



## 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	Dr.
First Name	Katie
Last Name	Plewa Olvera
Today's Date	3/7/2022
Street Address	2287 Yew Street Rd
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	3603053909
Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	<a href="mailto:katie.olvera@outlook.com">katie.olvera@outlook.com</a>
1. Name of Board or Committee	Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence
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?

Yes

If yes, please list dates:

2022 - 2015

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

[KPO CV.pdf](#) - attached

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

Licensed Clinical Psychologist (please see CV for more details)

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

I specialize in working with interpersonal trauma in my private practice. As such, I see individuals who are impacted by domestic violence/sexual assault/child abuse and I support them in their healing process. With this direct service, I can bring a helpful perspective to the systems work that is accomplished by the Commission.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Susan Marks - 360.312.5700 x 1223

Signature of applicant:

Katie Plewa Olvera

Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham, WA

# KATIE PLEWA OLVERA

Licensed Psychologist • 360.305.3909 • katie.olvera@outlook.com

## LICENSE AND CERTIFICATION

### Licensed Psychologist

Washington State  
License #: PY 60352628

### Certified Clinical Trauma Professional

Evergreen Certifications  
August 2017 - Present

## EDUCATION

### Doctorate in Psychology (PsyD), Degree Received December 2012

Clinical Psychology  
University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN  
Accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA)

### Master of Arts, Degree Received May 2009

Clinical Psychology  
University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN

### Bachelor of Arts, Degree Received May 2007

Psychology  
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### PRIVATE PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGIST

KATIE PLEWA OLVERA COUNSELING, PLLC

JULY 2016 – PRESENT

- Individual counseling
- Specialty area: interpersonal trauma (sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse)
- Other areas of competency include: disordered eating, relationship concerns, low self-concept

### NONTENURE TRACK FACULTY

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT, WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

SPRING QUARTER 2016 – PRESENT

- Teaching psychology courses to undergraduate and graduate students (see "Teaching Experience" for more detail about courses):
  - Introduction to Abnormal Psychology
  - Psychology of Child Rearing
  - Abnormal Psychology and Interventions
  - Crisis Intervention

### VIOLENCE PREVENTION SPECIALIST

PREVENTION & WELLNESS SERVICES, WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 2012 – JUNE 2016

- Provided counseling to individuals who have experienced sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and/or domestic violence
- Presented to and trained faculty, staff, and students on variety of topics, such as general health/wellness, Title IX rights, bystander intervention, and sexual assault prevention
- Supervised 15-20 Peer Health Educators each year
  - Planned and coordinated outreach programming on campus and in the community focused on violence prevention
  - Weekly supervision of peer advocates who provide direct services to student survivors

**TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE**

**HLED 250: HEALTH AND THE COLLEGE STUDENT**

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Description: Analysis of major health risks; personal health status assessment; strategies for reducing risk behaviors and promoting healthy lifestyles among college students. S/U grading.

**PSY 250: INTRODUCTION TO ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Description: An overview of the research on individuals within social contexts. Topics include description of disorders, stress and coping, social influence on behavior, the relationship between psychological and physical health and development adjustment issues.

**PSY 274: PSYCHOLOGY OF CHILD REARING**

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Description: Discipline at different developmental stages; parental influences on social and cognitive development; influences on parenting; a systems approach to understanding families; the changing American family.

**PSY 351: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY & INTERVENTIONS**

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Description: Human behavior patterns culturally labeled as abnormalities, or as mental illness; their etiology, incidence, treatment and social attitudes toward such patterns. Historical review of the concepts used to explain such behavior and the research relating to the treatment of mental disorders.

**PSY 568: CRISIS INTERVENTION**

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Description: This course is specifically designed to give the counselor a theoretical and practical background in crisis intervention in both school and community settings.

**COMMUNITY  
AFFILIATIONS &  
AWARDS**

**AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, MEMBER**

MEMBER #91743308

**PERPETRATOR TREATMENT STEERING COMMITTEE, MEMBER**

MAY 2018 – MAY 2019

*Multidisciplinary committee tasked with creating new, evidence-based curriculum for domestic violence offenders in Bellingham-Whatcom County.*

**KATHLEEN MARSHALL AWARD**

RECEIVED APRIL 2018

*In recognition of outstanding service and dedication in addressing domestic violence and sexual assault.*

**100+ WOMEN OF WHATCOM, BOARD MEMBER/CO-FOUNDER**

MARCH 2015 – APRIL 2016

**BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION AGAINST SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MEMBER**

JANUARY 2015 – PRESENT

*Current Chair of the Commission*

**DIVISION 35: SOCIETY FOR THE PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN**

JUNE 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2012

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE NETWORK**

SEPTMEBR 2012 – SEPTEMBER 2013

**FORENSIC  
PSYCHOLOGY  
EXPERIENCE**

**QUALIFIED EXPERT WITNESS**

TRAIL TESTIMONY MARCH 2018

Provided testimony on the neurobiological effects of trauma and how these effects impact sexual assault reporting, disclosures to family/friends, memory, and healing.

**PRESENTATIONS &  
PUBLICATIONS  
(ABBREVIATED LIST)**

**UNDERSTANDING VICARIOUS TRAUMA**

2020 - 2021

Presentations to:

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) Board Members, Advocates, and Staff  
National webinar hosted by Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP)  
Members of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Sexual & Domestic Violence  
Guardians ad Litem

**TRAUMA-INFORMED INVESTIGATION**

NOVEMBER 2019, BELLINGHAM, WA

Presented to Bellingham Police Department Patrol Officers

**APPLYING TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES TO INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION**

SEPTEMBER 2019, LEAVENWORTH, WA

Presented at the Special Assault Training Conference for WA State Prosecuting Attorneys

**TRAUMA RECOVERY: Working with Long-Term Effects**

JULY 2019, BELLINGHAM, WA

Presented to Advocates and Staff at Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS)

**TRAUMA-INFORMED CONSULTATION: An evidence-based approach to supporting survivors and strengthening investigations.**

MAY 2019, BELLINGHAM, WA

Presented to Sexual Assault Response Team (prosecuting attorneys, law enforcement, SANE nurses, and advocates)

**WORKING WITH TRAUMA: Understanding the Differences between PTSD and Borderline Personality Disorder.**

OCTOBER 2018, BELLINGHAM, WA

Presented to local clinicians and social service employees

**CREATING "TRAUMA-INFORMED COURTS"**

APRIL 2018, LAKE CHELAN, WA

Presented at Washington State Superior Court Judges Conference

**DOCTORAL DISSERTATION**

DEFENDED AUGUST 2012

"Effects of Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games (MMORPGs) on Relationship and Sexual Satisfaction"

Dissertation Chair: Michael Poulakis, PsyD

Research conducted to assess for potential negative consequences of heavy gaming (>14 hours per day) on relationships. Couples were also given empirically validated questionnaires to assess sexual and general relationship satisfaction. Results showed various negative consequences on romantic relationships.

**POSTER PRESENTATION**

**APA CONVENTION – ORLANDO, FL**

AUGUST 2012

Davies-Roberts, K., Poulakis, M., Olesek, K., & Plewa, K. "Social Deviance: A Cross-Cultural Comparison of American and Greek Undergraduate Students."