

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application
Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 3:31:13 PM

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	Robert
Last Name	Sullivan
Today's Date	12/9/2025
<div></div>	<div></div>
<div></div>	<div></div>
Zip	98248
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	Field not completed.
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Step 2

1. Name of Advisory	Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force/Law &
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Group	Justice Council
Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Position:	Health and Social Service Provider
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 5
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?	Yes
If yes, please explain	I work for Pioneer Human Services who pays rent to Whatcom County for the portion of The Anne Deacon Center that Whatcom Community Detox resides in
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	Attached

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

LICSW and SUDP in Washington State. I work as the Regional Director for Pioneer Human Services overseeing Whatcom Community Detox and ITUHA. I graduated with a Masters in Social Work in 2000 and have been in the field of behavioral health since 1989

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

I want to serve on the Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force Advisory Committee because I believe in practical, real-world solutions that reduce recidivism, improve access to behavioral health treatment, and strengthen pathways back into the community. My work overseeing detox and residential programs has shown me firsthand how early intervention, coordinated services, and stable support systems can change the trajectory of someone's life.

I'm interested in bringing the perspective of someone who works at the intersection of treatment, law enforcement partnerships, crisis stabilization, and system navigation. I'm used to rolling up my sleeves, facing messy challenges head-on, and pushing for approaches that are evidence-based rather than trendy. If a process doesn't work, I'm the type who will speak up — respectfully, but with purpose — and help fix it.

My goal is simple: keep people out of jail when treatment, support, and structure are the better answer. I value collaboration, accountability, and the continued evolution of our local response systems. Joining the advisory committee is an opportunity to contribute meaningful insight, bridge gaps between providers and policy, and help our county build solutions that don't just look good on paper — they work in real life.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Neil Guttenberg [REDACTED]
Patti Campbell [REDACTED]
Tori Sandos [REDACTED]

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Robert Sullivan

Place Signed / Submitted

[REDACTED]

(Section Break)

To the Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force (IPRTF) Advisory Group Selection Committee,

I'm putting my name in the hat for the IPRTF Advisory Group because this work matters — to our community, to the people entering and exiting our systems every day, and to those of us who have spent our careers in the trenches trying to make the system fairer, safer, and more effective. With more than 30 years in behavioral health leadership — including crisis stabilization, withdrawal management, jail-based treatment, and residential substance use services — I know the reality on the ground, and I know how much thoughtful coordination and policy alignment can improve outcomes for individuals and taxpayers alike.

I currently serve as Regional Director of Residential Treatment Services with Pioneer Human Services, overseeing Whatcom Community Detox, Skagit County crisis services, jail-based programs, and residential treatment operations with an annual operating budget exceeding \$10 million. My work involves building strong partnerships with law enforcement, hospitals, county departments, and community providers to reduce recidivism, increase care continuity, and divert individuals from costly incarceration when treatment is the more effective path. Compliance, data, and accountability are daily bread for me — WAC/RCW adherence, internal audits, fiscal stewardship, contract deliverables, and quality improvement are part of my normal workflow.

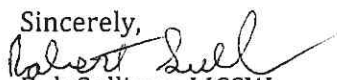
Across Alaska, New York, and Washington, I've supervised crisis units, detox facilities, RSAT jail programs, and behavioral health teams. I've staffed 24/7 services, managed clinical/medical teams, launched programming in correctional environments, and helped build systems that support recovery instead of revolving-door incarceration. I've seen what works, what burns out staff, and what truly moves the dial when stakeholders collaborate rather than operate in silos. My goal in serving on the IPRTF Advisory Group is to bring a practical lens — balancing innovation with what is realistic on the floor at 2 a.m. when a client is coming in cold, dysregulated, and unsure who to trust.

I believe I can contribute value in the following ways:

- Real-world systems knowledge in crisis stabilization, detox, and jail-based treatment
- Experience reducing barriers to diversion and treatment access
- Ability to translate policy into workable procedures for staff and clients
- Strong financial, regulatory, and program-management background
- Collaboration-focused leadership grounded in accountability and outcomes

Incarceration reduction isn't soft—it's smart. It saves money, strengthens families, and gives people a shot at a different future. I would be honored to support the Task Force in shaping strategies that reflect evidence-based practices, fiscal responsibility, and the lived reality of frontline service delivery.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the chance to serve and to contribute meaningfully to this work.

Sincerely,

Rob Sullivan, LICSW