

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 9:55:47 AM

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 Mr.

First Name Markis Dee

Last Name Stidham

Today's Date 1/6/2026

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Do you live in Yes
Whatcom County?

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

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [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 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 1
4. Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group	No
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
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 the following questions	<i>Field not completed.</i>
7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications,	The following is a brief synopsis of my pertinent activities in Whatcom county, as I believe they may relate to this position. Firstly and in general, i have been working tirelessly as a homelessness, advocate primarily in the greater bellingham area, but also across the county.

professional and/or community activities, and education

- April 2018, operating within leadership at the fledgling tiny home provider, HOMESNOW Not Later, and lacking support from local government in providing a space for us to built a tiny home village., I , along with volunteers, built and operated our county's first public shower truck.

(ShowersNow)

With this effort, we brought much needed hygiene products,other supplies, and literally thousands of hot showers. for folks who we're relegated to living on our streets and in our woods.

This effort was pivotal for both homes.Now, and of course, the folks we were serving.

The database we collected on the individuals experiencing homelessness in our community was extensive, and thorough, cataloging names, needs, and mental health, addiction, and other challenges relating to being unhoused.

This work was pivotal in not only tangibly demonstrating to government leaders, our ability to do it to serve impeccably to this very needy demographic, but also in developing personal relationships with litterally thousands of individuals living in our community, suffering from homelessness.

- January 2019 homes now was granted its first temporary tent encampment behind city hall, completely self funded and in partnership with the city, sheltering and stabilizing about 20 people through the winter.

- February 2019 as a blizzard blew into our county, which was to last for 6 weeks, myself and my fiance at the time, developed a massive network of a boots on the ground, Citizen Outreach Team

(COT), which served hundreds of people who were failing in our streets, with life saving supplies, rides to shelters, and a citizen funded hotel program.

Where we sheltered about two hundred people. With absolutely no shelter, beds available in our county, we formed partnership with the seventh day adventist church, on smith road, where we together served about 30 people per night, for about two weeks.

This is work that I have continued in various forms ever since.

- April 2019 homes now established its second tent encampment again, in partnership with the city of bellingham, located in the sunnyland neighborhood, on the "what com" 911 center parking lot.

- July 2019 I was encouraged by seated county council members, to apply for the newly formed " Homeless advocate" position on the Whatcom county homeless strategies work group, where I received strong support from the council in a 5 to 1 vote. Also at this time, homes now had Begun construction of it's first tiny home village in Fairhaven at post point.

This facility could house twenty three people.

- October 2019, after a scandal related to embezzlement by leadership at homes.Now, i was asked into leadership there on the board where I served as vice chair for the group, and spent

four nights a week, in residence at the village personally, continuing through 2020.

Notably through that first summer, and during the pandemic, we managed to stabilize and shelter over twenty people, for an astounding \$1600.00 per month.

•July 2020, I was unanimously reappointed to my homeless advocate position on the homeless strategies work group, which later disbanded in april of 2020.

•November 2020 as there were no shelter beds available in the county, a group of campers presented themselves on the lawn at city hall, asking for amnesty from a hostile policing policy of displacement.

Over the next few months, i participated in several negotiation meetings with the leadership of the city of bellingham.

My sole goal being getting these people sheltered.

And with the city requiring a nonprofit or group to indemnify them to do that work, I (with partners) formed Serenity Outreach Services Bellingham, specifically to serve that need, and to subsequently provide mutual aid to the homeless community for the next several years.

• 2023

I initiated and engaged several community leaders and the drafting of a document called "Big Lift."

Big Lift is a holistic plan to end homelessness it's through sheltering, services, and a continuum of housing culminating in home ownership.

Big Lift was a key component in the discussion of homelessness and housing during the campaign of that year for many public officials, with most of them embracing or fully endorsing the plan. The document is prominently featured. Most recently, in the resolution from whatcom county council, drafted in the summer of 2024, recognizing the crisis of homelessness and housing insecurity in our county.

I was very happy to be able to attend meetings on that drafting, with the big lift team.

I am happy to have had the influence over the county board of health and a health department, in ensuring government run sheltering, when no partners come forward to do that work.

In short, i have saved many lives in our community, and continue to advocate to make that happen.

I continue to petition, government leaders and employees, to meet the our mutual goals in ending homelessness and providing affordable housing.

I enjoy partnerships with multiple advocacies that are intersectional with the health of whatcom county, and also enjoy personal relationships and friendships. With most of the county council, currently seated.

I've been glad to have your ear, and partnership.

8. Please describe why

It is my goal to point out through this committee, the importance

you're interested in serving on this Advisory Group.

of, and intersectionality of homelessness and housing insecurity as it pertains to the health of all members of our county. When the unhoused are compromised, as we see right now in our streets during this winter event, it endangers the health of our entire community.

I am so grateful to the leaders of our county. If we're working with me in the past, and feel that joining this committee is the obvious next step to help get our mutual goals met.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

As reference, and in short, i refer to my personal relationships with those serving on the board of health, sheriff tanksley, prosecutor richey, and the other numerous public officials who I have had the pleasure of working with in my endeavors.

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Markis D. Stidham

Place Signed / Submitted

[REDACTED]

(Section Break)
