

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	Miss
First Name	keren
Last Name	gott
Today's Date	1/3/1977
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Step 2

1. Name of Advisory Justice Project Oversight & Planning Committee

Group

Justice Project
Oversight and Planning
(JPOP) Committee

Supportive housing subject matter expert, Behavioral health provider, Substance use disorder treatment provider, Recovery subject matter expert

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

Field not completed.

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
Director of Social Service
didgwałic Wellness Programs / Transitional Living Program
July 2023 – Present
• Provide executive leadership and operational oversight for

community activities,
and education

Housing, Mental Health, Peer Counselor, and Case Management programs.

- Develop and implement a transitional housing model from inception, serving individuals with co-occurring behavioral health diagnoses experiencing housing instability.
- Design trauma-informed, culturally responsive program structures integrating clinical care, peer support, and case management.
- Supervise, coach, and evaluate multidisciplinary staff, fostering accountability and professional development.
- Ensure compliance with federal, state, and grant-related regulations governing housing and case management services.
- Oversee resident intake, discharge, occupancy levels, and adherence to residential policies and program handbooks.
- Lead life-skills programming, including nutrition, budgeting, household maintenance, and professional development.
- Direct employment readiness planning and address barriers to workforce participation.
- Coordinate workshops, guest speakers, and community resources to support resident stability and success.
- Prepare monthly and annual programmatic and fiscal reports for executive leadership.
- Collaborate with the Finance Director on budgeting, financial review, and development of new funding opportunities.
- Maintain accurate electronic documentation, reporting, and professional correspondence.

Director of Housing Services II – Whatcom & Skagit Counties
Catholic Community Services of Western Washington (CCSWW)
– Bellingham, WA

August 2021 – July 2023

- Supervised and evaluated housing program staff across multiple counties.
- Ensured fiscal solvency and long-term sustainability of housing programs.
- Oversaw contract compliance, monitoring, and reporting requirements.
- Implemented and administered housing programs in compliance with HUD, SHP, and other housing-related regulations and grant outcomes.

Adult Services East Program Manager / Supportive Housing
Program Manager

Sound – Bellevue, WA

May 2019 – July 2021

- Ensured clinical excellence through oversight of standards of practice, key performance indicators, data analysis, training, and supervision.
- Managed program operations in compliance with agency, state, and federal regulations.
- Oversaw budgets, staffing, and performance across supportive housing programs.
- Supervised clinical supervisors and interdisciplinary teams.

CCAP / Adult Services Supervisor

Sound – Seattle, WA

January 2015 – May 2019

- Managed programs in compliance with federal, state, and county contracts and regulations.
- Oversaw group facilitation, individual treatment, assessments, and service delivery.
- Developed and implemented program policies and procedures.
- Supervised clinicians, interns, and support staff; conducted performance evaluations.
- Led professional training and clinical development initiatives.
- Maintained community partnerships and collaborative relationships.
- Managed financial components including RFPs, budgets, grants, and funding sources.
- Ensured client care aligned with the Reaching Recovery Model.
- Guided staff in meeting productivity standards and effective client engagement.
- Led program development initiatives to enhance service delivery.

Criminal Justice Liaison

Sound Mental Health – Seattle, WA

February 2012 – March 2013

- Developed long-term strategic partnerships with state, governmental, mental health, and substance use disorder agencies.
- Collaborated with law enforcement, CPS, DSHS, and DOC to coordinate client care and advocacy.
- Conducted assessments to identify client needs and inform treatment planning.
- Addressed systemic and interagency challenges with diplomacy and professionalism.
- Provided leadership support to multidisciplinary clinical teams.

Mental Health Clinician / Case Manager

Sound Mental Health – Seattle, WA

February 2010 – February 2012

- Conducted comprehensive intake assessments and developed individualized treatment plans.
- Provided advocacy and interagency coordination for housing and economic assistance (DOC, DSHS, SSI).
- Delivered therapeutic interventions addressing mental health and chemical dependency needs.
- Coordinated referrals for medical, mental health, substance use, and vocational services.
- Implemented treatment plans in accordance with state and agency requirements.

Intake Specialist / PAT Evaluator

Fairfax Hospital – Kirkland, WA

October 2009 – April 2011

- Determined psychiatric, medical, and financial eligibility for inpatient services.

- Conducted crisis intervention and comprehensive psychological assessments.
- Coordinated treatment planning with physicians, psychologists, and state DMHPs.

• Secured insurance authorizations for inpatient placement.

Corrections Mental Health Counselor

Washington State Department of Corrections – Walla Walla, WA

September 2007 – October 2009

- Provided individual and group therapy to incarcerated individuals.
- Developed and implemented treatment plans in accordance with federal and state guidelines.
- Participated in multidisciplinary treatment planning teams.
- Administered psychological assessments, including the MMPI, to support diagnostic and treatment decisions.

Adjunct Professor of Psychology

Walla Walla University – Walla Walla, WA

June 2007 – January 2009

- Developed and delivered undergraduate psychology curriculum.
- Designed examinations and evaluated student performance.
- Collaborated with faculty to ensure curriculum alignment and policy compliance.

EDUCATION, CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

Master of Arts – Counseling Psychology

Walla Walla University – Walla Walla, WA | 2007

- Graduate Student of the Year
- Selected to teach undergraduate psychology courses
- Assisted with longitudinal research on juvenile court recidivism

Bachelor of Arts – Psychology

Western Washington University – Bellingham, WA | 2003

Licensure & Certifications

- Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC)
- Mental Health Professional (MHP)
- CERT
- Certified CPI Trainer
- Certified Trainer in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (Trauma-Informed)

Advanced Training & Professional Service

- Crisis Negotiation
- Crisis Intervention Training for Law Enforcement (Washington State CJTC)
- King County Hostage Negotiator Selection Panel

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

I am deeply interested in serving on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee because the mission of the Justice Project Oversight and Planning Committee directly aligns with both my professional experience and my long-standing commitment to behavioral health, housing stability, and criminal legal system reform in Whatcom County.

Throughout my career, I have worked at the intersection of

behavioral health, housing instability, and the criminal legal system. As a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) and behavioral health leader, I currently provide executive oversight of housing, mental health, peer counseling, and case management programs serving individuals with co-occurring behavioral health diagnoses who are experiencing housing instability. I developed a transitional housing model from inception, integrating clinical care, peer support, and case management within a trauma-informed and culturally responsive framework. This experience positions me well to contribute to JPOP's charge to monitor implementation progress and recommend updates grounded in operational realities.

My previous roles as Director of Housing Services with Catholic Community Services of Western Washington and Program Manager with Sound required rigorous oversight of contract compliance, HUD and state regulations, fiscal sustainability, and measurable performance outcomes. I routinely prepared monthly and annual programmatic and fiscal reports, collaborated on budget development, and ensured accountability to funders and governing bodies. These responsibilities closely mirror JPOP's role in identifying metrics for performance accountability and contributing to annual reporting to the County Council.

As a Criminal Justice Liaison and later as a Corrections Mental Health Counselor with the Washington State Department of Corrections, I collaborated with law enforcement, courts, DOC, and community partners to coordinate care and reduce barriers to reentry. Earlier in my career, I provided clinical services to incarcerated individuals and participated in multidisciplinary treatment teams focused on rehabilitation and risk reduction. This perspective enables me to understand both the systemic challenges and the human impact of incarceration, an essential lens for advancing the goals of the Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force.

I am particularly motivated by JPOP's focus on measurable outcomes and long-term systems change. Effective incarceration prevention requires not only vision, but disciplined implementation, data-informed decision-making, and cross-sector collaboration. My background in program development, staff supervision, and community partnerships equips me to support thoughtful oversight while maintaining a focus on equity, public safety, and recovery-oriented care. Appointment to this council would provide the opportunity to apply my clinical expertise, operational leadership, and criminal justice experience in support of the thoughtful and responsible implementation of the Whatcom County Justice Project. I would be honored to bring my experience, accountability mindset, and collaborative leadership approach to the JPOP Committee in service of Whatcom County.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Beverly Keyes CEO Didgwalic Wellness Center (360)591-9793
Emily Sebastian HR Business Partner Didgwalic Wellness Center (360)588-2800 ext 3038

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Keren Gott

Place Signed / Submitted



(Section Break)
