

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application
Subject: Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:23:30 PM
Date:

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	Mrs.
First Name	Jen
Last Name	Curlett
Today's Date	1/14/2021
Street Address	3322 Cedarside Court
City	Bellingham
Zip	98226
Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Primary Telephone	360-303-7940
Secondary Telephone	360-676-6177 X1117
Email Address	jen.curlett@ucnw.org

Step 2

1. Name of Board or Commission Child & Family Well-Being Task Force

Committee

Child & Family Well-Being Task Force Yes

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 2

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? No

You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions *Field not completed.*

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

I have been employed at Unity Care Northwest (UCNW) since 1998 as a dental hygienist. I have worked with adults and children of all ages, but have specifically worked with children for the past 5 years through our children's dental clinic and our school-based mobile dental program. A large part of my job is to go to all the elementary, middle schools and HeadStart programs in Bellingham, and all the elementary, middle, high schools and HeadStart programs in the county placing sealants, fluoride varnish and providing dental screenings on kids at their schools. In 2015, I assessed HeadStart and elementary school kids in Whatcom County for the Washington State Department of Health's Smile Survey. I have also volunteered at the Barkley YMCA Daycare/Preschool and in the classroom at my boys' elementary and middle schools. Personal experience includes being the mother of two incredible boys, ages 10 and 14.

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

I believe strongly in Unity Care Northwest's vision that everyone should have the opportunity to live their healthiest life, and mission to increase the years of healthy life in the people and communities we serve. In 2019, UCNW provided comprehensive dental services to 5,394 Whatcom County children and served 1,017 school children with on-site mobile dental services. 54% of UCNW patients live below the 100% Federal poverty line and 85% live below the 200% Federal poverty line. For many of our patients, English is not their primary language. We work with translation services to ensure all patients can communicate their health needs effectively. All children, regardless of income, race, or background should have access to quality dental care as soon as the first tooth appears to help build a foundation for a lifetime of good dental health.

The last Smile Survey (2016) discovered what we already knew: too many children are adversely affected by dental caries (cavities) and that large oral health disparities exist by income, race and language spoken at home. By the third grade, children from low-income households had at least 60% higher rates of decay, children of color in second and third grades had significantly higher rates of decay with up to 180% higher rates of treatment needs than white children. Kindergarten and third grade children whose primary language at home was not English had more than a 50% higher rate of treatment needs than English-only speakers. Finally, compared with white children, children of Hispanic and Asian descent had much higher rates of decay experience, and American Indian/Alaskan Native children had more than double the rates of untreated decay. UCNW's mobile dental and children's dental programs are designed to address these disparities in our county.

My professional interests have always been in helping people, especially children. I've worked in dentistry for 28 years, 23 as a dental hygienist, and the most rewarding have been when I've worked with children. I believe an early strong foundation is vital

to a person's development into a healthy, strong, productive person. Because of my background and passion for helping children, I am confident I would make an ideal candidate for this position. Additionally, I would like to give back to the community that I was raised in and am raising my children in.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Carrie Shane, DDS, UCNW Dental Director (360) 391-0684
Jodi Joyce, UCNW CEO (360) 389-1397
Lisa Nelson, PharmD. UCNW Pharmacy Director (360) 305-5010
Wendy Pellerin (retired) Barkley YMCA Preschool Teacher/Office Administrator (360) 305-5010

Signature of applicant:

Jen Curlett

Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham,WA

(Section Break)

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