

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
<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 Public Health Advisory Board

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.

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. Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group

Yes

If yes, please list dates:

Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee - 2021 to present
Whatcom County Public Health Advisory Board - 2023 to present

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

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

I currently serve as the Executive Director at Lydia Place, a non-

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

Subject:
Date:

Re: Additional Info requested for your application to the Public Health Advisory Board
Thursday, January 15, 2026 1:42:05 PM

Hello! Highlighted in yellow are my areas of experience. Thank you!

- i. Health care access and quality;
- ii. Physical environment, including built and natural environments;
- iii. Social and economic sectors, including housing, basic needs, education, and employment;
- iv. Business and philanthropy;
- v. Communities that experience health inequities;
- vi. Government;
- vii. Tribal communities and tribal government

The logo for Lydia PLACE features the word "Lydia" in a large, dark purple, serif font. Below it, the word "PLACE" is written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. A vertical line is positioned to the right of the logo.

Ashley Thomasson

she/her pronouns

Executive Director
