



## Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

### 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.*

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Title Ms.

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First Name Summer

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Last Name Starr

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Today's Date 7/10/2024

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Street Address

████████████████████

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City Bellingham

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Zip 98226

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Do you live in Whatcom County? Yes

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Do you have a different mailing address? YES

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Mailing Address

████████████████████

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Primary Telephone

██████████

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Secondary Telephone *Field not completed.*

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Email Address



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**Step 2**

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1. Name of Advisory Group Behavioral Health Advisory Committee

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Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Position: Mental Health Recovery Advocate

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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 No

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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 [Summer Starr Resume July 2024.pdf](#)

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7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), I am the current Deputy Director with NAMI (the National Alliance for Mental Illness) Washington and work at the state level to support the programming and advocacy efforts for mental health across the state. I am also a person with lived mental health

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qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education

experience, including hospitalizations at St. Josephs Hospital, and am trained as an intentional peer supporter and peer support trainer. I currently run the Whatcom Peer Collaborative project at NAMI Whatcom, which provides short term peer support for people navigating mental health issues. I am also a Master's in Clinical Mental Health student with a previous master's in international affairs with a focus in non-profit management. I have worked for the Opportunity Council, managing the Volunteer Center of Whatcom County and worked with the Whatcom Health Department to run the Point in Time Count census of people experiencing homeless.

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

I have worked with various BHABs throughout Washington in my state-level role at NAMI and I would like to leverage my experience to make a local impact. I was born and raised in Whatcom County, had my most significant mental health crises here, and have continued to offer support to the community through my work at NAMI. Through my work at the Opportunity Council, I developed an awareness of many of the complexities facing our community related to mental health and believe I would bring a depth of understanding to the advisory board.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Kim Sauter, Executive Director, NAMI Whatcom: [REDACTED]  
Greg Winter, Executive Director, Opportunity Council: [REDACTED]

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Summer Starr

Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham, WA