



## Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

### Public Statement

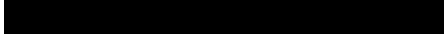
*THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.*

Title	Mr.
First Name	Christopher
Last Name	Brown
Today's Date	6/15/2022
Street Address	[REDACTED]
City	[REDACTED]
Zip	[REDACTED]
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	[REDACTED]
Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	[REDACTED]
1. Name of Board or Committee	<b>Public Health Advisory Board</b>
Public Health Advisory Board Position:	Communities Experiencing Health Inequities
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	attached.
9. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education	<i>Field not completed.</i>
10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission	<i>Field not completed.</i>
References (please include daytime telephone number):	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Signature of applicant:	Christopher Brown
Place Signed / Submitted	Bellingham, WA

# **Christopher Brown, LICSW**

Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, LW60986160



## **Education**

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**University of Washington 2016**

Master of Social Work (MSW)

**Western Washington University 2012**

B.A. in Human Services; Psychology minor

## **Clinical & Leadership Experience**

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**Readjustment Counseling Therapist, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Readjustment Counseling Service, Bellingham Vet Center 2016 - Present**

Perform diagnostic evaluations, treatment planning, couples therapy, and clinical supervision. Specialize in PTSD therapy, group therapy, and treatment of general anxiety and depression disorders. Use mindfulness and EMDR to guide veteran clients through altered ego states and facilitate healing and growth toward their goals. Serve as suicide prevention coordinator, Acting Vet Center Director, outreach advisor and provide clinical support to sister Vet Centers as needed. Proficient at RCS policy adherence and supervision. Perform external Vet Center chart audits for Anchorage Vet Center Director.

**MSW Intern, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Readjustment Counseling Service, Bellingham Vet Center 2014-2016**

Performed intakes, assessments, and case management for new clients. Developed foundational CBT skills in small clinical setting serving military veteran clients with PTSD as their primary diagnosis. Performed treatment planning and developed clients in preparation for EMDR therapy under the collaboration and clinical supervision of licensed independent clinical social workers and psychologists. Created outreach plans and performed outreach for the clinic.

**Founder & President, Growing Veterans 2012 - Present**

Built a veteran reintegration model that uses the farm as a catalyst for veteran peer support and broader community engagement. Led the design of a three-day Peer Support Training, which offers 20.5 CEUs for mental health professionals, to create a culture of peer support among members and community stakeholders. Experienced in board & staff development, budgeting, fundraising and grant writing. Model efficacy demonstrated through evaluation performed by VA's HSR&D Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (CINDRR) and is recognized for innovation both regionally and nationally.

**Infantryman & Leader of Marines, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, USMC 2004-2008**

Proficient small-unit leader, managing daily projects and personnel. Directed logistics and maintenance of housing facility that housed 100+ personnel. Developed effective teamwork and leadership practices over three combat deployments, leading Marines on daily foot patrols and under hostile fire on multiple occasions. Acquired a deep appreciation for cultural diversity and sensitivity. Honorable discharge as non-commissioned officer.

## **Committee & Community Service Experience**

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### **Advisory Board Member, Enhancing Veteran Community Reintegration Research (ENCORE), VA Health Services Research & Development (HSR&D) 2021 - Present**

Participate in national multi-stakeholder partnership meetings to discuss VA HSR&D research priorities and offer suggestions for future research focused on veteran community reintegration outcomes. Publish outcomes and experiences from ENCORE meetings to encourage innovative approaches to setting future research priorities throughout the VA.

### **Clinical Quality Workgroup, VA Readjustment Counseling Service 2021**

Offered clinical insight and guidance for national workgroup supporting agency protocols and outcomes; with the intention of improving overall quality of clinical services and outcomes for clients.

### **Creator, Open-Source Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy (OSPAT) curriculum 2021- Present**

Using GitHub to develop a comprehensive list of learning resources available in the public domain for therapists interested in the field of psychedelic-assisted therapy. The curriculum aims to cover the foundational knowledge for effective practice and compliment the learning of existing certification courses. Free and open source under an MIT license.

### **Board member, Whatcom County Veterans Advisory Board 2010 - 2018; 2021 - Present**

Provide oversight for tax-levied Veterans Relief Fund, an amount just under \$1,000,000. Supported new program office and leveraging funds for federal VA grants, leading to a 65% decrease in the Whatcom County homeless veteran population in a year and half. Influenced establishment of County-wide Veterans Summit to bring all stakeholder voices to the table. Have served as Chair, Vice Chair, and regular board member as needed.

### **Fellow, The Mission Continues 2012 - 2013**

Designed a pilot program to use farming as a catalyst for holistic veteran reintegration, with a strong focus on sustainable agriculture, community engagement, and veteran peer support. This project led to the formation of Growing Veterans, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, with the mission to empower military veterans to grow food, communities, and each other.

### **WWU Vet Corps Navigator (WDVA), AmeriCorps 2010 - 2011**

Case-managed and guided student veterans by connecting them with local resources. Collaborated with campus officials to create more effective veteran supportive services and practices. Served as liaison for Western Washington University, Vet Corps (AmeriCorps), the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), and veteran students.

## **Publications**

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Brown, C; Besterman-Dahan, K.; Chavez, M.; Njoh, E.; Smith, B. 2016. *"It gave me an excuse to get out into society again": Decreasing Veteran Isolation through a Community Agricultural Peer Support Model*. Journal of Veterans Studies, Inaugural Issue.

## **Certifications & Training**

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### **EMDR Consultant-in-Training *Pending***

EMDRIA (Already lined up within RCS EMDR Consultation program, just need EMDRIA Certification approval)

### **Certified EMDR Therapist *Pending***

EMDRIA (Application submitted, awaiting EMDRIA approval)

### **Impactful Supervision for Clinical Licensure 2022**

Readjustment Counseling Service – National Training Institute (RCS NTI)

### **Veterans Outreach Program Specialist: Linking the Vet Center to the Community 2022**

Readjustment Counseling Service – National Training Institute (RCS NTI)

### **RCS Mentoring Program 2022**

Readjustment Counseling Service – National Training Institute (RCS NTI)

### **MDMA-Assisted Therapist Training 2022**

Bronx VA and the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS)

### **Leadership Development Level 3: Leading Others 2021**

Readjustment Counseling Service – National Training Institute (RCS NTI)

### **+160 CEU hours of Clinical and Professional Development Training 2016 - 2022**

US Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Talent Management System

- **Intimate Partner Violence**
- **Cognitive-Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD**
- **Couples Therapy Intimate Partner Violence**
- **Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect**

### **Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy 2019**

PESI

### **6 Module - CPT Enhancement Course 2017**

US Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Talent Management System

### **Peer Support Training**

Growing Veterans 2016

### **Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) 2015**

LivingWorks

## **Honors & Awards**

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**Harkin Excellence in AmeriCorps Award 2016**

Corporation for National and Community Service

**Veteran of the Year 2016**

American Legion Post 7 and Festival of the Flags Organizational Committee

**J.M. Kaplan Innovation Prize 2015**

J.M. Kaplan Fund

**HillVets 100 Innovative Nonprofits 2015**

HillVets 100

**WA State Service Award 2015**

Governor Jay Inslee

**Fellowship Award 2013**

The Mission Continues

**Purple Heart 2007**

United States Marine Corps

**Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal 2007**

United States Marine Corps