

**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)  
**To:** Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application  
**Subject:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:01:15 PM  
**Date:**

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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	Mrs.
First Name	Meredith
Last Name	Hayes
Today's Date	1/19/2021
Street Address	1207 Lakeview St
City	Bellingham
Zip	98229
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	3035205824
Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	Meredithmhayes@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

*Field not completed.*

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

I am a parent of 3 girls. I currently work and volunteer as a consultant, focused on increasing the efficacy of systems that impact children and families. I serve on the Bellingham Schools Foundation Board of Directors and am outgoing Chair for Wild Whatcom. I have spent years in facilitation, program development, building equity in organizations, implementing data-informed quality improvement systems. Resume available.

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

As a parent of 3 young girls, I have spent years trying to get it right. I have read books about parenting styles, tried strategies, researched skills needed for the 21st century such as grit and resilience. I have worked in school districts and enrichment programs, trying to improve the conditions in our community. I have advocated to my elected officials. But as of yet, what I have clung to most dearly, is that there isn't an answer or a single moment that will set them on a trajectory towards success. Instead, their ability to thrive is intertwined in all of the small moments, the people they meet and how our community wraps our arms around them, not just in these young years, but between the cradle and their career.

I want to be a part of this committee to move Whatcom County towards a community in which my girls, and all kids in Whatcom County are honored and given the opportunity to thrive. I want all children to feel safe, feel challenged and feel a deep connection to their community. I want them to know they are loved and valued as community members. This happens in big and small ways that are bound to community practices.

I move through life with deep privilege. I am a white woman, in a 2-parent home, that I own. Yet, I know the challenges of raising kids in Whatcom County. My kids attend public school, we have tried to access mental health supports. I experienced underemployment that has hindered my career based on my inability to find quality child care, even with the means to pay the high cost. If these systems are difficult to navigate with my privilege, I believe the tales my friends and colleagues are telling about the difficulty to navigate these systems without the same resources.

I have had the fortunate experience of working with Wild Whatcom and learning from their mottos over the past few years. One that speaks to me in this moment is "Grasp the Nettle" which means dealing with a problem bravely and boldly... using our physical and mental strength to meet each challenge. I believe we can do better as a community to support our children and families. We need to approach this challenge bravely and boldly. I am eager to be a part of the solution to ensure all families in Whatcom County can thrive.

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References (please  
include daytime  
telephone number):

Rachel Lucy - 360-788-6819

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Signature of applicant:

Meredith Hayes

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Place Signed /  
Submitted

Whatcom County, WA

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