

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 12:04:06 PM

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 *Field not completed.*

First Name Emily

Last Name O'Connor

Today's Date 1/2/2024

Street Address [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED]

Zip [REDACTED]

Do you live in Whatcom County? Yes

Do you have a different mailing address? *Field not completed.*

Primary Telephone [REDACTED]

Secondary Telephone *Field not completed.*

Email Address [REDACTED]

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 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 3
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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:	2022-2023
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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?	Yes
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If yes, please explain	I work with various, local not for profit organizations, many of which are partners with the County and/or are contracted to provide social services.
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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 occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education *Field not completed.*

8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this Advisory Group. It has been a privilege to serve on PHAB over this past year. With so many important public health initiatives and needs in our community, I would be grateful for the opportunity to continue this work and support PHAB in implementing its vision of a united, coordinated, and effective hub and spoke approach in the coming year.

References (please include daytime telephone number): *Field not completed.*

Appointment Requirements I understand and agree

Signature of applicant: Emily O'Connor

Place Signed / Submitted



(Section Break)

Emily O'Connor, MSW

Pronouns, she/her



Education

Master of Social Work, University of Washington, 2007

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, Western Washington University, 2004

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Western Washington University, 2004

Non-profit Executive Leadership Institute, University of Washington, 2016

Board Chairs Academy, The Third Sector Company, 2016

Board & Committee Service

Children's Cabinet, Co-drafter of the Whatcom County Health Children's Fund Levy-Lid Lift Ordinance, 2021-22

Co-Chair of Campaign Committee, Health Children's Fund, Proposition 5, passed by voters County-wide, 2022

Public Health Advisory Board, Member, 2022-current

Health Whatcom, Advisory & Implementation Committee Member, 2019-current

Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee, Chair/Member, 2015 - 2021

Bellingham/Whatcom County Commission on Sexual and Domestic Abuse, Member, 2020- current

Board Member, Emergency Food and Shelter Program Board and Grant Award Committee, 2012- 2019

Board of Directors, Whatcom Women in Business- President/Secretary/Charity Chair, 2017-2020

Founding Steering Committee Member, Whatcom Housing Alliance, 2018-2020

Whatcom County Homeless Strategies Workgroup, Member 2020-2021

Secretary/Member, Steering Committee, Whatcom Coalition to End Homeless, 2012 - 2018

Member, Attendance Area Standing Committee, Bellingham Public Schools, 2017 – 2020

Member, Health Funding Distribution Committee, United Way of Whatcom County, 2016 -2017

Member, Policy Advocacy & Funding Action Committee, Generations Forward 2017-2020

Leadership Accolades

2022 Community Partner Award, Heart House, Whatcom Housing Alliance

2021 Toast of the Town, Individual Recognition, Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce

2020 Ken Gass Community Builder Award, Whatcom Family and Community Network

2018 Non-profit of the Year Finalist, Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce

2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 Non-profit of the Year, Best of the Northwest, Bellingham Alive

2017 Featured "Wonder Woman", North Sound Life & Bellingham Alive

2016 Named Top 7 Professionals Under 40, Bellingham Chamber of Commerce, Whatcom Young Professionals

2015 Professional Women of the Year, Whatcom Women in Business

2014 Non-profit of the Year, Bellingham Business Journal

2011 Ruby Award- "Making a difference in the lives of women", Soroptimist International of Anacortes

Executive Director, Lydia Place 04/2012 – 02/2022

Lydia Place is a 501c3 established in 1989 which works to disrupt the cycle of homelessness for current and future generations. Successfully lead the agency through a time of financial and management crisis; doubled auction revenue in the first year, started with a deficit budget and in 10 months ended the fiscal year with 20% of the annual budget in reserves- 40% by end of year 2; maximized program efficiency and productivity; increased programming, negotiated increases in service contracts; and created a solvent and accountable fiscal management system while changing organizational culture to create a healthy and responsive environment based on best-practice approaches to human services. Responsible for overall management of the agency and programs including full fiscal management of the \$4,500,000 annual budget, state and local contracts, Board of Director relations, financial and grant administration, human resources, personnel management, community relations, public advocacy, representing the agency on various committee's and task forces, grant writing, and fund development, and program development, implementation and management.

Trainer, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Whatcom County Juvenile Court 11/08 – 2017

Facilitate a 30-hour course in accordance with National CASA accreditation standards. Content includes basics of dependency cases, cultural competency, culture of poverty, disproportionality in child welfare, strength-based advocacy, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, child traumatic stress, child development, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and resilience, etc. Make recommendations to Superior Court Administrator for graduation and court appointment to CASA Program.

Executive Director, Skagit Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services 11/08 – 03/12

Lead the agency through a financial and leadership crisis following the simultaneous resignation of both long-term directs and the fiscal manager. Rebuilt agency programming, addressed personnel challenges, balanced the budget, built a strong operational reserve account, doubled services to the community, and implemented necessary accounting standards. Responsible for overall management of the agency and programs including full fiscal management of the \$650,000 annual budget, more than fifteen state and local contracts, contract billing, Board of Director relations, record keeping, financial and grant administration, human resources, personnel management, supervision of 24-hour a day programs including emergency housing, community relations, representing the agency on various committee's and task forces, grant writing, and fund development, and program development, implementation and management.

CASA Coordinator, Whatcom County Juvenile Court Administration 03/08 – 03/09

Responsible for overall development and implementation of Whatcom County's new Court Appointed Special Advocate Program which trains and supervises volunteer Guardians ad Litem to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in dependency cases. This includes policy development; assuring adherence to national accreditation standards; volunteer recruitment, training, and supervision; and overall program management.

Programs Administrator, Skagit Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services 12/07 - 11/08

Responsible for overall management of the state Grants to Encourage Arrest Program for the agency. This includes hiring and managing program staff and volunteers, overseeing volunteer recruitment and training, developing and implementing new programs, program evaluation, policy development, serving on various community and agency committees, grant writing and reporting, assisting with annual budgeting, coordinating with local law enforcement, developing and delivering trainings and presentations to partner agencies and community members, and providing direct services to victims, families, and youth.

Director, Whatcom Family YMCA, Barkley Child Development Center 07/07 - 01/08

Responsible for overall management of the Center including hiring and supervision of over 30 employees, implementation of best-practice models in programs, adherence to state licensing and reporting requirements, financial management and budgeting, daily operations, record keeping and program monitoring, and promoting the overall mission of the agency at the community level.

GTEA Program Supervisor / Advocate, Skagit DV & SA Services 03/06 - 12/07

Legal Advocate, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom 11/05 - 03/06

On-Call Program Coordinator, DVSAS of Whatcom County 07/05 – 02/08

Children & Youth Program Coordinator, DVSAS of Whatcom County 08/05 - 03/07

Receptionist/Secretary, DVSAS of Whatcom County 07/04 -03/06

References numbers available upon request

Shawna Unger, Lydia Place Executive Committee Member, Former PeaceHealth Director of HR
Guy Oochiogrosso, President/CEO Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce, Lydia Place Governance Committee Board Member

Derek Thornton, VP of Peoples Bank, Lydia Place Board President and Treasurer

Heather Flaherty, Executive Director, Chuckanut Health Foundation

Mike Hammes, Business Owner and Community Leader

Craig Dunn, Former Dean of WWU College of Business & Economics, Former Board President

Sampling of media

Lydia Place Annual Publications

[Annual Report 2022](#)

[Annual Report 2020](#)

[Annual report 2019](#)

www.lydiaplace.org

Community Plan Collaborations

[Child and Family Wellbeing Action Plan](#)

[Community Health Improvement Plan](#)

News Articles

[Bellingham Alive- Opportunities for Compassion](#)

[Klipsun Magazine- A Place to rest](#)

[Whatcom Watch- A Fundamental Right](#)

[Bellingham Herald- Bell Tower Acquisition](#)

[Bellingham Business Journal - Professional Woman of the Year](#)

[Bellingham Herald- Growing and Changing to Help the Homeless](#)

[Whatcom Talk- Lydia Place 30-year Milestone](#)

Community Videos

[Toast of the Town Interview](#)

[Coordinated Entry- Part 1](#)

[Housing System 101](#)

[Bellingham Tonight Show, Episode 3- Homelessness](#)

[Small but Gutsy Podcast Interview, Oct 2021](#)

[Additional Video Archives](#)

Healthy Children's Fund Levy

<https://www.yeswhatcomkids.com/about>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eM0qYJQ319g&t=7s>

<https://bellinghamcityclub.org/child-care-in-whatcom-county/>

<https://salish-current.org/2022/10/21/fact-checking-whats-being-said-around-whatcoms-prop-5/>

<https://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/politics-government/election/local-election/article268897852.html>

<https://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/politics-government/election/local-election/article266578191.html>
