



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: *Jessica Tollenaar Cafferty*

Board or Commission Name: *Families Education Preschool and Promise Levy Oversight Committee*

Position Title: *Member*

☒ **Appointment** ☐ **Reappointment**

***Term of Position:** *6/1/2026 to 12/31/2028*

☐ *Serving partial term (eligible for full terms thereafter)*

Appointing Authority: ☐ City Council ☒ Mayor ☐ Other: *Insert Appointing Authority*

City Council Confirmation Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Residential Neighborhood: *Representing King County Best Starts for Kids*

Appointee brief overview:

My career began in child care, working with young children with developmental disabilities in inclusive early learning settings. The experience instilled in me a deep commitment to strengthening systems and opportunity for families and was a catalyst for seeking a career centered on family wellbeing. After supporting and launching programs with local nonprofits focused on growing women's economic and leadership opportunity, I joined Best Starts as the Child Care Health Consultation Program Manager, where I oversaw the development of a strategy that invests in both traditional public health models and community-informed approaches of consultation to serve both licensed child care providers and Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) and informal caregivers.

Over the past two years, I have served as one of the two Co-Leads for Best Starts, responsible for leading more than 100 team members and stewarding nearly a billion dollars of public funds dedicated to working towards positive, healthy outcomes for kids, families, and community from prenatal through age 24. I am grateful to lead work so aligned with my values, and it is this same alignment that prompts me to submit my application to serve on this committee.

Appointing Authority Signature:

Date Signed:

04/29/2026

Appointing Authority Printed Name and Title:

Katie B. Wilson

Mayor of Seattle

Jessica Tollenaar Cafferty

Experienced leader dedicated to advancing racial equity, with expertise in child care and a passion for public service. Skilled in policy development, program design and implementation, strategic partnership development, advocacy and campaigns, and customer service, with demonstrated success in facilitation, organizational development, and project management.

Best Starts for Kids (BSK) Co-Lead

7/23-current

Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC)

Serve as the Co-Lead for King County's innovative Best Starts for Kids initiative, a six-year, voter-approved levy to support babies, children, families, and communities in King County to be happy, healthy, safe, and thriving.

- Provide vision, leadership, and oversight for cross-departmental implementation of a six-year, voter-approved levy focused on promotion, prevention, early intervention, and policy and systems change in partnership with more than 300 community-based organizations across King County
- Brief and support elected officials, and represent King County in public relations and external affairs
- Partner with Department and Division Directors to ensure alignment, outcomes, and effectiveness of Best Starts
- Hold strategic vision for Best Starts while making complex program, policy, and fiscal decisions for a \$900 million budget supporting more than 500 community-based programs and projects
- Provide leadership, guidance, and values-based support to more than 100 Best Starts team members, including evaluation, communications, fiscal, program, and policy teams

Child Care Policy Lead

10/19-7/23

King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)

- Provided leadership and supervision for King County's Best Starts for Kids child care programming, including \$200 million in new investments in child care subsidy and wage boost from 2022-2027; partnered with City and State agencies to distribute \$7.4 million in retention payments to more than 12,000 workers in child care settings in 2022
- Led development of three emergency child care programs during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing grants to child care providers and informal caregivers, guaranteed slots for essential workers, and subsidies for low- to middle-income families, and working closely with the City of Seattle, Child Care Resources, and School's Out Washington
- Provided leadership and content expertise on local, regional, and national child care and early learning services and policy strategies; participated in relevant work groups including those convened by the Department of Children Youth and Families; provided input in the development of a child care subsidy pilot for King County employees in partnership with the Joint Labor Management Insurance Committee
- Provided child care content expertise to the King County Schools and Child Care COVID-19 task force to support development of equitable public health guidance and response, and supports for child care providers and families
- Convened and facilitated the King County Children and Families Strategy Task Force, which developed twenty recommendations to expand child care access and affordability grounded in a foundational commitment to equity

Best Starts for Kids (BSK), Program Manager – Child Care Health Consultation

9/17-9/19

Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC)

- Led strategy, program planning, \$2.3 million annual budget, and evaluation for BSK's child care health consultation (CCHC) strategy supporting licensed and informal child care providers across King County; secured funding for an external evaluation of BSK and PHSKC programs to document models and analyze impact
- Held 18 focus groups and interviews with child care providers and analyzed findings for incorporation into RFPs; conducted internal listening tour with King County staff to identify challenges, opportunities, and key priorities
- Served as King County's legislative subject matter expert for child care topics, especially those related to health; supported content development for Executive testimony to the Department of Early Learning and testified in support of Infant Nurse Consultation in 2018

Women's Funding Alliance, Program Manager, Leadership

10/14-9/17

Built new programming to advance leadership for women and girls in Washington State by building strategic partnerships, managing investments in innovative programs and leveraging data and trends to inform and drive work.

- Managed grantmaking process and initiative investments, participating in development, implementation and assessment of annual and longer-term program plans and associated \$1.1 million program investment budget
- Led planning and launch of the \$1 million Girls' Leadership Organizations of Washington State (GLOW) initiative, supporting 14 girl-serving organizations across Washington and engaging over 15,000 girls over three years
- Led partnership to develop and launch pilot political leadership training for college women at three schools in Washington; oversaw process to refine and standardize curriculum and scale up program
- Produced community engagement and education events on key issues for 50-300 participants, and cultivated relationships with key stakeholders by engaging them in stewardship events and on committees and task forces
- Managed strategic partnerships with grant recipients, contractors, stakeholders and other funders, and coordinated opportunities for stakeholders to share best practices and set and evaluate shared goals
- Served as the organization's content expert; maintained a current and deep understanding of best practices and emerging trends in philanthropy and leadership development, and supported public policy work

Candidate for Shoreline City Council, Pos. 2

2/15-11/15

Ran a positive, issues-focused campaign for Shoreline City Council prioritizing policies to advance social and economic equity, invest in transit-oriented development, and support working families.

- Engaged thousands of residents while doorbelling and attending community events, forums and debates
- Built community support over a 9-month campaign by connecting with voters through grassroots canvassing campaigns and by phone, earning over 41% of the popular vote
- Raised over \$29,000 through strategic donor cultivation, cold calling and fundraising events

Washington Women in Need (WWIN), Program Coordinator

9/13-10/14

Oversaw and managed WWIN's healthcare and education grantmaking program, distributing over \$550,000 annually in over 100 education and healthcare grants to women in need in Washington State.

- Supported program planning and evaluative work; conducted an in-depth policy analysis of long-term client engagement and impact measurement, and developed and implemented improved grantee evaluation and selection processes, resulting in the first multi-year funding program
- Led outreach to share programming opportunities with partners; cultivated relationships with past grantees

UW Impact, Legislative Advocacy Intern

3/13-9/13

Northwest Center Kids @ Chinook, Lead Teacher

10/10-9/12

Haggard Nelson Childcare Resources, Lead Teacher

1/10-10/10

Education Information

Master of Public Administration, Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, Univ. of Washington

June 2014

- Pi Alpha Alpha, National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration
- 2012-2013 Fellow, Daniel J. Evans Endowment for Excellence in Public Service

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, University of Washington

June 2010

Relevant Experience and Training

- King County Bridge Fellow, 2018-2019
- Public Health Leadership Institute, 2018
- National Women's Political Caucus of Washington, Past Board Member
- Children's Campaign Fund Board of Directors, Past Board Member
- 10+ years experience working in restaurants and hospitality, specializing in front-of-house customer service

Families Education and Promise Levy Oversight Committee

17 Members: Pursuant to [Ordinance 127238], 12 members subject to City Council confirmation, with initial term provision for positions 1, 3, 6, 9, and 11 being 18-months to establish staggered terms. 2-year terms for all positions thereafter.

- 6 City Council-appointed
- 6 Mayor-appointed
- 5 By Ordinance

Roster as of [insert date]

Position Number	Position Title	Appointee Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	*Term Number	Appointed By
1	Member	Amruta Mane	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	City Council
2	Member	Fathima Garcia	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	City Council
3	Member	Leon Garnett	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	City Council
4	Member	Erica K. Johnson	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	City Council
5	Member	Gabriel de los Angeles	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	City Council
6	Member	Sofia Michelakis	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	City Council
7	Member	James Williams	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
8	Member	Jessica Tollenaar Cafferty	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
9	Member	Girard Montejo-Thompson	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	Mayor
10	Member	Lizbet Huizar	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
11	Member	Lakeya Afolalu	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	Mayor
12	Member	Zamzam Mohamed	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
13	Mayor of Seattle	Katie Wilson	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
14	Libraries, Education and Neighborhoods Committee	Maritza Rivera	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
15	School District Superintendent	Benjamin Shuldiner	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
16	School District Board Member	Joe Mizrahi	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
17	Chancellor of Seattle Colleges	Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238

Self-identified diversity chart

Appointing Authority	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-Binary	N/A	Asian	Black/ African American	American Indian/ Alaska Native	White/ non-Hispanic	Hispanic/ Latinx	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multi-racial	N/A
Mayor														
Council														
Other														
Total														

City Council districts represented

*P is for partial initial term. Appointee is eligible for full terms thereafter.