

# Stakeholder Advisory Committee: Kendra Cook

**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application  
**Date:** Friday, January 31, 2020 5:32:21 PM

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## Board and Commission Application

### Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

#### Public Statement

*THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission 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	Kendra
Last Name	Cook
Today's Date	1/31/2020
Street Address	635 Clark Rd
City	Bellingham
Zip	98225
Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	Field not completed.
Primary Telephone	3603841614
Secondary Telephone	3609209638
Email Address	Kendra1010@Comcast.net

### Step 2

1. Name of Board or Stakeholder Advisory Committee for Public Health, Safety, and

Committee

Justice Facility Needs Assessment

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Stakeholder Advisory  
Committee for Facility  
Needs Assessment

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Individual with experience in criminal justice system

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2. Do you meet the  
residency,  
employment, and/or  
affiliation requirements  
of the position for  
which you're applying?

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Yes

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3. Which Council  
district do you live in?

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District 1

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4. Are you a US  
citizen?

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Yes

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5. Are you registered to  
vote in Whatcom  
County?

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Yes

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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?

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No

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7. Have you ever been  
a member of this  
Board/Commission?

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No

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8. 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?

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*Field not completed.*

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You may attach a  
resume or detailed  
summary of  
experience,  
qualifications, &  
interest in response to

*Field not completed.*

the following questions

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9. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education

Stay-at-home mom, Founder of Keeping K-9s in Kevlar. I do not get paid for my work. I raise funds for K-9 units for safety/training needs with community raised funds. I am a volunteer for the Bellingham Police Department and build community rapport with law enforcement.

My degrees are: Licensed Surgical Technologist & Paraprofessional Education.

My work before a stay-at-home mom was in emergency OB/GYN surgery with experience in all surgeries minus brain and heart. I also taught homeschool children reading (some English as second language as most students were adopted from other countries).

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10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission

As a Bellingham Police Volunteer (Bellingham Neighbors Together), monthly meetings with guest speakers of BPD staff or officers educate us about their work in the community. The general public has NO IDEA the reality of our town. I consider myself "still learning but no longer naive" from the three years I have volunteered (and continue to do so).

I would like to help bridge the missing links to make the work of officers/deputies and DOC deputies/staff safer. With my hospital work in OSHA compliance I see violations in the current jail that are major safety and health concerns-things general public would not see. I took a three hour private tour with DOC Deputy Rick Reid and Behavioral Health Heidi and saw a revolving door system and addicts leaving the jail to return an hour later after stealing to sell items and shoot up (heroin).

I had lots of questions for Behavioral Health Heidi and the impractical work expected of her cannot be done (as a former hospital worker can state). Technology has to improve, there needs to be "more Heidi's" to make her job work, and those in charge of discharging mentally ill patients need to have STRICT training on what manipulation and lies are (learn body language for dectieful training...I'd be happy to assist). Currently, people in the system are gifted in knowing how to manipulate their way out of the system and be released committing the same crimes and increasing the number of victims from their crimes.

The crime I see at Haggens at night, (mostly involving addicts on drugs or in need of drugs) has increased. The amount of homeless RV's with drug activity...(drugs is a common theme here...) and stolen bicycles, and hoarded stolen items from residence/commercial buildings is slowing bringing Bellingham to look and act like Seattle. Learning from and not repeaing Seattle's expensive mistakes is key to not have Bellingham become the unsafe town of Seattle.

Many people have impractical ideas that cannot work through political reasons about the jail. I asked to be in the jail and put in isolation, put in the kitchen and laundry areas with inmates. I saw the number one thing ONE inmate can do to create an arson and

kill everyone in the jail. The current jail is so unsafe. The current jail is ran as a hospital (nurses station), homeless shelter, psychiatric ward, library system, food delivery system, and a jail. But there is no space for mental health (other than Heidi...and that's impractical), no counseling, no pharmacies, etc. Inmates have to be incarcerated for an extended period of time to be administered new medications, but have to be released due to the amount of revolving door criminals that enter the jail. Therefore, prescriptions are not able to be fulfilled, mental health cannot be done, there is no street access for this care and the inmates who are free to leave will not reach out for the services on their own. Inmates who leave then use the ER as their pharmacy and sell the drugs on the streets to feed thier addiction. The new jail can easily meet these needs. I wrote a 7 page report of the findings of the current jail (from memory..I should add I have a unique memory). Space saving, future planning (as all school/hospital/humane society buildings in Whatcom County have ALL been out of space within a few years of being built), technology planning (I live in a high tech house and was appalled how prehistoric and glitchy the jail's technology is due to inability to use the current structure for additional wiring etc.

Kudos for Elfo for having the electronic home monitoring system, and the crisis center being built in the irongate area...and the work release in irongate area. I hope to have the voters understand the need for a new jail. The general public believe what they see on TV is what a jail is like: prison/living out life sentences with TV and weightlifting...it's a jail/incarceration for crimes less than prison. Community education is key. I want the new jail to be voted and passed with a yest vote as the current jail is a money pit, fire hazard, safety concern, and a game of cat and mouse with the current laws set for officers to follow.

To sum it up, I am concerned Bellingham is turning into Seattle with similar issues with addiction, mental illness (often associated with addiction) and violance (also associated with people on drugs with mental illness). Planning for a jail to have a better success rate of getting the addicts become recovery addicts, will reduce 911 calls (currently they make up about 30% of all daily 911 calls) from the crimes committed to get drugs or while on drugs.

I have witnessed the incarceration process with a ride-along with officers as well. I have seen every side of this field (in a brief moment) without being an inmate (who broke a law..I did get put in a jail cell to experience it as I asked to do so).

I am not a sugar-coating person. I say it how it is, will speak up to contribute ideas, and prove ideas that cannot work. I do not want to waste time and expect the same time management skills of those in the committee.

Thank you.

Kendra Cook  
Kathy Kershner suggested I apply per Facebook.

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References (please  
include daytime  
telephone number):

Brad Howard: 360.920.2248  
Roberta Hochreiter: 360.739.4150

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Signature of applicant:

Kendra Lee Cook

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Place Signed /  
Submitted

Bellingham, WA

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