

**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 3:35:42 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	Field not completed.
First Name	Jennifer
Last Name	Wright
Today's Date	1/19/2021
Street Address	3772 Pincher St
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	360-333-2021
Secondary Telephone	Field not completed.
Email Address	jenkfos4@gmail.com

### Step 2

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

## Committee

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Child & Family Well-Being Task Force      Yes

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

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3. Which Council district do you live in?      District 3

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4. Are you a US citizen?      Yes

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5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?      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?      No

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

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

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

Please see the attached file for answers to questions 9-10 and references

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

*Field not completed.*

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References (please include daytime telephone number):

*Field not completed.*

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Signature of applicant: Jennifer Wright

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Place Signed / Submitted

Whatcom County, Washigton

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(Section Break)

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January 18, 2021

Dear Whatcom County Council Members,

I am writing today to express my interest in contributing to the Whatcom Child and Family Well Being Task Force. My experiences growing up in Whatcom County combined with my professional work as a public school teacher, experiences as a parent of children, home schooling experience over several years, and work as a community activist have given me a breadth of experience that I believe will be useful to the goals of improving the kinds of governmental contributions offered to support Whatcom County children and families.

Growing up in Bellingham, I attended Roosevelt Elementary, Whatcom Middle School, and Bellingham High School. As a young child I had to survive a lot of adversity to become who I am today. As an adult, I wanted to make the best of my many challenges and help support kids so they wouldn't fall through the cracks. This is why I became a public school teacher. I earned a BS in Biology from Western Washington University in 2001, worked as a field biologist and education outreach specialist around the country, and then returned to WWU where I earned my Masters In Teaching in 2005. I have worked in Blaine since 2005 and am a National Board Certified Teacher in secondary science. As a teacher, I have been able to play a pivotal support role for students in foster care and students experiencing homelessness. I love partnering with them, their families, school counselors, and agencies in Whatcom County to provide options that will open a path for them to become housed or to access the education and services that will empower them to transform their lives. I have worked for years to increase support for BIPOC students, LGBTQ youth, and attempt to teach in a way that is trauma informed and culturally responsive. I hope that on the task force, I may be able to provide some useful feedback that might positively impact a greater number of children and families earlier in their lives.

In 2016 I began working on the boards of local school and community organizations. The reason this work is important to me is that since I have faced many challenges that could have been mitigated with support, I have compassion for the many ways children and adults can experience barriers that prevent them from living out their potential. Currently I sit on the Board of Directors for Riveters Collective. I joined the board because the vision of a "diverse society of informed and empowered community members engaged in progressive political activism to improve the lives of all" really resonates with me. When I initiated and led the Not In Our Community--No Hate Ferndale event in 2019, it was important to my team and me to support and center BIPOC people's voices in the structure of the event. Similarly, as a RC board member, I partnered with Whatcom Human Rights Task Force and other local organizations to respond to hate events in 2020. Together, as we created the rally Show Up For Love Whatcom County, my team and I made sure to use our position to help support and amplify BIPOC voices in our community while working to engage a wide variety of community members in doing the work to move toward a county where everyone who lives here feels safe. Doing this work has motivated me to continue to find ways to help positively impact families who live here.

My growth and perspective as a parent have also taught me a lot, and I hope to bring what I have learned from our positive interactions and challenges within systems and programs in the county to the task force. Between my two children, we have enrolled in three Whatcom County school districts--Bellingham, Blaine, and Mount Baker, and have part time homeschooled our now third grade child for the last four years--we are completely homeschooling this year. We have experience with two homeschool programs--Bellingham Family Partnership Program and Mount Baker Academy. We are very involved in the greater community and have experience with the Whatcom Center for Early Learning, Loving Space Preschool, Connecting Community, Library Story Times, Bellingham Technical College Parent/Child classes, BAAY, Whatcom County Youth Soccer Association, Arne Hanna, WWU Youth Programs, Evolution Dance Co., Trail Blazers, Wild Whatcom, Bayside Swimming Club, Bellinghome School of Music, Common Threads Farm, and more.

I believe I will make a positive contribution to the task force, and I hope after reading this you will agree. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wright

References:

Monica Koller, MS, Owner and Maker, Connecting Community - [connectingcommunitybellingham@gmail.com](mailto:connectingcommunitybellingham@gmail.com), 510-828-6553

Anne Marie Read, BTC, Parenting Education Instructor - [aread@btc.ctc.edu](mailto:aread@btc.ctc.edu), 360-752-7000

Eowyn Savela, President, Riveters Collective - [riveterscollective@gmail.com](mailto:riveterscollective@gmail.com), 360-527-5065