

# Seattle-King County Continuum of Care Board

## Application Form

Please complete the entire form and email to [CoC.Questions@kcrha.org](mailto:CoC.Questions@kcrha.org)

### Full Name and Pronouns:

Kristina M Sawyckyj

### Preferred Contact Information:

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Phone:  | +1 (206) 501-7262      |
| Email Address:  | sawyckyjk@seattleu.edu |
| Preferred Method of Contact:<br>(Circle One)  | Text                   |
| Zip code:   | 00000                  |
| Are you able to commit up to<br>15 hours a month for the 2<br>year duration? (Circle One) | Yes                    |

### Question 1: Please describe your understanding of a Continuum of Care (CoC).

Continuum of care, within the homeless community, refers to the practice of providing consistent and coordinated entry into services to support my unhoused neighbor's exit from homelessness. The continuum of care begins from initial contact until the last supportive tenancy support is received, as it is a gamut or range from one side to the other.

### Question 2: What motivates you to be on the CoC Board?

Please share your specific field of interest related to the CoC.

My specific interest lies within the ways I live and relate within this space. I am currently homeless. I am a homeless, multiracial, LGBTQIP2SAA+. Two-spirited, military veteran, physically, intellectually, behaviorally disabled person in recovery with adult children who are necessary for me to live, as I need live-in caregivers. I have a severe brain injury, PTS/moral injury, depression, incomplete spinal cord injury, & accompanying disabilities from these injuries. I am working toward my master's degree with aspirations to get my law degree. I have a small business.

I am motivated by the fact that I am homeless and people within our community still see homelessness as a choice. I am not choosing this. I am choosing to better myself and work hard toward self-improvement/growth. I am motivated to bring my current voice of the unhoused forward, while bring voices of my neighbors forward, with their approval. My unhoused neighbors are dying by my side, some freezing to death, some dying with cancer, some dying with infection...no person in King County should freeze to death outside but tell that to the 5 that have died outside from hypothermia in 2024. I am motivated to see homelessness end. I am motivated to see my brothers and sisters no longer cry from the pain of living outside or the struggles from issues...that tear them apart inside-leading to homelessness or the youth telling me how their parents threw them out because they loved "differently", dressed "differently" or felt "differently" then parental expectations allowed (term used by parents) or because they wanted to pursue art instead of a trade, as they pick me up off the ground after falling. Youth with such big hearts that they look out for me...and I never have to ask. Everyone deserves housing! That's what motivates me.

**Question 3: What skills and experiences will you bring or draw upon as a member of the CoC Board?**

Please list any experiences or familiarity you have with accessing homeless housing services or program delivery, funding, the Continuum of Care, or other relevant skills.

I am a grant writer. I have training in conflict resolution and love to draw upon this training and experience. I have training in the trauma-informed realm of critical thinking. I will draw upon experiences of being currently homeless and my lack of ability to access coordinated entry or homelessness services through KCRHA. No programs were present to prevent homelessness for me.

I have 8 years of experience reading programs submissions and ranking their proposals through King County. My experience also includes evaluating program delivery and providing feedback and a report to the larger body of governance.

**Question 4: Describe your vision or understanding of a successful CoC Board.**

Team-work, communication, more communication, successful staff support...with Alex and Catherine, the COC has staff who are willing and ready to support the COC in the work moving forward to develop a plan to become action-oriented to move forward on ideas and suggestion to help move King County forward towards addressing the homeless public health & human rights crisis. The King County Regional Action Framework is broken, as it is time to work towards a strong foundation for collaboration and coordination which the COC can do. Its time for stronger teamwork, equitable access (for once), and good communication to make this an even better COC board. My vision is of us getting stronger and moving forward.

**Question 5: Describe your leadership experiences.**

For example, other boards you have been a part of, community groups or leadership activities.

Seattle Disability Commissioner (commission expiring), Seattle Human Rights Future-Commissioner (up for appointment), King County Healthcare for the Homeless, King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board, Several transit boards, Governor Inslee's Poverty Action Workgroup, Governor's Disability

**Question 6: How does systemic racism impact housing and the root causes of homelessness?**

Systematic racism from discrimination, from boarding schools, to erasure of culture & heritage & language, to removal from Indigenous lands meant to NOT be owned by human but as a gift from Creator, to being forced onto lands not our own and forced to live in accordance to ways not familiar or welcomed while stealing children....being forced to farm in European ways, not in the ways of our Elders by through the Land-Education passed on from generation to generation by Elders. Systematic racism is the damage done to communities by aggressive, colonizers with dollars signs in their eyes and harm in their ways. This damage continues to be perpetuated upon communities by the white-colonizer and his ways...taken lands, forced labor, culture extinction, violence upon familial units are among many causes of homelessness...thanks to colonizers, capitalizers, the privileged, the wealthy, the land hungry, the ableists with all the other ...ists out there keeping people down, even without intention.

Personally living the effects of Catholic boarding/damaging schools from birth until now understanding that generational trauma is a huge piece of systematic racism that impacts housing and damages the familial bonds that damage causing many additional root causes of homelessness.

**Question 6: Reviewing the Theory of Change what is one way you apply this theory in your everyday life and work? Briefly, describe how you will center the theory of change on the Board and how you plan to uplift the communities you represent and support.**

**KCRHA Theory of Change:**

If we create a homeless response system that centers people with lived experience, then we will be able to focus on responding to needs and eliminating inequities, in order to end homelessness for all.

So, when are we going to start this?...I was part of the group when our community met with NIS and had these discussions. I always center the community I am involved within or am part of, this is part of my vary nature but I also know that I do not understand it all even within the communities that i represent. I frequently ask for permission to share, review what I hear, clarification of everything. offer forgiveness when I make a mistake, and I begin the process all over again. I live with the premise of social justice and with social justice, our efforts to begin reducing homelessness will occur. I believe whole-heartedly in equity based decision making but have not seen it at KCRHA. I would push for equity-based decision making on the COC and within the system performance making committee. Its time the COC board becomes action-oriented and fights for making adjustments. According to the KC mortality report, individuals with disabilities disproportionately die at a proportion then out non-disabled counterparts. teh COC needs to do more to get out disabled population housed versus discharge from the hospital to the streets. As a homeless person frequently discharged to the streets, I would continue to uplift the voice of our disabled population by making sure our needs are included ( as our needs are frequently stuffed behind other voices) and brought forward. That smudging or other Indigenous practices are not excluded from housing policies but a normal part of the conversation when housing is offered. Or a service dog or emotional support cat is included, not the exception to the rules...our voices and needs are important too and need to be brought forward. Like the fact that the deaf/blind community was excluded from the point-in-time count but I can name 5 deaf/blind unhoused neighbors. I will continue to listen and hear what they say, adn with their permission bring their stories forward.

**Question 6: Optional: Is there any resource you would need in order to fully participate as a CoC Board Member?**

Yes

**Affiliation (please note any that apply):**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Lived experience of homelessness (circle)  | Yes   |
| Public or Private Funder (circle);<br>If yes, please note organization   | Yes<br>Organization: Seattle-King County Public Health Department |
| Intersecting System – i.e. Behavioral Health, Child Welfare, Criminal Justice, etc. (circle);<br>If yes, please note system & organization | Yes<br>System & Organization: King County Behavioral Health       |
| Faith Based Organization or Partner  | No  |
| Homeless Housing and/or Service Provider (circle)<br>If yes, please note organization)   | No<br>Organization:   |
| Any other affiliations you'd like to note:   | Yes   |

**Sub-Population Representation (please check any areas in which you have specific experience or expertise):**

Chronic Homelessness, Single Adults (Not experiencing chronic homelessness and non-Veteran), Domestic Violence, Veterans, American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous Communities, Other

**Region (please check any areas in which you have specific experience or expertise):**

Seattle, North King County

**Identity (optional):**

|                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| How do you identify your race? | Multiracial: Aleut Ancestry |
| Sexual Orientation             | LGBTQQIP2SAA+. Two-spirited |
| Age                            | Elder                       |
| Disability Status              | Very much so                |

**Agreement and Signature**

**I affirm that my application responses are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.**

|                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Name ( <i>typed or signature</i> ) | web-form@smartsheet.com |
| Date                               | 04/28/24 6:40 PM        |

**When you have completed this form, please submit the final to the KCRHA at [CoC.Questions@kcrha.org](mailto:CoC.Questions@kcrha.org). Thank you!**