



# Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions City and Borough of Sitka

Board/Commission/Committee: Health Needs & Human Services Commission

Name: Elise Davidson Kitka Preferred Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Residence in Sitka: 6 years Registered to vote in Sitka?  Yes  No

Employer: Sitka Counseling & Prevention

Organizations you belong to or participate in:  
Sitka Counseling - Prevention Dept., H.O.P.E. Coalition (Healing Our People & Environment)

Explain your main reason for applying:  
I am interested in collaborating with community partners to identify human service needs and strategize to better address these needs in our community.

What background, experience or credentials will you bring to the board, commission, or committee membership?  
I come from a behavioral health/youth services background and am currently working as the Program Manger for the Prevention Department at Sitka Counseling.

Please disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from your appointment. These may include but are not limited to:

- A substantial financial interest of \$1000 annually that could be influenced by your appointment.
- An immediate family member employed within the scope of this appointment.

N/A

Please attach a letter of interest, outline, or resume which includes your education, work, and volunteer experience that will enhance your membership.

→ (To be considered, your application must be complete AND be accompanied by one of the above supporting documents.)

Date: 2/16/2023 Signature: Elise Davidson Kitka

Your complete application and resume should be returned to the Municipal Clerk's Office by noon on the Wednesday prior to an advertised Assembly meeting.

Please note: all information submitted will be made public and published online. Appointments are normally made during open session of an Assembly meeting, however, Assembly members may vote to discuss applicant(s) in closed executive session. In this case, do you wish to be present when your application is discussed? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Return to:  
Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk/Records Specialist, 100 Lincoln Street  
Fax: 907-747-7403 Email: clerk@cityofsitka.org

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# Elise Davidson Kitka

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF QUALIFICATIONS:

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- ❖ Strong leadership skills with experience in nonprofit program management and administration, as well as management of a 24-hour facility in accordance with State of Alaska licensing requirements.
- ❖ Passionate about working with people from an inclusive, strength-based, and solution-focused perspective.
- ❖ Dynamic, adaptable and resilient with an energized and innovative approach to problem-solving under pressure.
- ❖ Committed and driven to affecting positive change at various levels within an organization for the greater purpose of affecting change for people and communities in Alaska.
- ❖ Ready to work professionally and collaboratively as part of a team with a sense of dedication to influencing a workplace culture founded in integrity and building on the strengths of individual players.

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## EDUCATION:

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**Bachelor of Child and Youth Care**

September 2011 – September 2015

*Humber Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning*

- ❖ This four-year specialized baccalaureate program was grounded in the combined disciplines of child and youth care, psychology, counseling, sociology, community development, and political science. I was trained to focus on utilizing a trauma-informed, strength-based, developmentally appropriate, and culturally humble approach to support the holistic development of children and youth within the context of their families, communities and broader socio economic and political environments in a wide variety of settings and circumstances.
- ❖ There was a strong focus on supporting Indigenous youth and communities as well as other diverse groups woven throughout the program. I learned of the cultural and historical context that frames many of the challenges we observe today as the result of intergenerational trauma of Indigenous people. It fueled a passion within me for continuing to learn more about the ways in which I could learn how to be a powerful ally and a changemaker in partnership with underserved populations.

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 TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS:
 

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<b>Mandt Supporting Successful Leadership</b> <i>Leadership development &amp; team-building for managers, The Mandt System</i>	March 2022
<b>Mandt Certification Training</b> <i>Nonviolent crisis prevention &amp; de-escalation, The Mandt System</i>	March 2022
<b>Transition to Independence Process (TIP)</b> <i>Supporting youth in a planning process of preparing for a transition to independence, Stars Training Academy</i>	July 2021
<b>Frontline Leadership</b> <i>The Alaska Training Cooperative, UAA Center for Human Development</i>	January 2021
<b>Wilderness First Responder (WFR)</b> <i>Aerie Backcountry Medicine</i>	March 2020
<b>200-hr Hatha Yoga Teaching Certification (RYT with International Yoga Alliance)</b> <i>Gyan Yog Breath Institute in Rishikesh, India</i>	October 2018

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**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:**

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**Prevention Program Manager**  
*Sitka Counseling & Prevention*

November 2022 - Present

- ❖ Bringing forth my skills and passion in supporting youth and families to create and implement supportive programming to prevent substance misuse.
- ❖ Mentoring under the Prevention Program Director to gain instrumental skills in prevention leadership to lead a team of individuals in implementing strong prevention initiatives in the community.

**Youth Residential Services Program Coordinator**  
*Youth Advocates of Sitka (YAS)*

March 2019 - November 2022

Coordinating and managing youth residential behavioral health services, where I gained invaluable skills in the following areas:

- ❖ Leadership of a dynamic 24/hr program and facility and perseverance through many changes within the organizational climate and specifically COVID-19.
- ❖ Coordinating training and professional development opportunities for staff, promoting team development, and also prioritizing individual supervision.
- ❖ Coordinating quality programming and services for clients who come from all over Alaska with diverse backgrounds and unique strengths, challenges and needs.
- ❖ Working closely with a clinical treatment team and communicating with community partners to enhance opportunities for youth and to increase the quality of care we can provide.
- ❖ Ensuring the Residential Program is in compliance with licensing requirements as per the State of Alaska Department of Health & Social Services.
- ❖ Taking lead on a leadership role within an on-call rotation of supervisors to provide training materials, coaching and scheduling for other supervisors to provide 24-hour on-call support and access to crisis management support for clients and staff.
- ❖ Ongoing innovative problem-solving for continued program improvement; and extending that far past my immediate responsibilities to always plug in to any other area of the organization as a whole to see where my leadership and strategizing may be of use to propel our mission forward of empowering and supporting Alaskan youth and

families.

- ❖ Stepping up and taking on the role of Co-interim Executive Director to support the YAS team during a transition in leadership; while continuing to effectively oversee the Residential Program and acting as a reliable and dedicated support to staff and clients.

**Wilderness Expedition/Behavioral Health Specialist**

Sept 2017 - January 2019

*Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) Behavioral Health - Raven's Way (Yeil Jeeyax)*

- ❖ Providing care and therapeutic programming for disadvantaged youth from all over Alaska who face challenges around substance use, challenging home environments, and subsequent mental and behavioural health challenges.
- ❖ Facilitating chemical dependency classes and support groups while using a harm-reduction/trauma-informed approach.
- ❖ Fostering a safe space conducive to experiential learning through a combination of wilderness-based, community-based, and residential-based programming.
- ❖ Connecting youth with community resources and protective factors to assist them in setting themselves up for successful rehabilitation from drugs and alcohol while building towards a healthy future.

**Wilderness Guide/Behavioral Health Associate**

March 2016 – August 2017

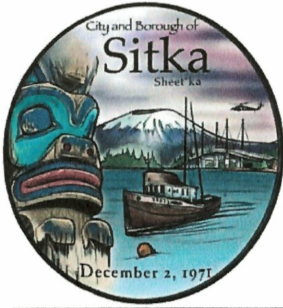
*Alaska Island Community Services (AICS)/SEARHC – Alaska Crossings*

- ❖ Guided groups of Alaskan youth between the ages of 12 and 18 on therapeutically-focused wilderness canoeing/tarp camping/mountain hiking expeditions in Southeast Alaska as a means of providing them with psychosocial support, training in basic life skills as well as advanced outdoor recreation/wilderness and survival, self-exploration and an opportunity to enhance their capacity for resilience in the face of extreme challenges.
- ❖ Taught basic and advanced hard skills used to survive in challenging backcountry environments in order to foster the development of self-efficacy and resilience among youth, including skills in survival such as fire-building, compass navigation and cold-water safety/canoeing techniques.
- ❖ Facilitated innovative recreational and therapeutic programming in a remote and unconventional setting using limited supplies to set an environment in which youth could explore various topics and work through emotional challenges.

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References Available Upon Request

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## Health Needs and Human Services Commission

NAME	CONTACT NUMBERS	TERM STARTS	EXPIRES	CATEGORY
TRISTAN GUEVIN 200 Seward Street	907-738-5415 tristan.guevin@gmail.com	3/23/21 2/9/22	1/8/22 2/9/25	Vice Chair
LAKOTA HARDEN 113 Metlakatla Street	907-747-3636 ext. 224 510-827-7689 lharden@scpsak.org	3/23/21 11/8/22	11/26/22 11/8/25	
ANNETTE EVANS PO BOX 902	406-5791936 wannita12@yahoo.com	1/24/23	12/8/23	
<i>DOUG OSBORNE 222 Tongass Drive</i>	<i>907-966-8674 douglaso@searhc.org</i>	<i>1/27/15 10/24/17 11/10/20</i>	<i>10/14/17 10/24/20 11/10/23</i>	<i>Resigned 1/31/23</i>
<i>ELLIE LO RE 700 Etolin Street</i>	<i>301-518-0097 elore@scpsak.org</i>	<i>1/26/22</i>	<i>8/24/24</i>	<i>Resigned 8/1/22</i>
<i>ALBERT (ALEC) DUNCAN 2716 Halibut Point Road Space #21</i>	<i>907-738-0975 albert.duncan@sitkatriben-sns.gov</i>	<i>4/13/22</i>	<i>11/9/24</i>	<i>Resigned 8/31/22</i>
<i>LEXI FISH HACKETT 228 Lakeview Drive</i>	<i>907-738-5684 fish.lexi@gmail.com</i>	<i>4/13/21</i>	<i>4/13/24</i>	<i>Resigned 2/18/22</i>
Jess Earnshaw Deputy Clerk	907-747-1826 jessica.earnshaw@cityofsitka.org			Secretary
Crystal Duncan PO Box 174	907-738-1910 assemblyduncan@cityofsitka.org			Assembly Liaison
Kevin Mosher 100 Lincoln Street	907-752-0467 assemblymosher@cityofsitka.org			Alternate Assembly Liaison

Established by Ordinance 2013-23

7 members, 3-year terms. A vacancy on the commission shall be filled by appointment by the Assembly for any remainder of an unexpired term.

Meeting schedule: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month; Noon at Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive  
– Meetings are to be held no less than four times per year.

Revised: February 6, 2023