

# KING COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPLICATION FORM



King County

**PLEASE NOTE:** Information provided on this form will be a public record subject to free and open examination by any person under the Washington State Public Records Act (RCW 42.56.250). However, while we will disclose the applicant's name, the applicant's address, phone number and email address will be redacted.

Thank you for your interest in serving on a King County board or commission. Individuals selected to serve on a King County board or commission will also be required to complete a King County Ethics Program Financial Disclosure Form within two weeks of being nominated to serve on a King County board or commission. Individuals appointed to serve on a board or commission that is overseen by an agency independent of King County government are exempt from the financial disclosure filing requirement.

**I'm Interested in serving on the (Board or Commission Name):**

King County Youth Advisory Board

**Your name:**

Tobey Close

**Preferred Contact Information:**

Address	18 Dravus St, Apt 407
City, State, Zip Code	Seattle, WA 98109
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
Cell Phone	360 632 2283
Email Address	Tobey.close@kinder.org

**Physical Home Address (REQUIRED if different from preferred mailing address):**

Home Address	
City, State, Zip Code	

**Current Employer:**

Job Title	Early Intervention Occupational Therapist
Date of Employment	3/1/18-current

Company Name	Kindering Center
Street Address	16120 NE 8 <sup>th</sup> St.
City, State, Zip Code	Bellevue, WA 98008

**King County Council District (Please type an "X" in the box to the right of your district)**

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  Don't Know

**Have you served on any other Board, Commission, or committees? Please list them below:**

Board, Commission or Committee Names	Year Appointed	Term Expired
N/A		

**Please explain why you feel you are the most qualified candidate for this appointment.**

I have devoted my career to supporting children and their families. Much of my experience with children has focused on supporting underserved populations, particularly children with developmental delays and families experiencing challenges such as homelessness, mental illness, substance use, and trauma. I love my career as an Occupational Therapist, and working in early intervention gives me unique insight into how best to support children ages birth to three in their home environment and how best to give families the skills they need to be the most sensitive, warm, and responsive parents they can be. I am also a trans\* person and identify as gender non-binary. My experiences growing up and entering the workforce as a visible minority member have given me unique insights into the ways our system disadvantages many populations, and I hope to be a voice for those who do not feel they have one. My work and personal experiences have given me the insight and tools to be an effective board member, and I hope to use my knowledge and experience to inform county leadership in a broader way than I am able to do in my direct work with families.

**How did you learn of this opportunity?**

I was informed of this opportunity and encouraged to apply by Kindering's Chief Program Officer, Jennifer Ajumogobia.

**In King County, equity is fundamental to the society we wish to build. Our end goal is for full and equal access to opportunities, power, and resources so that all people may achieve their full potential. The Children and Youth Advisory Board incorporates these values and has adopted its own equity statement. The CYAB works to build an inclusive board that includes the voices of underrepresented populations, people of color, immigrants and refugees, LGBTQ individuals, low-income households, youth, the elderly, rural residents, people living with disabilities and more.**

**Please describe your experience with and/or commitment to promoting equity. What opportunities do you see for the CYAB to incorporate the voice of all communities in King County?**

I began my work promoting equity as a teacher at Childhaven, a school-based therapeutic center for children who had experience neglect and abuse. I found while working there that children of color and those with backgrounds of housing instability, mental illness, and intergenerational trauma were much more highly represented than in the general population. These were statistics I had read about, but it was different to experience them first hand. My work there was focused on creating stable, nurturing connections to help children build safe attachments again, and I loved that work. I returned to school for a Masters in Occupational Therapy, and much to my dismay found that most of my classmates were cisgender, straight, and white and from middle to upper-class backgrounds. As someone who looked different, I felt very alone. I found myself more alone when I questioned, continually, the assumptions in our assigned readings and class discussions, assumptions based on a heteronormative and white culture, where families all looked the same. It concerned me that these biases would be passed on to therapists working in hospitals, schools, and homes with some of society's most vulnerable populations. I work now in Early Intervention as part of the Families in Transition team, which supports families experiencing homelessness and housing instability. I love that my work gives me the chance to support families so directly, and I view every day of my work as an opportunity to promote equity. But I would also like to influence change on a broader level and would love the chance to inform the policies that affect these families. I think the best way for the CYAB to promote equity is by recruiting board members from a variety of backgrounds, with a variety of identities, who can represent a diversity of voices in King County, and I would like to be one of those voices.

**Do you hold any professional licenses, registrations or certificates in any field (Please type an "X" in the box)?**

Yes  No

**If you hold any professional licenses, please list them here:**

Occupational Therapist License

### **PERSONAL INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)**

The King County Council and the King County Executive are committed to inclusiveness and outreach to all King County residents to ensure that King County boards and commissions are reflective of the community we serve. Providing information in the section below is voluntary but will assist in achieving this goal.

**How do you identify?**

Race/Ethnicity:	Caucasian
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Gender:	Non-binary
Sexual Orientation:	Queer
Preferred Pronoun: <i>(he/him; she/her; they/them, etc.)</i>	They/them

**Do you have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act? (Please type an "X" in the boxes that apply to you)**

Yes  No

**Generation Range (Please mark an X to the right of the age range that applies to you)**

30 or younger  31-41  42-52  53-63  64-74  75 or older

**Person to notify, in case of an emergency (OPTIONAL):**

Name:	Meghan Mooney
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
Cell Phone:	253 961 4087

**Agreement and Signature**

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Name <i>(typed or signature)</i>	Tobey Davis Close
Date	11/15/19

**Please return completed form to: Kerry Wade, Best Starts for Kids Community Partnerships**  
[kwade@kingcountv.gov](mailto:kwade@kingcountv.gov)

*(You can either mail your completed form to us; scan your completed form then email it to us as a PDF attachment; or after filling out the form and typing your name on the signature line, save the completed form to your hard drive and then attach the completed form to an email.)*

· Rick Ybarra, Liaison for Boards and Commissions  
 King County Executive Office  
 401 Fifth Ave, Suite 800  
 Seattle, WA 98104  
 Direct Line: 206-263-9651

Email: [Rick.Ybarra@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Rick.Ybarra@kingcounty.gov)

**This material is available in alternate formats for persons with disabilities.  
Please contact 206-263-9651, TTY Relay: 711, or  
e-mail [Rick.Ybarra@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Rick.Ybarra@kingcounty.gov)**