

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:	SM	7/12/18	<b>RECEIVED</b>  JUL 17 2018  WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL	July 24, 2018	Council
Division Head:					
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:					
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:	TLS	7.16.18			

**TITLE OF DOCUMENT:** *Appointment to the Northwest Senior Services Board*

**ATTACHMENTS:** *NWRC Executive Director correspondence with appointment recommendation; New candidate application.*

SEPA review required?	( ) Yes	( X ) NO	Should Clerk schedule a hearing?	( ) Yes	( X ) NO
SEPA review completed?	( ) Yes	( X ) NO	Requested Date:		

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:** *(If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)*

*County Executive Jack Louws requests confirmation of his appointment of Kathleen O'Connor to the Northwest Senior Services Board.*

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

**COUNCIL ACTION:**

**Related County Contract #:**

**Related File Numbers:**

**Ordinance or Resolution Number:**

**Please Note:** *Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: [www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council).*



RECEIVED

JUL 2 - 2018

JACK LOUWS  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

*SUZANNE,  
PLEASE MAKE  
THIS HAPPEN  
TAX  
4  
2*

July 2, 2018

TO: Whatcom County Executive Louws

FROM: Dan Murphy, Executive Director *DM*

SUBJECT: Recommendation to the NWSSB

Currently, there are two openings on the Northwest Senior Services Board (NWSSB) for Whatcom County. Recently we heard from an interested community member, Kathleen O'Connor, who would like to serve on the board. She learned about the opening county through an advertisement in the Northern Lights.

Ms. O'Connor has an extensive volunteer and employment history. In the past she has worked as a professor of sociology and academic dean in higher education. In addition, she has served many United Methodist congregations in Whatcom County.

On Friday, the Board's Interview Committee met with Ms. O'Connor and unanimously decided to recommend her for appointment to the NWSSB. Prior to the interview, she submitted the Boards and Commissions application to the County. Should Ms. O'Connor be appointed, Whatcom County would have only one vacancy on the NWSSB.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.



## Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

### Public Statement

*THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission 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.*

First Name	Kathleen
Last Name	O'Connor
Date	5/25/18
Street Address	7806 BIRCH BAY DRIVE CONDO 113
City	BLAINE
Zip	98230
Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Primary Telephone	2538319818
Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	<u><a href="mailto:gkoconnor@yahoo.com">gkoconnor@yahoo.com</a></u>
1. Name of Board or Committee	<b>Northwest Senior Services Board</b>
Position applied for	n/a
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. Are you a US citizen?	Yes
5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes

6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county? No

7. Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission? No

8. 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

You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions

*Field not completed.*

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

I retired in June, 2018 after 20 years of service as a United Methodist clergy (M.Div.) Previously I was a college dean (10 years) and Sociology professor (15 years with Ph.D. in sociology). I have participated with senior programs at most of Whatcom County's senior centers plus those of Okanogan County where I have recently completed a short term part-time ministry assignment. I have served as a hospice chaplain through St. Joseph Hospital in Tacoma and navigated two rounds of my own cancer treatment in Whatcom County which has taught me much about our health care system. I pastored for five years in Whatcom County and served on the Board of the Interfaith Coalition during that time as well as served in the Lions Club. My church assignments in this country included Nooksack Indian United Methodist Church in rural Everson, Nooksack Valley United Methodist Church in Nooksack, Custer United Methodist Church, and Garden Street United Methodist Church in Bellingham so that I have visited my parishioners in Sumas, Deming, Maple Falls, Glacier, Blaine, Birch Bay, and unincorporated Whatcom County as well as the municipalities of the churches. I have lived in Mexico and maintain high intermediate fluency in Spanish which has been helpful in my recent part-time ministry assignment in Okanogan. I have maintained my legal and voting address in Birch Bay for the last 12 years and now am back in retired full-time residence there. I can bring representation of native and Hispanic concerns as well as connection to the faith-based world of churches and agencies. I have lived and served in both rural/small town and urban areas as well as given service in higher educational institutions which can and should play a role in the community including the world of senior services.

10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission

I bring both an insider and outsider perspectives given my professional and residential experiences of recent years. I am interested in reconnecting in leadership and service now that I am back full-time in Whatcom County. At almost 71 years old, I represent the older boomer generation as we enter our retirement years where we are open to new and innovative ways of getting things done including the world of activities and services for and with our senior communities in all of their wonderful variety. Given the size and dispersal of our county and its ethnically diverse residents, we need to be especially creative in how we understand their worlds and interests. I bring my own world of experiences as well as a readiness to learn and contribute to what already exists.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Rev. Mary Huycke (recent past supervisor, 509-961-8138) Becky Strand (former neighbor, retired teacher, 425-228-6287) Jeanne Boyd (former parishioner, community activist, 206-852-3093)

Signature of applicant:

Kathleen O'Connor

Place Signed / Submitted

Birch Bay, WA