

**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 26, 2024 11:30:06 AM

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## Advisory Group Application

### Step 1

#### Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Advisory Groups

##### Public Statement

**THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT:** As a candidate for a public advisory group, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All advisory group 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	Ashley
Last Name	Thomasson
Today's Date	11/25/2024
Street Address	
City	
Zip	
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	Field not completed.
Primary Telephone	
Secondary Telephone	Field not completed.
Email Address	

### Step 2

1. Name of Advisory	Public Health Advisory Board
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## Group

Public Health Advisory Board	I have expertise, career experience, or lived experience in one of the areas listed above., I represent a stakeholder, such as a nonprofit organization, the business community, or those regulated by public health.
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. Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group	Yes
If yes, please list dates:	1/2023-present
5. 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
6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No
You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions	Attached
7. Please describe your occupation (or former	I currently serve as the Executive Director of Lydia Place, a non-profit organization disrupting the generational cycle of homelessness in Whatcom County. I have worked for over 16

occupation if retired),  
qualifications,  
professional and/or  
community activities,  
and education

years serving youth and families experiencing homelessness, poverty, mental health, substance use disorder, and trauma. My experience ranges from providing direct care to families as well as overseeing care provision, program planning and development, managing grants, contracts, and multi-million dollar budgets, and systems advocacy.

8. Please describe why  
you're interested in  
serving on this  
Advisory Group.

Housing is a public health issue, and our community does best when every family has a home and opportunity to thrive. The growing housing crisis is impacting all of our systems, and outcomes between housing and public health are inextricably linked. It is imperative the Public Health Advisory Board consider this intersectionality in its decision making is crucial, and I believe my interest and expertise in this area will continue to serve as valuable to the board. I also serve as the Vice-Chair of the Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee and think representing both committees will support the hub-and-spoke model of PHAB and the ability to ensure work across the two is not duplicated, but in alignment with each other.

References (please  
include daytime  
telephone number):

Ann Beck, Health and Community Services Manager (WCHCS) -  
360.778.6000  
Samya Lutz, Housing and Services Program Manager (COB) -  
360.778.8385  
Dan Dunne, Owner/CAZ Construction, Whatcom County Housing  
Advisory Committee Chair - 360-389-6627

Appointment  
Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Ashley Thomasson

Place Signed /  
Submitted



(Section Break)



# Ashley Thomasson



## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Enthusiastic and strategic Director with over a decade in the non-profit sector, and an expertise in housing services. Committed leader with a track record of promoting employee wellness and retention. History of managing budgets, contracts, & community partners with intention & ownership. Former small business owner with a commitment to community.

## SWEET SKILLS

Managerial Experience	Program Development	Budgeting Oversight
Encouraging Mentor	Contract Negotiation	Successful Grant Writer

## WORK HISTORY

**Lydia Place** | Bellingham, WA | 2008 – Present

***Executive Director, January 2023-Present***

Responsible for oversight of agency programming, \$4.5 million annual agency budget and community engagement. Provide leadership and guidance to advance the mission of the agency. Direct strategic planning and the creation of organizational goals. Cultivate and maintain strategic partnerships with funders and community agencies. Support board by providing regular reports on finances and programming.

***Housing Program Director, November 2018 – January 2023***

Oversee day to day operations of all housing programs & (from 2018-2021) the property management team. Manage entire housing program budget which exceeds 2 million of the overall agency budget. Write grants and procure, negotiate, and maintain contracts with City and County funders & community partners. Developed and launched database to better assess outcomes; actively lead strategic program planning that centers client voice. Publicly speak and represent the agency at community events and in videos/publications.

***Housing Program Supervisor, January 2015 – November 2018***

Manage a team of direct service staff providing direct services to over 250 homeless households annually. Collaborate with community partners to coordinate services & improve system outcomes. Developed programming & oversaw the launch of 4 new housing programs including Bell Tower, Baker Place, Intake, and DVSAS, along with the expansion of our Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing Programs. Managed over \$300,000 annually in rental subsidy expenditures.

***Case Manager, July 2008 – January 2015***

Provided trauma-informed case management to hundreds of homeless individuals & families. Marketed program and built relationships with landlords & rental management companies to provide housing placements for clients. Maintained strict data entry requirements. Upheld client confidentiality.

## EDUCATION

**Certificate of Non-Profit Management**

University of Washington, Seattle, WA | June 2019

**Bachelor of Arts in Human Services**

Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA | June 2008