

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To:
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:02:27 PM

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 *Field not completed.*

First Name Erin

Last Name Smith

Today's Date 1/15/2021

Street Address 2618 Nevada Street

City Bellingham

Zip 98226

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 14107073781

Secondary Telephone 13603060253

Email Address erins@lydiaplace.org

Step 2

1. Name of Board or Child & Family Well-Being Task Force

Committee

Child & Family Well-Being Task Force Yes

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 1

4. Are you a US citizen? Yes

5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? Yes

6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county? No

7. Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission? No

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? No

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

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

I currently work at Lydia Place as the Clinical Director as well as a behavioral health provider for individuals and families currently experiencing or who have exited homelessness. I have a Masters Degree in Social Work and I have worked in a variety of capacities with families of young children in our community including as a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocate, a Children and Family Mental Health Therapist, a Court Appointment Special Advocate, a Foster Parent, among others. In these roles I have spent a significant amount of time supporting families who are low-income, interfacing with many different systems, those who have experienced trauma, homelessness, and a variety of disabilities. The resume I have attached further details some of the experiences listed here. All of these professional and community activities have further solidified the numerous needs that our families with young children have and the critical window of time when children are young to mitigate the trauma and stress they experience so that they are able to have the opportunity to thrive.

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

In addition to my work and volunteer experience, I am a parent of two young children (3 and 5) and having been the foster parent on numerous other children in my home, I have a variety of recent experiences with the challenges facing families with young children in our county including finding quality child care, healthcare access, behavioral healthcare access, education and special education needs, and balancing work and home life. I am also a member of the LGBTQ+ community and that gives me an additional lens through which I experience navigating systems in our community. I am passionate about ensuring that we are using an equity lens in our data analysis as well as our planning and service delivery so that we improve opportunities and outcomes for BIPOC in our community. It is incredibly important to me that we are diligently working to create better and more equitable access to opportunities for families in our community that all of our interventions center the experience and voice of those who are most vulnerable, and in particular BIPOC. Whatcom County is an exceptional place to live, and for many, an ideal place to raise a family. However, that is not the case for all families but I believe that it can be and that now is the time for us to prioritize child and family well-being. I believe that given my personal and professional experience in Whatcom County, I bring an important and unique lens to this dialogue.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Ashley Thomasson 360-255-9692
Susan Marks 360-224-9333
Emily O'Connor 360-201-7796

Signature of applicant:

Erin Smith

Place Signed /

Bellingham, WA

ERIN P. SMITH

2618 Nevada Street
Bellingham, WA 98226

(410) 707-3781
therapywitherins@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Master of Social Work, University of Washington, Graduated March 2013
Concentration: Integrated Health and Mental Health
Bachelor of Science, International Health, James Madison University, 2000

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- 20+ years of experience providing support, counseling, advocacy, mental and crisis intervention to youth and adults impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and homelessness
- Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker in Washington State.
- Children's Mental Health Specialist and Perinatal Mental Health Specialist
- Experience with brief and long-term therapy interventions, group psychotherapy, and intermittent crisis intervention with youth, adults, and families
- Fifteen years of experience managing personnel, interns and volunteers including training, supervising, coaching, and developing leadership among students and young adults
- Excellent communication skills both written and verbal.
- Proficient communication in Spanish

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lydia Place, Bellingham, WA
Clinical/Program Director

June 2015 – Current

- Provide trauma-informed crisis-intervention, assessments and ongoing in-home therapy to adults, children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Coach and mentor agency leadership team and oversee Program Supervisors of the housing, parenting, and campus support teams.
- Develop and implement programming to respond to the therapeutic needs of vulnerable families
- Supervise Masters Level Counseling Interns
- Educate agency staff about relevant mental health issues and consult on challenging cases.

Catholic Community Services, Bellingham, WA
Child and Family Therapist, Community Mental Health

September 2014-June 2017

- Provide individual and family therapy for children and families throughout Whatcom County
- Educate parents and youth about mental health diagnosis and strategies for coping, understanding, and managing symptoms.
- Provide crisis intervention, assessments, and case management services to youth and families to increase collaboration between families, schools, primary care physicians, specialists, and other community resources.
- Attend MDTs, IEP meetings, and focus of concern meetings with schools, parents, and youth serving agencies.
- Interned as therapist June 2012-May 2013

Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services, Mt. Vernon, WA
Executive Director

Sept 2009-Oct 2014

- Oversaw day-to-day crisis response and support services at community advocacy center, children's program, domestic violence shelter and 24-hour crisis line
- Provided clinical support and case consultation for agency staff, volunteers, and interns
- Provided crisis intervention and advocacy based counseling to those impacted by domestic and sexual violence
- Developed programming to respond to needs of adults and children affected by family violence

- Facilitated multidisciplinary team meetings working towards strengthening families and improving safety for children.
- Wrote and managed grants
- Promoted from Shelter Manager (2009-2010) to Associate Director (2010-2012) to Executive Director (2012-2014)

Roosevelt Elementary School, Bellingham, WA

Oct 2011-June 2012

School Social Work Graduate Practicum Student

- Assisted school social worker in designing, implementing, evaluating, and coordinating academic and behavioral plans and programs for elementary students
- Provided therapeutic school-based interventions and to elementary school children and families
- Developed, planned, and facilitated weekly student groups focusing on social skills, self-esteem, relationship building, and preparation for middle school.
- Identified family and student needs and connected them to local resources
- Taught and facilitated classroom presentations related to bullying, communication, and interpersonal skills.

Service Alternatives

March 2010-May 2011

Behavior Intervention Specialist

- Provided support and crisis-intervention to youth with developmental disabilities in a residential group home
- Taught life-skills to youth and collaborated with schools to reinforce skills and concepts from school at their residence.
- Ensured safety and licensing requirements were met and followed for residential care

Whatcom County Juvenile Court Services, Bellingham, WA

Sept 2009-2014

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer

- Represented the best interest of children and youth who are abused and neglected and have an active dependency case in juvenile court.
- Investigated child's circumstances, provide fact-based information, and make recommendations to the court as to the best interests of the child.
- Collaborated with the child's family, the court, schools, social workers, therapists, attorneys, care providers and other professionals involved in dependency cases to monitor the case, and ensure child's needs are being met
- Provided reports and testimony to the court in all related hearings

United States Peace Corps Volunteer, Ramotswa, Botswana

April 2007- May 2009

District AIDS Coordinator

- Conducted district-wide evidence-based strategic planning for HIV/AIDS programs.
- Coached local nonprofits in program development, grant writing, budgeting, and planning
- Facilitated *Girls Leading our World* gender empowerment groups for youth.
- Taught students reading and writing at the Ramotswa School for the Deaf
- Developed and coordinated life skills camp for 40 deaf adolescents aged 13-21.

Tundra Women's Coalition, Bethel, Alaska

August 2000- May 2006

Children's Advocacy Center Program Director

- Developed and managed Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta's Children's Advocacy Center, which served more than 300 children and youth each year.
- Wrote grants, managed \$400,000 yearly budget, reported to donors and board of directors, supervised 7 staff and 10 volunteers, and facilitated weekly multi-disciplinary team meetings.
- Provided forensic interviews of more than 150 children involved in child abuse investigations.
- Taught bullying prevention, sexual abuse prevention and adolescent reproductive health curriculum to more than 300 students in approximately 25 schools.
- Raised more than \$20,000 annually through special events and direct solicitation to send at-risk youth to Outward Bound courses and accompanied youth on three trips.