical mental health therapy in the office or the community. Previously, I worked as a Program Consultant IV (Policy Consultant) for the Developmental Disabilities Administration at Rainier School. Rainier School is a habilitation center for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The campus is certified as an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Rainier School is a campus that must adhere to ICF/IID regulations that enable the state to obtain federal matching funds for this campus. I was directly

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responsible for working with program area teams to address systematic program improvement efforts and quality assurance compliance deficiencies around client care needs (e.g., monitoring requests, investigating documentation deficiencies, and active treatment observations). I was also directly responsible for all standard operating procedures development, deployment, and updates after the Superintendent of Rainier School approval was received and communicated across Rainier School, posted onto SharePoint, and originals, copy versions, and archived versions maintained within the department.

Another example of my past public servant leadership efforts was School-based Health Care Services (SBHS) Program Manager for Children in Special Education. A Medicaid reimbursement program; I was directly responsible for all aspects of program decision-making, operations, and budget monitoring of the SBHS program (e.g., daily accounting reports, federal exclusion monitoring, Medicaid management information systems, investigations and research, contract termination, and providing leadership information for legislative requests). This population directly involved children with significant to profound developmental and/or intellectual disabilities.

Vision

Being from Alaska and now living in Washington State, understanding tribal culture is necessary to work in public service. I also believe working within city, county, and state government operations is necessary. Working within tribal communities involving families and children struggling with disabilities has played a significant part in my past work experience in public service. My goal for this degree and future graduate education would be to expand on how public administration plays a role in effective policy-making to better serve the most vulnerable people (e.g., Alaskans, intellectually disabled). Developing an in-depth understanding of public administration will help my performance as a policymaker and subject matter expert performing legislative bill analysis. In my past work experience, working throughout the Alaskan tribal communities for six years, I realized public servants are doing so much more during these ever-changing times in healthcare, especially with growing concerns around the COVID-19 pandemic.

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In an era with a tremendous lack of public servants, society must become better prepared with leaders in public service and more advanced, educated leaders in healthcare.

After completing my Educational Specialist degree in 2009, I decided to take time away from graduate school and focus on developing a sense of "life balance." Since the death of my domestic partner in 2009, several years have passed, and going through hospice with my mother later in 2017; I believe it is an appropriate time to return to graduate studies. Because of my own experiences working in public service, individuals diagnosed with intellectual or developmental disabilities, Human Immunodeficiency Virus patients, Pedophilic clients, and children and families struggling with significant mental health issues, my goal afterward is to hopefully return to Alaska.

This concludes my Graduate Statement of Purpose. My knowledge, skills, and abilities will be invaluable to the Masters of Public Administration program and shared with fellow graduate students and faculty.

Thank you.

Jim Harvey