Finalists chosen for Health Officer position
By Whitney Helm

Rock County Officials are interviewing two finalists for the Rock County Health Officer position this week. Karen Cain has announced she will be retiring in April as health officer after six years in that position and after a total of 15 years serving as a public health nursing supervisor and nursing director.

The position had 22 applicants which were narrowed down to two. One finalist is Eric Gass, of Milwaukee, who mostly recently served the City of Milwaukee Health Department. The other finalist is Marie-Noel Sandoval of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Sandoval was mostly recently employed with University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Gass joined the City of Milwaukee Health Department in January 2009. A native of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, Dr. Gass received his bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, his master’s degree in child development and family studies from Purdue University, and his doctorate in urban studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Sandoval has more than 20 years of work experience in programs to improve health. She received a bachelor of science degree in Biology/Chemistry from New Mexico State University and a Master of Public Health from the University of Texas Health Science in Houston.

After a long career, Karen Cain announced her retirement in January. Cain has been the leader of the Rock County Health Department through many challenges in the past six years. The health department operates offices in Beloit and Janesville and often holds immunization clinics and other health events in other communities in the county.