

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	Ms.
First Name	Margery
Last Name	Dunkle
Today's Date	2/25/2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Step 2

1. Name of Advisory Justice Project Oversight & Planning Committee

Group

Justice Project
Oversight and Planning
(JPOP) Committee

Behavioral health provider

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. Have you ever been
a member of this
Advisory Group

No

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?

Yes

If yes, please explain

I am an employee at Lifeline Connections which has contracts
with county programs

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

No

You may attach a
resume or detailed
summary of
experience,
qualifications, &
interest in response to
the following questions

Attached

7. Please describe your
occupation (or former

I am a mental health provider (Licensed Independent Clinical
Social Work Associate) providing outpatient mental health

occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education

counseling and behavioral health case management services at Lifeline Connections- I have been working there since July of 2024. I have a masters degree in social work with a clinical concentration from the University of Washington, and a Bachelor's of Social Work degree from Colorado State University. My resume is attached, but previous relevant experience includes a clinical master's internship in community health providing behavioral health services at Seattle Indian Health Board, and a Bachelor's level practicum at an Alternatives to Incarceration/Wellness Court program for individuals with severe and persistent mental health needs in Larimer County, Colorado, among other human services experiences. These experiences have given me significant insight around the challenges and needs of individuals who are legal system involved in Whatcom County specifically, and the opportunity to see what other communities have implemented in alternative sentencing programs.

8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this Advisory Group.

As a clinical social worker, I am passionate about working with individuals who are or have been involved in the legal system- these individuals represent a significant portion of our community- they are our friends, family members, and neighbors- and I want to lend my experiences in this field to advocate for policies that promote more compassionate care alongside community safety. My work with individuals in Whatcom County, including work with clients inside Whatcom County Jail, has had a profound impact on me, and has made me increasingly passionate about how important it is to be accountable as a community and make important changes to our current system. It is important to me to know- both as a behavioral health provider and a community member- how the Justice Project Implementation Plan is being carried out, and that it is being implemented with transparency, thoughtfulness, and a commitment to our community- with a focus on providing resources, rehabilitation, and opportunities for restoration and repair rather than punishment. I feel that I would serve on this advisory group with the same enthusiasm and care that I bring to my work with individuals, and would bring to the table a spirit of collaboration and a strong commitment to social work ethics.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Julie Grendon (Lifeline Connections North Sound Regional Director) [REDACTED]
Risa Orlosky (Lifeline Connections Mental Health Outpatient Direct Supervisor) [REDACTED]

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Margery Dunkle

Place Signed / Submitted

[REDACTED]

Margery Grace Metzger Dunkle

Education

Master of Social Work- Clinical Concentration
University of Washington
4101 15th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105

Graduation: June 2024
GPA: 4.0

Honors & Awards: Washington Behavioral Health Workforce Development Ballmer Scholar

Bachelor of Social Work
Colorado State University
1063 Campus Delivery Fort Collins, CO 80523-1063

Graduation: December 2021
Major GPA: 4.0 | Cumulative GPA: 3.986

Honors & Awards: Magna Cum Laude, Lowell Eugene Jenkins Scholarship in Social Work

Current Licensure

Licensed Independent Clinical Social Work Associate (LICSWA)
License Number: SC #61555991
Washington Department of Health
Clinical Supervisor for Licensure: Lori Whittaker, LICSW LW #8786

Activated July 2024

Professional Social Work Experience

Mental Health Professional- Outpatient Mental Health Services, Lifeline Connections Bellingham

July 2024-Present

4120 Meridian St Suite 280, Bellingham, WA 98226

- Provides assessment/diagnosis of Mental health conditions and provides treatment through individual counseling sessions (with occasional family-based sessions) utilizing evidence-based practices including Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Solution-Based Therapy, and mindfulness and somatic practices. Services are provided to a wide variety of individuals and include practice with adults with schizophrenia spectrum diagnoses, mood disorders, trauma-based conditions, co-occurring substance use disorders, and individuals experiencing homelessness, court-ordered treatment, or other challenging environmental factors.
- Additional experience at Lifeline included a role providing crisis counseling and triage services in the Whatcom County Jail.
- Role includes frequent case management activities including care coordination with community partners including the court/carceral system, Mental Health Court, other community behavioral health agencies, PeaceHealth, Opportunity Council, DSHS, and other local community-based services.

MSW Clinical Behavioral Health Intern- Seattle Indian Health Board

September 2023-June 2024

611 12th Ave S, Seattle, WA98144

- Provided mental health assessment, collaborative treatment planning, evidence-based clinical intervention, and evaluation for a caseload of individuals with mental health diagnoses. Additionally provided case management services including internal and external referrals.
- Provided imminent need response in "Counselor of the Day" role including suicide assessment, safety planning, and triage.

- Worked within an indigenous knowledge informed health system that prioritizes culturally humble care and traditional medicine, and received weekly didactic training on anti-racist clinical practice and trauma informed care.

Court and Basic Needs Case Management Intern, Larimer County Community Corrections- Alternatives to Incarceration for Individuals with Mental Health Needs (AIIM) & Wellness Court Program

August 2021-December 2021

2555 Midpoint Drive, Suite A, Fort Collins, Colorado 80525

- Facilitated daily check-ins where clients would take prescribed mental-health medications, establish meetings with their health providers and case managers, and build community with other clients and staff.
- Assisted clients with basic needs services, including Medicaid, food assistance, transportation, and housing applications.
- Co-facilitated educational groups for the single room occupancy transitional apartment program as well as Life Skills and Coping with Anger groups.
- Advocated for clients at weekly team meetings, in 8th Judicial Wellness Court Pre-Meetings, and in case notes and court reports designated to assess client compliance and overall wellbeing, as well as to evaluate and implement changes in the program to better support clients.

Youth Mentor, Partners (BSW practicum)

August 2020-May 2021

530 S. College Ave. Unit 1, Fort Collins, CO 80517

- Met weekly during a school year with traditionally underserved middle-school aged youth in the community to engage them in educational and community-based activities.
- Co-created a treatment plan with the client around behavior management and emotional regulation using motivational interviewing techniques and monitored progress towards those goals with the client.

Crisis Line Advocate, Education and Outreach Volunteer, & Reception and Childcare Substitute, Voices of Hope Lincoln

Crisis Line Volunteer November 2014- May 2015, Reception and Childcare Substitute May 2013- May 2014,

Education and Advocacy Volunteer June 2008 - May 2013

2545 N St, Lincoln, NE, 68510

- Answered calls remotely on a interpersonal violence/sexual assault crisis line and provided a confidential space to practice coping and grounding skills for clients experiencing trauma-related symptoms, as well as provided education and referrals.
- Provided information on intimate partner violence in schools, at fundraisers, and at various community centers and cultural events.
- Drafted grant applications for local and state social service grants utilizing practice-informed research.
- Provided education and resources specific to clients' needs, provided appropriate referrals, and coordinated with referrals to meet these needs including legal or medical advocacy, shelter or housing assistance, and language translation.
- Provided childcare during educational and therapeutic groups, both on-site, and at partner agencies such as the Malone Community Center (which focuses on racial and socioeconomic justice) and El Centro de las Americas (a community center that serves Lincoln's Latinx community).

Additional Certifications/Trainings

Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Basic Training, EMDR Institute (*48 hours of training + 10 Consultation hours, Training hours completed December 2025; remaining 5 hours of consultation currently in progress*)

Basic Life Support CPR Provider- American Heart Association

May 2024

Wilderness First Aid- American Safety and Health Institute

March 2024

Professional Affiliation

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

September 2024