

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	Ms.
First Name	Chris
Last Name	Kobdish
Today's Date	11/15/2024
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 am a consumer of public health services. , 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:	2/23/24-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?	Yes
If yes, please explain	I'm a Unity Care NW employee. Unity Care NW works with the County Health Department and will have occasional contracts for shared work. Typically these are not fiscal in nature.
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	Attached

the following questions

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

I am currently the Chief Strategy Officer and a senior leader at Unity Care NW, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving 1 in 10 residents of Whatcom County. Attached CV has more details.

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

I am interested in serving on this board because I have been an advocate and a professional striving for health improvements for over two decades in Whatcom County. As a senior leader at Unity Care NW I work with community leaders to identify care gaps and help devise strategic plans to meet need. This includes leading the collaborative Way Station project - a partnership between PeaceHealth, Unity Care NW, The Opportunity Council, and Whatcom County to provide healthcare and hygiene access to people experiencing homelessness in Whatcom County. I look forward to working with other community members to improve the health of everyone in Whatcom County if I'm selected for the board.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Jodi Joyce, Unity Care NW CEO - (360) 788-2620
Ann Beck, Whatcom County Health Department - (360) 778-6055
Maureen West - (360) 201-6782

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Chris Kobdich

Place Signed / Submitted



(Section Break)

CHRIS KOBDISH

Policy | Strategy | Communications

CONTACT



EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin
BS Communications

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19: Led community responses for vaccinations, mask/test distribution, and public communication. Raised \$16 million to support operations.

Way Station: Built community coalition to design and create a clinical, hygiene and medical respite center for unhoused individuals. Raised over \$7 million for capital campaign, and more than \$1.5 million for operational start-up.

EXPERTISE

Leadership
Communications
Public Relations
Public Policy
Fundraising

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Mission-driven, high performing senior leader with extensive experience in healthcare strategy, agency planning, public policy, public relations, communications, and fundraising. Builds strong, diverse teams of committed and talented individuals, and develops strategic partnerships to engage communities in the improvement of health outcomes.

EXPERIENCE

Chief Strategy Officer, Unity Care NW, Bellingham, WA
2016 – Present

- Provides strategic leadership and direction to the organization as an active, contributing participant in senior-level planning and management.
- Represents agency in activities of the Joint legislative Committee of the State Association and the Community Health Network.
- Maintains relationships with local, state, and congressional elected officials providing issue education and advocacy.
- Directs public relations.
- Directs the agency's annual and strategic planning cycles including assessment of unmet needs and opportunities and develops and maintains community relationships.
- Directs agency marketing, communications, and serves as agency spokesperson.
- Leads grant writing and grant management, solicitation of charitable contributions and organization of events.

Director of External Affairs, MBPP, Bellingham, WA
2001 – 2016

- Directed agency communications, marketing, public policy, public relations, fundraising, and education efforts.
- Developed and facilitated issue education for community partners, constituents, and elected officials.
- Planned and managed logistics for national development conferences and local fundraising events.
- Served as agency spokesperson.

KEY SKILLS

Writing
Editing
Research
Team Building
Strategic Planning
Relationship Building
Innovative Approaches
Crisis Communications

Owner, CLK CREATIVE, Dallas, TX

Turnkey marketing and communications company specializing in innovative and effective marketing and training through video, film or print collateral.

Clients included: Blockbuster, Countrywide Home Loans/Landsafe, The Dallas Chamber of Commerce, The Dallas Cowboys, Dell Computers, Hope's Door Women's Shelter, The Institute of Internal Auditors, JCPenney Inc., Publicis Dialog.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2023 – Present: Whatcom County Public Health Advisory Board, Member

2021- Present: Washington Women's Commission, Commissioner

2013 – Present: Bellingham/Whatcom County Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence, City Community Appointee and Past Chair

2017- Present: Whatcom County Opioid Task Force committee member

Geier Gibson Health Policy Fellow, George Washington Milken Institute School of Public Health

Stanford d.school Boot Camp, Hasso Plattner Institute of Design at Stanford

Western Washington University Community Engagement Fellow

Grantsmanship Training Program Certification, The Grantsmanship Center

Rights. Respect. Responsibility. European Study Tour, Advocates for Youth