

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.
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First Name	Jessica
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Last Name	Rienstra
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Today's Date	1/6/2025
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Street Address	
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City	
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Zip	
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Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
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Do you have a different mailing address?	Field not completed.
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Primary Telephone	
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Secondary Telephone	Field not completed.
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Email Address	
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Step 2

1. Name of Advisory	Public Health Advisory Board
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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.
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	<i>Field not completed.</i>
7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or	I am a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, and I work for the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) as well as part-time in private practice. While multifaceted, much of my work with NPAIHB is on our Indian Country ECHO (Extensions for Community Health Outcomes) team. We were honored with the National Impact Award in 2022 by the National

community activities,
and education

Indian Health Board to recognize our significant positive impact on the health of American Indian and Alaska Native communities on a national level. In addition, I serve as the Indigi-IWTK ("I Want the Kit") and Tribal STI/HIV Capacity Building Project Manager and work in collaboration with the excellent team at Johns Hopkins to continue to lower barriers in access to screening and treatment for STIs in our Tribal and rural communities.

Prior to working at NPAIHB, I was privileged to work for several years at the Lummi Tribal Health Center and assisted with our COVID-19 response team, led our behavioral health crisis and overdose response teams, started and managed the harm reduction program, and helped build and manage our HCV elimination program (this work was used to support and help draft the "Hep C Free Washington" guidelines created in 2018). I have presented on this work locally and internationally and am passionate about ensuring equitable health care is accessible to all. I worked for several years in health care relief work in Mozambique, Sudan, and Madagascar and have gained unique public health insights from each of these valued experiences.

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

I feel incredibly fortunate to have had varied regional and national healthcare roles and opportunities. I am eager to dedicate more time to engaging at the local level, working toward the best possible health outcomes for residents of Whatcom County, and continuing to advocate for historically underserved populations. I believe my skills would be a valuable asset to this Advisory Group, and I would also welcome the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with other subject matter experts in this field.

Notably, I was recently elected as a Whatcom County Charter Review Commissioner for District 3. This is an unpaid office, and I do not believe it presents any conflict. However, please advise if this understanding is incorrect.

Thank you for the work you do and for considering me for this role.

References (please
include daytime
telephone number):

Megan Ballew (918) 407-1753
Katrina Koci-Myers (512) 497-6391
Sheryl Nickelson (360) 224-5391

Appointment
Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Jessica Rienstra

Place Signed /



Submitted

(Section Break)
