



CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

APRIL 12TH, 2021

Present: Alicia Hanning, Anne Granberg, Astrid Newell, Beverly Porter, Brian Nelson, Carol Frazey, Debbie Ahl, Gregory Hansen, Jamie Desmul, Jen Wright, Keith Montoya, Komal Shah, Mara Kelley, Mary Sewright, Melissa Isenhardt, Mike Ford, Monica Koller, Ray Deck, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Jed Holmes, Sterling Chick, Urvasi Graham, Vesla Tonnesson, Yarrow Greer, Chris Cochran, Escarleth DeLeon, Silvia Johnson

Not Present: Brian Heinrich, Katrice Rodriguez, Lummi Nation

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
Welcome	<p>Introductions, land acknowledgement, housekeeping and review of agreements led by Lewin Consulting.</p> <p>Land Acknowledgement:</p> <p>I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are here today on the ancestral homelands of Indigenous Peoples who have lived in the Salish Sea basin and the North Cascades watershed from time immemorial, in particular, the Lhaq'temish (LOCK-tuh-mish) people who we recognize today to be the Lummi Nation, the Nooksack Tribe, and Semiahmoo.</p> <p>May we be mindful of the inherent owners of this land, our children, who are our future. Our future stewards of the land and advocates for the generation to come. May that truth guide our work and efforts to improve the well-being of all families and children, native and non-native, living in this beautiful county.</p> <p>This land acknowledgment is not meant to be a substitute for authentic relationship-building and understanding. It is meant to introduce us to one way we can show respect and honor for the sacrifices of the first people of this land.</p> <p>Please join me in expressing the deepest respect for our indigenous neighbors, and gratitude for the enduring stewardship of our shared lands and waterways.</p>
Approve Meeting Minutes	No amendments to discuss, minutes from March 22 nd , 2021 were approved as presented.
Equity isn't equal.	<p>Kenesha Lewin provided a recap on equity from the last meeting. The question, "What came up for you?" was asked.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphic of the two students portraying all reaching the same level, but different students needing higher levels of support to reach that level. • Intersection of inequity in different ways, the invisible parts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "What can we do as task force members to see what we are not seeing?" – naming as much as we can will open opportunities for others to speak up. <p>"What does Equity mean for you?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting the needs of others and respecting them. • Retraining the thinking of going to other people's tables versus creating space at the table. • In this group the relationship building being the first step to holding space.



<p>How do we define “well-being”?</p>	<p>The definition for well-being: a noun, the state of being comfortable, healthy or happy.</p> <p>“What does “well-being” mean to you?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A self-measurement can mean different things to different people. • Having access to choices. • Taking care of myself, my family, and others. Reciprocity. • Access to resources to overcome challenges. • “Well” in all areas including physical, mental, and spiritual health. • Respecting the diversity in approach to well-being. • Being seen and having a voice and a choice in the system. <p>As the task force navigates this process, having a common understanding of well-being is helpful to the work. Keep a lens on the community members we hope to help, and whether that community is being represented in the conversation. To summarize, this task force defines well-being beyond being a noun, the state of comfortable, healthy and happy. This task force can be the movers and shakers of accomplishing this in Whatcom County.</p>
<p>Propose work groups and outline options</p>	<p>There is a need to balance the time spent on reflection and space to develop, and time to do the work. Initially, creating space for relationship building is foundation building. In May we will begin small work groups working together on specific areas, then bringing that work to the larger group.</p> <p>The ordinance outlines four areas for focus:</p> <p><i>Children and Families First</i> – What offices are in place; what infrastructure would help?</p> <p><i>Increasing Family Involvement</i> – Recommend ways to integrate more involvement from parents, caregivers, and stakeholders (specifically BIPOC families). Identify barriers.</p> <p><i>Resources and Funding</i> – Identify immediate gaps to fill, where dollars are being used for supporting children and families, and recommend fiscal opportunities.</p> <p><i>County-Community Collaboration</i> – Create a results framework by participating in the upcoming Results-based Accountability workshop series on early childhood well-being. Identify and recommend specific actions for County government to support community identified strategies and results. Contact Judy Ziels if interested in this work group and participation in the workshop.</p> <p>The first 30 minutes of these task force meetings will be sharing updates of the work group and then breaking out into each group.</p> <p>This is an introduction to what is coming, more to come at the next meeting. Further discussion will occur on bringing in community members to assist in these work groups.</p> <p>The shared slide and contact information will be sent out to members following the meeting.</p> <p>A report to Whatcom County Council is due June 1st, 2021.</p>
<p>Open Public Meetings Act Training</p>	<p>As a government entity, and in an effort to be transparent, this task force is required to comply with the Open Public Meetings Act. The attending members were trained on OPMA compliance, RCW 42.30.</p> <p>Training material and certification opportunities are available for those that were unable to attend.</p> <p>Discussion occurred on the meeting, what constitutes a meeting and the need to have a conduit for email communication to comply.</p> <p>At the next meeting a discussion will be added during housekeeping time to determine if member contact information should be shared amongst members.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Closing</p>	<p>“Norms and notions on what just is, isn’t always justice” – Amanda Gorman</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Next regular meeting: April 26th, 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Location: Virtual</p>