# Building Sustainable Leadership: Borrowing From Within

Dr. Marie Peoples, Coconino County Public Health Services District Nadia Ivanova-Pfenning, Coconino County Human Resources Brian Grube, Coconino County Parks & Recreation



### Who am I?

- Why Am I Here?
  - Share an innovative solution to short-term staffing vacancies
- What will I accomplish?
  - Convey best practices for staffing that allow mid/high level mangers
- What can you glean from listening to me?
  - Creative solutions to inevitable staffing shortages



## Background



- Coconino County Public Health Services
   District
  - Coconino County is the second largest County in the Nation
  - Home of the Grand Canyon, resulting in over a million tourist annually
  - Diverse community including many Tribes and sovereign jurisdictions





## Background

- Coconino County Public Health Services District Services:
  - Emergency Preparedness
  - Clinics (STD, HIV,Reproductive Health,Immunizations)
  - Animal Management

- Environmental Health (food, hotel, tattoo, medical marijuana, etc.)
- Disease Surveillance & Response
- Health Promotion
- Injury Prevention
- Medical Examiner
- Behavioral Health



#### Situation



- Inherited a complex set of Clinic Staff, with distrust of leadership (verified & perceived)
- Clinic Manager left abruptly
- Other departmental leadership staff were at capacity
- Hiring process would be long, needed to be thorough
- Aware that my CM enjoyed innovative solutions, proposed borrowing a manager from another department



## Hatching an Idea

 Sent an email describing the opportunity to managers across County Departments



- Had a series of phone interviews within 1 week
   (9 candidates)
- Determined that two candidates that stood out and I wanted them both!
- Set a start date, plunged in!

## Challenges

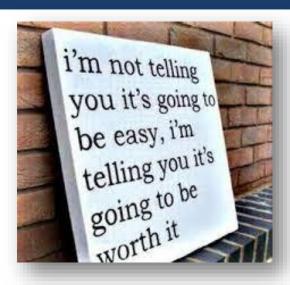


- Getting to know staff & culture
  - Motivation & commitment to change
  - History and past decisions
- Understanding core issues
- Establishing credibility and gaining trust
- Building consistency
- Balancing duties between original position and temporary assignment



#### **Lessons Learned**

- Personnel & Processes principles apply across departments, however subject matter knowledge is still vital for success
- Confidence in your leadership skills
- Cultural change is all about planting seeds
- Ask for what you need!







- Create a clear outline and goals
- Communicate
- Keep close relationships with staff, form alliances
- Create an environment where change is accepted as the way we do business
- Be compassionate, yet consistent and objective



## Questions/Comments?

Additional Information...

