

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 *Field not completed.*

First Name Rachel

Last Name McGarrity

Today's Date 1/7/2025

Street Address [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED]

Zip [REDACTED]

Do you live in Whatcom County? Yes

Do you have a different mailing address? *Field not completed.*

Primary Telephone [REDACTED]

Secondary Telephone *Field not completed.*

Email Address [REDACTED]

Step 2

1. Name of Advisory Public Health Advisory Board

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.
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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 2
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4. Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group	No
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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
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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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You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions	Attached
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7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or	I am a registered nurse with 10 years of experience in intensive care, hospice and palliative care, and nursing education. From my time in Peace Corps to my current role supporting the care of our acute medical population in the hospital, finding ways to serve the underserved with better access to healthcare and community support has been my drive. I have two Bachelor's
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community activities,
and education

degrees as well as a Master's degree in Nursing that have laid the foundation for my professional and my personal role in the community I am dedicated to - the one in which I grew up and the one to which I have returned with all my wide experience. In addition to my nursing work, I am passionate about community engagement and therefore serve on the Cornwall Park Neighborhood Association board, reinvigorating a long-enduring effort to connect to our neighbors and build local resilience.

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

I have both personal and professional experience in caring for people during all the stages of life from birth to death, both in health and in serious illness. While there are many sources of support and resilience available to some in our community, I am passionate about ensuring all families have what they need to care for each other and to access expert care when needed. I'd like to understand more about how Whatcom County prioritizes the health of its public, and find creative solutions to the unique problems we face. Finally, I believe that citizens must both witness and participate in our governing, to ensure the possibility of prosperity for as many as possible and I'd like to offer my expertise to my home county.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Yarrow Greer (Board President, CPNA) 360-319-3165
Lori Sherman (Palliative Care Physician, PHSJ) 360-220-7586
Meg Lelonek (Hospitalist Physician, PHSJ) 360-603-8146
Jessica Zitter (Physician and Non-Profit Exec Director, Oakland CA) 973-650-0464

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Rachel Witter McGarrity

Place Signed / Submitted



(Section Break)

Rachel Witter McGarrity

Qualification Summary

Experience in compassionate attention to patients and families coping with serious illness and trauma, clinical palliative program development and management in low-resource settings, staff and student management and education, methods of clinical innovation, data-driven care and interpretation, as well as public health and laboratory research.

Education

2016-2019 Master of Science in Nursing, Nursing Leadership and Management Program

George Washington University School of Nursing, Washington DC

- *Additional concentration in Nursing Education with certification potential*

2011-12 Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Baltimore, MD, USA

- *Accelerated second-degree program, Coverdell Peace Corps Fellow*

2002-06 Bachelor of Science in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

- *Concentration on basic science research and medical ethics*
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Work History

- June 2023-present **Clinical Performance Nurse, Hospitalist Service, Sound Physicians Bellingham WA**
- Ensure adequate system processes and support for hospitalist providers to meet performance metrics in measures of quality, performance, and safety
- 2022-23 **RN - Palliative Care, Palliative Care Services, PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center, WA**
- 2020 -23 **Serious Illness Care Coordinator, Palliative Care Services, Alameda Health System, CA**
- Development of scope, documentation, training curriculum for new PC RN role
 - Implementing grant-funded palliative care expansion across system including budget management, data collection and analysis, and leadership communication
- 2019 - 21 **Clinical Adjunct Faculty Pool, Samuel Merritt University, Bay Area, CA**
- Provided safe, effective hands-on clinical supervision for accelerated BSN students
 - Engaged students with learner-centered community health focus
- 2017 - 21 **Critical Care Clinical Nurse II, Highland Hospital, Oakland CA**
- Trauma, surgical, and medical care at public safety net institution for underserved
 - SAART Certified Advocate providing in-person and phone triage and support for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking
- 2014 - 15 **Admissions Case Mgmt Nurse, Home and Hospice Care, Stella Maris, Timonium, MD**
- 2013-18 **Clinical Adjunct Faculty Pool, Notre Dame of Maryland University, Baltimore, MD**
- 2013 - 17 **Clinical Nurse II, Critical Care Department, Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, MD**

- Management of lumbar drains, CRRT, etc., weekend charge nurse role
 - Chair of Nursing Practice Council governing nursing practice hospital-wide
- 2010 - 11 **Laboratory Technician, Wildlife Toxicology Lab, INBRE Program University of Alaska, Fairbanks**
- 2010 **Emergency Medical Technician, Bower's Ambulance Service, Los Angeles County, CA**
- Formerly nationally certified EMT-I, fulfilled contracts with local fire departments and hospitals for emergency calls and critical care transports
- 2007 - 09 **Peace Corps Volunteer, Ebolowa Education Program, U.S. Peace Corps, Cameroon**
- Professor, High School Biology and EFL (English as a Foreign Language)
 - Project Manager, Peer2Peer Counseling, Bilingual Library of Ebolowa Project
- 2003 - 06 **Research Assistant, Rawlings Lab, Dept. of Immunology, University of Washington/Seattle Children's Hospital Seattle WA, USA**
- Student Researcher/Scholar, Mary Gates Scholarship Foundation Recipient

Community Involvement

- 2023-present **Board Member At Large, Cornwall Park Neighborhood Association, Bellingham WA**
- Focus on community engagement and local advocacy, neighborhood connections
- 2020-22 **Committee Member, Ethics Committee, Alameda Health System, Oakland CA**
- Provision of on-call ethics consultations across care system
- 2006 **Volunteer for Prostitution Outreach Unit, Médecins du Monde, Nantes, France**
- Translator/counselor in English for immigrant street sex worker outreach

Licensure

Registered Nurse **RN61296235, expiration 11/01/2026, Washington State Board of Nursing**
 95127551, expiration 12/31/2024, California Board of Registered Nursing
 R204749, expiration 11/28/2024, Maryland State Board of Nursing

Awards/Recognition

2011	France-Merrick Foundation Scholar	2014 Daisy Award Nominee
2011-2012	Peace Corps Coverdell Fellow	2015 Mercy Spirit Award Nominee

Skills

- Linguistic:**
- Fluent French (certified Advanced High level)
 - Conversational Spanish and Bulu (local Cameroon language)
- Technical:**
- Experience with diverse Electronic Health Records incl. Epic, Meditech, AllScripts, Cerner
 - Proficient in Microsoft Access, Excel, PowerPoint, Word. Microsoft and Macintosh OS.