

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To:
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 11:03:27 AM

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	Ms.
First Name	Urvasi
Last Name	Graham
Today's Date	1/15/2021
Street Address	2738 Orleans 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?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Primary Telephone	3609661235
Secondary Telephone	3607386448
Email Address	urvasi@wcel.net

Step 2

1. Name of Board or Commission 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 2
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?	Yes
If yes, please explain	I have been hired as an Infant Family Specialist consultant for the Nurse Family Partnership program with Whatcom County's Health Department. I have signed my contract but have not officially started as we are waiting for other pieces around the vendor system.
You may attach a	Attached

resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions

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

I have my B.A. in Bio-Socio-Cultural Anthropology where I focused on the evolution of parenting and child rearing across time and space. My Masters is in Early Childhood Education with an emphasis on Infant and Toddler Mental Health and I have my Infant Family Specialist endorsement through Washington Association for Infant Mental Health. I currently work as a Family Resources Coordinator for Whatcom Center for Early Learning which aims to serve families with kiddos 0-3 with developmental delays and / or disabilities. I also run WCEL's first ever Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee which was founded July of 2020. I use my DEI role and lens to bring forward workshops/trainings to help us better work with one another, work with community partners, and work with children and families to better ensure we are providing equitable and inclusive services and practices. I also have been hired as an Infant Family Specialist consultant for the Nurse Family Partnership program with Whatcom County's Health Department. I have signed my contract *Jan. 2021* but have not officially started as we are waiting for other pieces around the vendor system.

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

I would like to be on the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force for many reasons. One it directly would correlate with the work I'm already doing but would potentially allow for more learning as well as opportunities to institute change in how Whatcom County serves young children and their families, especially those families of lower income and / or families of color. As my educational background suggests, I have a strong passion for working with young children and their families to ensure we are promoting their mental health so as to help raise strong, caring, and well adjusted individuals. Aside from my work and educational background, I am a woman of color living with a physical disability. I have grown up in low-income communities and have seen directly how prejudice, discrimination, etc. can impact one's growth and development be that on an individual level, in how services are offered and accessed, and what types of actual quality assistance is available. I am fortunate that I have had people in my corner fighting for and supporting me. I aim to be that person in this community where I came from to continue that work and make sure it continues to extend to all children and their families.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Sierra James, WCEL Executive Director, (360) 966-1007, sierra@wcel.net; Iris Dunaway, WCEL FRC Team Lead, my direct supervisor, (360) 966-1029, iris@wcel.net; more available

upon request

Signature of applicant: Urvasi S. Graham

Place Signed /
Submitted Bellingham, WA

(Section Break)

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Urvasi Graham
2738 Orleans Street
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360)739-6448
graham.urvasi@gmail.com

Education

- Portland State University: Masters in Early Childhood Education, August 2018; GPA 3.96; Portland, OR
- University of Washington: B.A. in Anthropology (minor in History) June 2013; GPA 3.43; Seattle, WA
- Whatcom Community College: AAS Spring 2011; GPA 3.84 Bellingham, WA
- Bellingham High School: High School Diploma Spring 2011; Bellingham, WA

Honors

- Golden Key (Winter 2018-Present); Portland State University; Portland, OR
- Pi Lambda Theta (Winter 2017-Present); Portland State University; Portland, OR
- GRE (August 2015; Verbal 153; Quantitative 142; Analytical 4.5)
- AAS (Spring 2011) with Honors
- Dean's List (Summer 2009-Spring 2011); Whatcom Community College; Bellingham, WA
- Phi Theta Kappa (2009-2011)
- Member, National High School Honors Society; headquarters in Washington, D.C. (2008-2011)
- Honor Roll (2007-2011)
- SAT (June 2010; Reading 550; Math 570; Writing 550)
- Honors and A.P. classes
- Passed WASL

Work

- Infant Family Specialist Consultant; Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program with Whatcom County's Health Department; Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is a proven method of support for first-time moms. Through NFP, moms and their families get regular home visits from a nurse until the first child is two years old. Families and children who are part of Nurse-Family Partnership are more likely to have healthy pregnancy outcomes, healthy child development, and economic self-sufficiency. As a Infant Family Specialist consultant I work with the nurses on the team to engage in reflective practice to ensure they are able to best provide support for these women and their families in equitable ways. I use my expertise as an Infant Family Specialist to explore how to better support these families while also providing supports and learning opportunities for the NFP employees who are doing this critical work (January 2021 - Present); Bellingham, WA
- Family Resources Coordinator; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Lead; Whatcom Center for Early Learning: Whatcom Center for Early Learning provides comprehensive, family centered early intervention services to children ages birth to three with developmental disabilities and delays. As an FRC, I work to support families with children under three by utilizing a primary coaching model to provide individualized therapy for children who have been found to have delays in at least one area of development. FRCs work to connect families to available community resources and networking with other families facing similar challenges. FRCs also provide transition services and assistance in the transition process where families are supported in determining the next best steps after their child turns three (April 2019 - Present); As the DE&I Lead I help support DE&I work with a DE&I Committee. We meet weekly and plan training sessions for staff to build competency around DE&I as a staff and organization and also for our work with children and families. This is a

Leadership Role as well with the ability to influence organizational structure, change, equitable practices, and so on (July 2020 - Present); Bellingham, WA

- Team Leader; Blossom Childcare and Learning Center; Leading a classroom of 12 toddlers approximately 15-28 months old while following the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAYEC) based curriculum to encourage appropriate growth and development through play-based learning. Working with the children, their families, and other center teachers and staff to create a warm and safe learning environment for children to explore the world around them while also developing their social, emotional, mental, and physical milestones. Using my experience and my masters to help lead other infant and toddler teachers in ways to best support young children and their families through developmentally and culturally appropriate practices (August 2018 - March 2019); Bellingham, WA
- Infant Teacher; CityKids Child Development Center (Joyful Noise Child Development Center); Using the Resources for Infant Educators approach to work with infants in a group care setting. We focus on treating all the infants with respect from the day they join our community and see them as unique individuals who are able to actively participate and initiate their own learning and relationships. Through our work we aim to partner with families to help raise authentic infants who are: competent, confident, curious, attentive, exploring, cooperative, secure, peaceful, focused, self-initiating, resourceful, involved, cheerful, aware, interested and inner-directed. Using various other approaches such as theories of Piaget, Vygotsky, Reggio Emilia, and the Emergent curriculum we consider the whole child and their families beliefs, cultures, traditions, etc. to influence our work with each individual child as well as the group community (March 2017- July 2018); Portland, OR
- Site Director; Champions Before and After School Program; KinderCare; Work to foster a love of learning by creating engaging experiences for children to unlock their own potential. In our new curriculum, your child's interests will shape what we decide to dig in and explore, and at the same time they'll be developing skills that will help create a solid foundation for learning and growth. Creating a fun and safe environment to explore and learn while also providing engaging ways to enjoy and be successful at school (December 2016- March 2017); Portland, OR
- Nanny; Wade and Alissa Pruet; Helping to nurture and care for a 3 year old and a 9 month old. Assisting with development and providing age and developmentally appropriate learning opportunities through play based learning (January 2016- September 2016); Bellingham, WA
- Lead Toddler Teacher; Blossom Childcare & Learning Center; Leading a classroom of 7 toddlers approximately 15-28 months old while following the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAYEC) based curriculum to encourage appropriate growth and development through play-based learning. Working with the children, their families, and other center teachers and staff to create a warm and safe learning environment for children to explore the world around them while also developing their social, emotional, mental, and physical milestones (August 2014-December 2015)(Substitute Teacher; (March 2016 - November 2016); Bellingham, WA
- Early Childhood Assistant Teacher (Substitute); Whatcom Family YMCA; Downtown Child Development Center; Working to assist and provide support to lead teachers in providing direction for the program and classroom while implementing the program curriculum. Working to help provide a quality experience to children and parents that focuses on the YMCA core values: honesty, respect, responsibility, and caring (May 2014-August 2014, March 2016-November 2016); Bellingham, WA
- Veterans Benefits Administration, Seattle Regional Office; working in the Triage department handling and managing sensitive Veteran's files and claims. Upholding V.A. standards of

privacy and respect while keeping the Veteran's best interests in mind and advocating for their rights and benefits (October 2011-May 2013); Seattle, WA

- Temporary employment at DBTAC Northwest - ADA information center support staff (Summer 2009); MountLake Terrace, WA

Volunteer Work

- Easing Learning Tutoring; Elementary Education; Working to provide valuable and affordable tutoring to enhance a child's learning and interest in education (April 2014-January 2015); Bellingham, WA
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County; Helping to provide support to individuals and their families affected by domestic violence and sexual assault and to help lead the community toward ending these abuses of power, Helpline and Children's Program (April 2014-March 2015 / Inactive - Present); Bellingham, WA
- WorldTeach India Year Program; Teaching at Peery Matriculation School (a unit of Rising Star Outreach) in Tamil Nadu, India. Using education to lift up those, especially children, affected by leprosy and working towards the eradication of stigma against those affected by leprosy. Teaching multiple subjects and grades at Peery Matriculation school, an English medium school, as well as assisting and running after school clubs and extra tutoring sessions (June 2013-March 2014); Tamil Nadu, India
- Pongo Teen Writing Volunteer through Pongo Publishing (founded by Richard Gold) at the state psychiatric hospital for children where we emphasize writing openly from the heart and honestly about our true selves. We work with youth who have led difficult lives with the belief that they have important things to say and stories the world needs to hear using poetry specifically as our medium for expression (Mondays, 12:00-3:00, Oct 2012-March 2013); Tacoma, WA
- Alternative Spring Break; University of Washington Pipeline Project; Tutoring elementary children in English Literacy Program by helping students create personal stories included in books. Our mission is to hear their stories and help foster creativity while promoting an interest in writing and reading (March 2012); Team Leader (March 2013); Harrah, WA
- Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center; Tutoring youth in middle and high school in English literacy and math. Students are all immigrant students often learning English for the first time having just transitioned to the United States. We focus on giving them skills to communicate and advocate for themselves as well as deepen their knowledge of the English language while still honoring their backgrounds (September 2011-May 2012); Seattle, WA
- National Salmon Enhancement Association; Working toward native plant life restoration and salmon habitat preservation for an 8 week volunteer internship (September 2008-June 2009); Bellingham, WA

Skills

- Infant Family Specialist (IFA) - IMH-E® (Present; On-going)
- Washington Association for Infant Mental Health (WA-AIMH) Member (Present; On-going)
- Introduction to Child Care Health and Safety Certified (Present; On-going)
- Child Abuse Mandatory Reporting Training Certified (Present; On-going)
- CPR, AED, and Basic First Aid; Certified via Healthsaver- American Health Association; Adult, Child, and Infant (Present; On-going)
- Trained by Intel with Windows 8 software including Classroom Management software (2013-2014)
- TEFL Certified through WorldTeach via ACCREDITAT (February 2014; Present - On-going)
- Trained in XSEED Curriculum (2013-2014)
- Experience tutoring students k-12

- Proficient with Microsoft Office and other computer tasks

References: Available Upon Request