

Advisory Group Application

Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Advisory Groups

Public Statement

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public advisory group, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All advisory group 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	Mrs.
First Name	Ashley
Last Name	Thomasson
Today's Date	11/25/2024
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Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	Field not completed.
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Step 2

1. Name of Advisory	Public Health Advisory Board
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Group

Public Health Advisory Board	I have expertise, career experience, or lived experience in one of the areas listed above., I am a consumer of public health services. , I represent a stakeholder, such as a nonprofit organization, the business community, or those regulated by public health.
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2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
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3. Which Council district do you live in?	District 2
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4. Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group	Yes
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If yes, please list dates:	Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee - 2021 to present Whatcom County Public Health Advisory Board - 2023 to present
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5. 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?	No
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6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No
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You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions	Attached
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7. Please describe your	I currently serve as the Executive Director at Lydia Place, a non-
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occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education	profit dedicated to disrupting the cycle of homelessness for current and future generations. My career in homeless housing services spans 18 years working across multiple, diverse populations and housing intervention strategies, and includes a robust combination of direct service provision, non-profit and contract management, and systems/policy advocacy. I received my BA in Human Services from WWU and my Certificate in Non-Profit Management from UW.
8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this Advisory Group.	Access to safe, affordable housing is inextricably linked to public health and public health outcomes. As our community continues to see a growing housing crisis, I think it is important our housing and public health systems are integrating and working together to make sure that we are working towards a community where every person and family has a home, and thus the foundation needed to thrive.
References (please include daytime telephone number):	Samya Lutz Housing & Services Program Manager COB 360.778.8385 Sanjay Rughani Director of Operations Peace Health 360.296.0590
Appointment Requirements	I understand and agree
Signature of applicant:	Ashley Thomasson
Place Signed / Submitted	
(Section Break)	



Ashley Thomasson



PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Enthusiastic and strategic Director with over a decade in the non-profit sector, and an expertise in housing services. Committed leader with a track record of promoting employee wellness and retention. History of managing budgets, contracts, & community partners with intention & ownership. Former small business owner with a commitment to community.

SWEET SKILLS

Managerial Experience	Program Development	Budgeting Oversight
Encouraging Mentor	Contract Negotiation	Successful Grant Writer

WORK HISTORY

Lydia Place | Bellingham, WA | 2008 – Present

Executive Director, January 2023-Present

Responsible for oversight of agency programming, \$4.5 million annual agency budget and community engagement. Provide leadership and guidance to advance the mission of the agency. Direct strategic planning and the creation of organizational goals. Cultivate and maintain strategic partnerships with funders and community agencies. Support board by providing regular reports on finances and programming.

Housing Program Director, November 2018 – January 2023

Oversee day to day operations of all housing programs & (from 2018-2021) the property management team. Manage entire housing program budget which exceeds 2 million of the overall agency budget. Write grants and procure, negotiate, and maintain contracts with City and County funders & community partners. Developed and launched database to better assess outcomes; actively lead strategic program planning that centers client voice. Publicly speak and represent the agency at community events and in videos/publications.

Housing Program Supervisor, January 2015 – November 2018

Manage a team of direct service staff providing direct services to over 250 homeless households annually. Collaborate with community partners to coordinate services & improve system outcomes. Developed programming & oversaw the launch of 4 new housing programs including Bell Tower, Baker Place, Intake, and DVSAS, along with the expansion of our Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing Programs. Managed over \$300,000 annually in rental subsidy expenditures.

Case Manager, July 2008 – January 2015

Provided trauma-informed case management to hundreds of homeless individuals & families. Marketed program and built relationships with landlords & rental management companies to provide housing placements for clients. Maintained strict data entry requirements. Upheld client confidentiality.

EDUCATION

Certificate of Non-Profit Management

University of Washington, Seattle, WA | June 2019

Bachelor of Arts in Human Services

Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA | June 2008