

**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application  
**Date:** Friday, October 25, 2024 12:54:56 PM

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## 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	Miss
First Name	Amber
Last Name	Rucker
Today's Date	10/23/2024
Street Address	
City	
Zip	
Do you live in Whatcom County?	<del>No</del> Yes (Applicant corrected her application on 10/28/2024)
Do you have a different mailing address?	Field not completed.
Primary Telephone	
Secondary Telephone	Field not completed.
Email Address	

### Step 2

1. Name of Advisory	Justice Project Oversight & Planning Committee
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## Group

Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee	Behavioral health provider, Substance use disorder treatment provider, Recovery subject matter expert
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?	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 occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or	Currently, lead SUDP at CCS, specialize working with youth, adults, PPW and co-occurring SUD populations. Currently primary youth counselor for all Whatcom Locations, and currently run the only in person youth IOP (level 2.1) program in Whatcom County. Extensive history in working with adults over the last 4

community activities,  
and education

years, including assessments, providing accurate treatment recommendations, group facilitation (ASAM levels 1.0 and 2.1), individual sessions, and coordinating inpatient care. This includes working with incarceration reentry individuals, and working with Washington State Department of Corrections, Washington State Federal probation, and Whatcom County local referents, including probation and attorneys. Actively work with incarcerated youth in Whatcom Juvenile Detention and maintain consistent communication with Whatcom County Juvenile Probation officers. Currently obtaining my MSW, have maintained a 4.0 throughout the duration of my education, with one quarter left, graduation expectation February 2025. Well versed on treatment theories and approaches, such as motivational interviewing, CBT, strengths-based and system approaches, and advocate for harm reduction models. Familiar with SUD related policies both in Washington state and Whatcom County, and able to identify impacts. Extensive familiarity with local and state resources for assisting SUD populations. Currently, CCS SUDP representative for Whatcom County Family Treatment court. Extensive graduate level research on evidenced based practices to reduce recidivism for individuals with substance use disorders. All hands Whatcom Opioid Summit attendee. Significant understanding of 12 step models, and local recovery resources.

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

I am both personally and professionally passionate about addressing substance use disorders in our community and in Washington State. One aspect of this passion is maintaining my education on policies that impact the SUD populations, such as ESB 5476 that went into effect in 2021 following the Blake vs State case, which made simple possessions a misdemeanor. The most recent being the SB 5536, which increased these possession charges to a gross misdemeanor, and advocates for utilizing therapy courts for resolution (as of July 2023). I have seen the impact these policies have had on the SUD clients in our community. In addition, working in an outpatient setting has increased my awareness to barriers SUD individuals face daily. My ambition to become a SUDP, further leading to obtaining my MSW, first started because I am significantly passionate about giving individuals hope on a micro level, however, I have come to realize it also requires change, advocacy and empowerment on the macro level. I believe I offer valuable and unique experience that may benefit this committee, while serving vulnerable, SUD populations in our community.

References (please  
include daytime  
telephone number):

Donna Wells 360-220-1064,  
Anthony Capelao 360-676-2187 ex. 4208,  
Brooke Smith 360-757-0131 ex. 4184,  
DJ Rivera 425-275-1811

Appointment

I understand and agree

## Requirements

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Signature of applicant: Amber Rucker

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Place Signed /  
Submitted



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(Section Break)

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# Amber Rucker

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## Education

- *Walden University* – Online, 2022- Expected graduation February 2025  
Masters in Clinical Social Work Social Work
- *Whatcom Community College* – Bellingham, WA 2019-2020  
Substance Use Disorder Professional Certificate Program
- *Western Washington University* – Bellingham, WA 2009-2013  
Bachelor of Arts, Public Relations, Minor International Business

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## Professional Profile

- HIV/Aids training
- Proficient in ASAM criteria
- Working knowledge of the Twelve Step Program and Principles
- Educated in crisis intervention, treatment planning, treatment theories

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## Experience

### *Catholic Community Services, SUDP Lead Counselor (2021-Current) WA*

Assessments/treatment recommendations for youth and adult clients using ASAM and DSM - 5 criteria, facilitate LOC 2.1, Intensive outpatient and LOC 1.0 outpatient groups, individual sessions, and treatment planning utilizing strengths based, harm reduction and systems approaches, use of NAADAC code of ethics. Currently Youth Counselor for Whatcom County CCS locations.

### *Worldmark by Wyndham, Sales Representative (2019-2020) WA*

In house and front-line timeshare sales representative, customer care, advances owner education, generated exceptional sales while utilizing proper closing techniques.

### *T-Mobile, Customer Service Representative (2013-2014) WA*

Customer service via phone. Place orders, review billing, and troubleshooting. Achieve and go beyond in house metrics. Top performer for customer resolution. Set goals to achieve JDP

### *Little Caesars Pizza, General Manager (2002-2011) Ferndale, WA*

Interview and train new employees, write weekly work schedule, problem resolution. In June 2008 was awarded "Manager of the Year." Participated in annual community events and charities.

### *Habitat for Humanity, Service-Learning Consultant (2010) Ferndale, WA*

Helped increase community awareness, implemented marketing campaigns to build charity funds.

## Volunteer Experience

- Panel Coordinator for Narcotics Anonymous (2019-2020)
- Alt GSR for Narcotics Anonymous (2018-2019)
- Blaine High School Volunteer Basketball Coach (2007-2009)

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References available upon request.