



**ADVISORY GROUP APPLICATION**

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	Courtney
Last Name	Whitaker
Today's Date	5/26/2026
Street Address	[REDACTED]
City	[REDACTED]
Zip	[REDACTED]
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	YES
Mailing Address	[REDACTED]
Primary Telephone	[REDACTED]
Secondary Telephone	[REDACTED]
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Name of Advisory Group	Business and Commerce Advisory Committee
Position	Childcare
Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
Which Council district do you live in?	District 2
Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group	No
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
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,	Attached

& interest in response to the following questions	
Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or	Please see attached resume
Please describe why you're interested in serving on this Advisory Group.	Based on my more than 25 years of leadership experience in youth development, child care, nonprofit operations, and public policy, I would bring both industry expertise and a collaborative, community-centered perspective to this Advisory Group. As the current CEO of the Whatcom Family YMCA and former Senior Vice President of Youth Development for the YMCA of Greater Seattle, I have overseen large-scale child care and youth programs, managed multimillion-dollar budgets, developed facilities and assets, and worked directly with regulatory agencies, policymakers, and community partners to improve access and outcomes for families. My experience serving on statewide committees, including the DCYF Early Learning Advisory Committee and other youth development policy groups, has strengthened my understanding of how local regulations, permitting, planning, and economic development decisions impact child care providers, working families, and the broader business community. I am committed to helping Whatcom County create practical, client-focused strategies that support economic growth while ensuring high-quality child care remains accessible and sustainable for families and employers alike.
References (please include daytime telephone number):	Kristi Dominguez [REDACTED] Gwen Ichinose Bagley [REDACTED] Kirsten Barron [REDACTED]
Appointment Requirements* Do you agree?:	I understand and agree
Signature of Applicant:	Courtney Whitaker
Place Signed/Submitted:	[REDACTED]

\*My signature affirms that the information provided in this application is true and correct. If appointed, I will comply with the Council & Executive Expectations of Advisory Group Members and complete Open Government Training as required by RCW 42.30.205

# COURTNEY WHITAKER

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A proven leader with over twenty five years of demonstrated success in organizational leadership, strategic planning, and operations. Experienced supervisor with high proficiency in staff development, project management and fiscal stewardship. Demonstrated success in managing capital and facility development including building construction and land use development. Successful fundraiser in annual & capital campaigns, government contracts and grant writing. Dedicated to creating diverse and thriving communities.

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## EXPERIENCE

### **Chief Executive Officer, 11/2024 to Present** **Whatcom Family YMCA - Bellingham WA**

- Prepare and manage annual budget of \$12M, forecast and monitor for effective use of funds, personnel, materials, facilities, and time.
- Manage a Board of Director and assigned Committees and Ad-Hoc Advisory Boards
- Develop, implement, and monitor policies, procedures and standards for efficient and effective operation and maintenance of organization operation.
- Manage and supervise operation to achieve goals within available resources; plan and organize workloads and staff assignments; hire, train, motivate and evaluate assigned staff, reviews progress and directs changes as needed.
- Monitors programs for continuous quality improvement using customer feedback, national assessment tools, and industry trends.
- Oversee facility assets including Y owned and leased properties. Lead work related to on-going new asset acquisition.

### **Senior Vice President, Youth Development, 09/2023 to 01/2024** **Associate Vice President, Youth Development, 04/2017 to 08/2023** **YMCA Of Greater Seattle - Seattle, WA**

- Prepare and manage annual budget of \$42M, forecast and monitor for effective use of funds, personnel, materials, facilities, and time.
- Manage and supervise assigned operation to achieve goals within available resources; plan and organize workloads and staff assignments; hire, train, motivate and evaluate assigned staff, reviews progress and directs changes as needed.
- Monitors programs for continuous quality improvement using customer feedback, national assessment tools, and industry trends.
- Created and manage a suite of curriculum solutions, Elevate™ being purchased and used by 16 partner Ys across the movement.
- Oversee facility assets including Y owned and leased childcare centers, camps, and sports properties. Lead team focused on on-going new asset acquisition.
- Support the Association Board as a member of the Association Senior Leadership Team, Fundraising-annually portfolio of \$100k.

## CONTACT

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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## KEY QUALIFICATIONS

- YUSA Organizational Leader
  - Manager of \$12M Annual Budget
  - Proven Staff Developer
  - Facility /Asset Manager
  - Construction Owners Rep
  - Innovative Program Developer
  - Praesidium Guardian, Child Safety Officer
  - Steward of Key Relationships
  - Equity Focused Leader
  - Results-Oriented
  - Client-Focused
  - Team Player
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### **Executive Director, 04/2001 to 03/2017**

#### **Dale Turner Family & Shoreline/South County YMCAs - Shoreline, WA**

- Responsible for construction and opening of \$20M facility with wellness, aquatic, and youth development programs including securing \$4.2M in government and private capital donations.
- Set organizational goals and objectives to guide and direct organization focus and achieve mission fulfillment. Achieved 6,200 membership units, \$7M in annual revenue, and \$400K raised annually in local philanthropy. Managed 30-member Board of Management.
- Responsible for training, supervision, and evaluating of 250+ leadership and program delivery staff. Cultivated company-wide culture of innovation and collaboration.
- Drove strategic improvements to enhance operational and organizational efficiencies. Shaped solutions and approaches by leveraging trends in customer marketplaces and industries.
- Built relationships with government officials, other organizations to increase collaboration and shared services to support Shoreline.

### **Royalties & Legislative Director, 01/1996 to 03/2001**

#### **IPAA - Washington, DC**

- Develop and lead implementation of strategy, relationship development, public policy engagement and overall business advancement initiatives with key state and local, or federal policy makers related to land royalty policy.
  - Identify state or federal legislative, executive branch and regulatory proposals and policies impacting IPAA and member organization's strategic imperatives.
  - Partner with Government Affairs team to develop policy statements and strategy on new and emerging issues affecting IPAA and member organizations.
  - Represent interest of IPAA and member organizations. This included activities such as public testimony, amendment negotiations, and meetings with legislators and staff.
  - Build and maintain strategic relationships with high level state legislators, regulators, and staff.
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## **EDUCATION**

**Bachelor of Arts**, Sociology

**Bachelor of Science**: Psychology

**University of Vermont** - Burlington, VT, USA

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## **AFFILIATIONS**

Early Learning Advisory Committee-DCYF, Elected Member

Alliance of Washington Ys, Chair of Youth Development, Policy Chair

YUSA Strategic Planning Committee 2023-2025, Elected Member

YUSA Child Care Thought Leader Cohort and Practice Leader, Member

Youth Development Strategy Roundtable, Executive Committee

DCYF Health Advisory Committee, Member

National After School Association, Member

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