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**WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**

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Memorandum

TO: COUNTY EXECUTIVE SATPAL SIDHU

**FROM: CHRIS D'ONOFRIO & BARBARA JOHNSON-VINNA,
HOUSING SPECIALISTS, WHATCOM CO. HEALTH DEPT.**

DATE: 02/09/2021

**RE: APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHATCOM COUNTY
HOSUING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WCHAC)**

The Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee's ad-hoc nominating committee recommends the appointment of three new members to replace prior members who have reached the ends of their term limits.

Ashley Thomasson is the Housing Programs Director at Lydia Place. She has an extensive background of work in the housing services field, having worked directly with clients as a case manager and as a supervisor and then director helping to coordinate and delivery services to vulnerable Whatcom County residents seeking housing stability. Her twelve years of experience and knowledge of public funding structures will be an asset to the committee as the committee gathers input related to funding recommendations and areas of community need.

Deanna Wildermuth is the Executive Director at Interfaith Coalition, a local organization working to end homelessness and poverty. Their extensive range of services, support from diverse faith communities, and network of over 1,400 volunteers means that the organization can bring a unique voice and perspective to the committee. The experience Interfaith has gained working in both public and privately-funded housing programs will be an asset to the committee.

Dean Fearing is Executive Director at Kulshan Community Land Trust and has experience in the field of housing development for low-income residents of Whatcom County. Mr. Fearing will bring a new voice to the committee and help expand the focus into affordable housing development and home ownership opportunities. His expertise will be an asset as the committee looks beyond direct responses to homelessness and addresses some of the conditions that contribute to housing instability.

Barbara Johnson-Vinna

Chris D'Onofrio

