



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	Mrs.
First Name	Kristine
Last Name	Wilson
Today's Date	6/10/2026
Street Address	██████████
City	██████
Zip	██████
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Primary Telephone	██████████
Secondary Telephone	██████████
Email Address	██
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 4
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?	Yes
If yes, explain	I work for Opportunity Council that has some contracts with the Healthy Children's Fund. My spouse works for Whatcom County.

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
Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or	As the Director of Early Learning and Family Services, I oversee a comprehensive portfolio that includes Head Start, ECEAP, Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers, and Northwest Child Care Aware—programs that collectively support children, families, and the workforce across Whatcom County. My professional background as both a certificated teacher and a former home childcare small business owner gives me a rare, dual perspective: I understand firsthand the operational realities and regulatory challenges of running a small business, as well as the developmental and educational needs that drive high-quality early learning systems. This combination allows me to connect early childhood infrastructure to broader economic outcomes, including workforce participation, business sustainability, and community growth. I bring systems-level leadership, cross-sector collaboration experience, and a strong understanding of how investments in early learning directly support a stable and thriving local economy.
Please describe why you're interested in serving on this Advisory Group.	I am interested in serving on Whatcom County's Business and Commerce Advisory Committee because I believe that childcare and early learning are foundational components of economic vitality, not peripheral services. When families have access to reliable, high-quality childcare, businesses benefit from a more stable and productive workforce, and economic development efforts are more successful and equitable. I want to contribute my perspective to ensure that the needs of working families and childcare providers are considered in business and economic policy decisions. Serving on this committee would allow me to advocate for solutions that strengthen the local economy by supporting the systems that enable parents to work, businesses to grow, and children to thrive.
References (please include daytime telephone number):	Greg Winter, Executive Director OC - [REDACTED] Hannah Stone, Lawyer - [REDACTED] Kim Walbeck- Seedlings Childcare - [REDACTED]
Appointment Requirements* Do you agree?:	I understand and agree
Signature of Applicant:	Kristine Wilson
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

Kristine Wilson, M.Ed.



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**EDUCATION**

**Master's in education**, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, August 1997

**Bachelor of Arts**, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, June 1990

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Director, Early Learning and Family Services**

**Opportunity Council**

**Dept. of Early Learning and Family Services**, Bellingham, WA 2023- current

- Lead 8 early learning programs, including Head Start, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Programs, Early Head Start (EHS), Single Entry to Access to Services (SEAS), and Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT), NW Child Care Aware, ABC Dental, Center for the Retention and Expansion of Childcare (C-RECC).
- Manage 6 revenue contracts with federal, state, and local government funding sources, and a total combined budget of more than \$12,000,000.
- Provide departmental representation on OC's Executive Team.
- Provide oversight on all department contracts and deliverables.
- Member of: Whatcom Taking Action, WELA, Whatcom ICC, Washington State Association for HS/ECEAP.
- Works with local school district superintendents to coordinate early learning programming across the whole county.
- Oversaw whole department reorganization

**Assistant Director, Birth to Three**

**Opportunity Council,**

**Dept. of Early Learning and Family Services**, Bellingham, WA 2021-2023

- Lead 3 programs, including Early Head Start (EHS), Single Entry to Access to Services (SEAS), and Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT).
- Manage 6 revenue contracts with federal, state, and local government funding sources, and a total combined budget of more than \$3.5 million.
- Wrote the Early Head Start grant portion of our 5-year application.
- Provided oversight of all contracts and deliverables, as well as oversaw all program audits.
- Lead our SEAS team during a doubling of their size and scope of work to now include perinatal mental health and 0-5 resource navigation.
- Lead our EHS team through an expansion of slots from 50 slots to 60
- Extensive community connections with community stakeholders.
- Member of: Whatcom Taking Action Leadership Team, Early Childhood Development Association of Washington, Whatcom County Infant & Children's Council, NW ESIT Providers Team and more.

**Education Coordinator**

**Opportunity Council,**

**Dept. of Early Learning and Family Services**, Bellingham, WA 2011-2021

**Head Start Center Director**

**Opportunity Council,**

**Dept. of Early Learning and Family Services**, Bellingham, WA 2003-2011

**Home Childcare Owner/Operator**, Lynden, WA 2020-2023

**Certificated Teacher**, 1990-2000

**KEY SKILLS**

- ❖ Strategic Thinker
- ❖ Leadership
- ❖ Cultural Competency
- ❖ Team Management
- ❖ Quality Assurance Data Tracking
- ❖ Problem Solving
- ❖ Adult Education