

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application
Date: Friday, June 12, 2020 8:04:20 PM

Board and Commission Application

Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

Public Statement

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.

Title *Field not completed.*

First Name Emily

Last Name O'Connor

Today's Date 6/11/2020

Street Address 1425 Austin St

City Bellingham

Zip 98229

Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? Yes

Do you have a different mailing address? *Field not completed.*

Primary Telephone 3602017796

Secondary Telephone *Field not completed.*

Email Address eoconnor@lydiaplace.org

Step 2

1. Name of Board or Homeless Strategies Workgroup

Committee

Homeless Strategies
Workgroup Positions:

Homeless children and families

2. Do you meet the
residency,
employment, and/or
affiliation requirements
of the position for
which you're applying?

Yes

3. Which Council
district do you live in?

District 3

4. Are you a US
citizen?

Yes

5. Are you registered to
vote in Whatcom
County?

Yes

6. Have you declared
candidacy (as defined
by RCW 42.17A.055)
for a paid elected office
in any jurisdiction
within the county?

No

7. Have you ever been
a member of this
Board/Commission?

No

8. Do you or your
spouse have a financial
interest in or are you
an employee or officer
of any business or
agency that does
business with
Whatcom County?

Yes

If yes, please explain

I am the Executive Director of Lydia Place, a nonprofit contracted by Whatcom County to provide homeless housing services.

You may attach a
resume or detailed
summary of
experience,

Field not completed.

qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions

9. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education

I have been serving as Executive Director of Lydia Place for the past 8 years. Lydia Place's primary focus is on eliminating homelessness for families with children and addressing the systemic issues that contribute to our high rates of homelessness. I serve on the Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee, the Steering Committee of the Whatcom Coalition to End Homelessness, the Steering Committee for the Whatcom Housing Alliance, the Healthy Whatcom task force, and the Board of Directors of Whatcom Women in Business. I also serve on the Policy, Advocacy, and Funding Task Force of Generations Forward, which took the lead in drafting the Child and Family Action Plan adopted by County Council in February of 2020. I am a 20 year resident of Whatcom County, hold a Master of Social work degree, and am a mother to three children. Professionally, I worked many years in the domestic violence and sexual assault field locally, at DVSAS, and served as executive director of Skagit DVSAS, I working as the director of a local child care facility many years ago, and worked for Whatcom County Juvenile Court in developing and implementing the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program to support abused/neglected children in our foster care system.

Lydia Place partners with OC to be the two central organizations serving families with children experiencing homelessness. We serve roughly 150 families at a time from emergency placements through permanent supportive housing. In addition, Lydia Place provides in-home parenting programs and a behavioral health program.

10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission

I advocated for a seat on this committee focused on families with children because in attending these meetings, families with children are rarely, if ever, discussed. They may be mostly invisible, but they are a large and critically vulnerable segment of the population. Investing in the health and wellbeing of our community's children, is critical to any long-term vision of ending homelessness.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Field not completed.

Signature of applicant:

Emily O'Connor

Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham

(Section Break)