



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.

First Name Andrea

Last Name Vance

Date

Street Address

City

Zip

Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? Yes

Do you have a different mailing address? YES

Mailing Address

Primary Telephone

Secondary Telephone

Email Address

1. Name of Board or Committee **Veteran's Advisory Board**

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

[avresume.pdf](#) – attached

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

I am a licensed, Master's level Social Work professional with over 15 years of experience working with Veterans in housing, medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment. I am also a Veteran, having served in the Oregon National Guard for ten years, as well as deployed overseas on Active Duty during Operation Joint Endeavor. I feel am uniquely qualified to serve on the Veterans Advisory Board as a social worker who is committed to social justice, a Veteran, a woman and a mental health professional who has worked for the VA most of my career. As a health care provider and housing advocate, I understand the resources available to Veterans in our county along with the barriers to access these resources. I think the combination of my professional and personal experiences make me an excellent candidate for the Veterans Advisory Board.

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

As a relatively new arrival to Whatcom County (2013), I am working to become more involved in my neighborhood and my community. I feel the voice of a female Veteran on the County Veteran Advisory Board is not only desirable, but crucial as the Board advises the County Council and County Executives on the needs of the Veterans of Whatcom county. Often, the experiences and needs of female Veterans are overlooked by both the VA and agencies serving these Veterans and their families. As someone who is a strong advocate for female Veterans, who is a Veteran myself and who has been a provider for Veterans, I feel I can speak to the specific needs of female Veterans. The number of female Veterans is expected to double by 2045, while the number of male Veterans are expected to drop by half. It will be even more important to consider carefully the needs of female Veterans and their families in the future. I would welcome the chance to continue my advocacy work for Veterans at the county level, and to have a chance to influence policy and effect change for some of the most vulnerable Veterans of Whatcom County.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Signature of applicant:

Andrea Vance

Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham, WA

ANDREA VANCE

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Licensed Independent Social Work professional with over 15 years of experience providing patient focused therapeutic interventions including crisis management, risk assessment, individual and group therapy, expert consultation, utilization management, individualized case management and care coordination. Specialization in advocacy for Veterans and treatment/care coordination of issues specific to the Veteran population, including VA eligibility and benefits.

Strong assessment and treatment coordination skills; solid knowledge of local, state and national social service resources and experience with complex situations requiring creative problem solving. Comfortable working in multiple settings (inpatient, outpatient, crisis, home based) with clients from a wide array of socio-economic backgrounds and with issues including medical, mental health, substance abuse and social components.

Skilled in program evaluation/implementation, graduate student supervision and supervision for licensure.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Behavioral Health Utilization Management Clinician, Clinical Services Team January 2016 to present

Cambia Health Solutions – Burlington, WA

Performs utilization review and care management for Behavioral Health, including substance abuse services provided to members. Ensures that medical necessity and quality of care guidelines are met across all levels of service, from acute care to outpatient services. Ensures that NCQA, URAC and HIPAA standards are met, assists in coordination of care as necessary, including discharge planning and referrals. Familiar with InterQual, MCG (Milliman) and other managed care guidelines. Effectively manages workflow and prioritizes tasks in a high volume, fast paced work environment.

Social Worker, Community Housing and Outreach Services October 2014 to December 2015

VA Puget Sound Health Care System – Everett, WA

Provided intensive case management support for Veterans and their families in the Housing and Urban Development Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program, including outreach, referrals and care coordination for homeless Veterans of all eras (WWII to present) in Snohomish, Island, Skagit and Whatcom counties.

Senior Social Worker, Primary Care Mental Health Team April 2013 to October 2014

VA Puget Sound Health Care System – Mount Vernon, WA

As a collaborative member of the Primary Care and Mental Health teams, provided assessment and therapeutic services for Veterans in a large Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Provided consultation/education to medical staff regarding the behavioral health needs of patients and how behavioral health issues impact medical issues/treatment and continuity of care. Provided individual, couples, group and telehealth remote counseling services. Evaluated patients for access to acute care services through Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) at Seattle VA Hospital.

Senior Social Worker, Primary Care Mental Health Integration April 2012 to April 2013

VA Montana Health Care System - Kalispell, MT

Implemented Primary Care Mental Health Integration program in a Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) serving 5,000 Veterans in a rural community. Provided direct patient care in Behavioral Health, both onsite and offsite using Telehealth technology and provided consultative and educational services to Primary Care multi-disciplinary teams. Provided local support for Military Sexual Trauma outreach project and screening of *The Invisible War*.

Emergency Department Social Worker, Chaplain and Social Work Service August 2009 to April 2012

Portland VA Medical Center, Chaplain and Social Work Service - Portland, OR

Provided assessment, referral, care coordination and discharge planning for Veterans as part of a multi-disciplinary team in a busy ER setting. Performed mental health, substance use and cognitive evaluations, consulted with law enforcement and state agencies to protect vulnerable patients. As Living Renal Donor Advocate, worked with living renal donors to ensure appropriate care and adherence to UNOS guidelines. Provided supervision for graduate level interns.

Home Health Social Worker

April 2008 to August 2009

Portland VA Medical Center, Home Based Primary Care – Portland, OR

Provided independent assessment of patients in the home setting, including mental health and cognitive Evaluations. Provided structured case management, advocacy and resource brokering with care coordination as part of a multi-disciplinary team including nurses, physicians, occupational and physical therapists and other allied health professionals.

Primary Care Social Worker

July 2007 to April 2008

Portland VA Medical Center, Primary Care Clinic - Portland, OR

Provided independent assessment and intervention for primary care patients seeking assistance with a variety of social, psychological, and medical issues. Provided social work consultation to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Geriatric specialty clinics, provided case management services as a member of a multi-disciplinary team including referrals to housing, mental health, occupational, legal, social and spiritual community/VA resources.

Substance Abuse counselor (Social Worker)

July 2003 to July 2007

Portland VA Medical Center, Substance Abuse Treatment Program - Portland, OR

As part of a multi-disciplinary team, provided assessment, evaluation and treatment for veterans attending outpatient substance abuse treatment program using evidence based treatment modalities including Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Rational Emotive Therapy, Gorski's Relapse Prevention techniques and Motivational Interviewing. Provided case management services including referrals to appropriate housing, mental health, occupational, legal, social and spiritual community/VA resources.

Therapist/Social Work Intern

September 2002 to May 2003

Portland VA Medical Center, Mental Health Clinic – Portland, OR

Worked collaboratively with VA Mental Health care providers/programs to provide individual, couples, group and family therapy for veterans and eligible others experiencing a variety of psychiatric or social problems. Referred clients to VA and community resources as needed, and provided case management where indicated.

Case Manager

November 2000 to January 2003

Transition Projects, Rehabilitation Services for Homeless Veterans (RSHV) - Portland, OR

Served as a Veteran's Administration liaison for a community shelter provider, provided case management and resource referral services to homeless Veterans including mental health, social, legal and employment needs.

EDUCATION**Masters of Social Work**, Portland State University, Graduate School of Social Work, Portland, OR 2003**Bachelor of Science in Psychology**, Portland State University, Portland, OR 2001**LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

Unrestricted licensure to practice as an Independent Licensed Clinical Social Worker in WA and OR

Ability to provide supervision towards LICSW/LCSW licensure

Post-graduate training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Problem Solving Training and Solution Focused Brief Therapy

CIVIC and VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Oregon Army National Guard, 1991 to 2000; Active Duty Army, Operation Joint Endeavor, 1996 to 1997

Project Homeless Connect 2006, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2015

Precinct Caucus Chair 2016

Volunteer, Historic Fairhaven Association 2017

Member Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

