

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application
Date: Friday, November 22, 2024 3:41:56 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	Mx.
First Name	Susan
Last Name	Marks
Today's Date	11/22/2024
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	Child & Family Well-Being Task Force
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Group

Child & Family Well-Being Task Force

Yes

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

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

Field not completed.

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

I am the Director of the Bellingham Whatcom County Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence. The SA/DV Commission changes systems so they work better for survivors and the community. We are a joint Commission of the City of Bellingham & Whatcom County. I have been working in the field to end gender-based violence for more than 2 decades, and in

and education

the past provided advocacy, support groups, shelter, and prevention education; my first job in the field was working with children who had been exposed to domestic violence and/or been sexually abused themselves. The SA/DV Commission is housed within Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS), which is our fiscal agent.

Additionally, I am a parent of two children, ages 8 and 12. I am a single parent and a survivor, and one of my children has special needs. I am involved with the Sunnyland Elementary School PTA and am on the Action Team of the Whatcom Coalition for Anti-Racist Education (CARE).

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

I am passionate about bringing the voices of survivors and their children into community conversations and planning, to center conversations about the effects of trauma and how to consider those needs when addressing related issues such as mental health, substance use, and housing/homelessness. Because sexual and domestic violence thrive in silence and societal myths and misconceptions, I believe it is important to specifically and explicitly talk about these problems as parts of related community efforts. This is a focus of our SA/DV Commission work currently - to align more clearly with other public health efforts so our community can continue to provide more holistic wraparound support. Our current projects include improving community responses for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP); increasing access (especially language access) for survivors to family court processes including divorce and parenting plans; and helping organizations to recognize, respond to, and refer people experiencing sexual and domestic violence (this includes working with schools, workplaces, healthcare providers, and faith communities.) Our efforts would be stronger with a connection to the County's Child & Family Wellbeing Task Force, and my knowledge and experience can contribute to the collective success of the Task Force.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Chris Roselli: 360.393.7114
Chris Kobdish: 360.303.7877
Beth Boyd: 360.788.8222

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Susan Marks

Place Signed / Submitted

[Redacted Signature]

(Section Break)