



CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

JUNE 14TH, 2021

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

Not Present: Brian Heinrich, Chris Cochran, Gregory Hansen, Monica Koller, Sarah Cook, Sativa Robertson, Silvia Johnson

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
<p>Welcome</p>	<p>Introductions, land acknowledgement, housekeeping and review of agreements led by Lewin Consulting.</p> <p><u>Land Acknowledgement:</u></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> <p>Link to images provided by Project 562 https://www.instagram.com/project_562/?hl=en</p> <p><u>Agreements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and self-care come first. • Be kind and gentle with yourself and others and assume everyone is coming from a positive place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Everyone has the best intentions. ○ Listen with an open mind and heart. • Be mindful of this space. Step-in and step-out/Step-up and step-back. Offer your truth and insights and listen to others' truths and insights. • Treat each other with honor and grace. We are all working under difficult circumstances. • Embrace diversity. Remember that we all come from different backgrounds giving us different perspectives and only when we embrace that diversity can we develop creative solutions to address the child and family well-being needs in Whatcom County. • What is said here stays here. • Have fun.
<p>Approve Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>No amendments to discuss, minutes from May 24th, 2021 were approved as presented.</p>



<p>Upcoming events, community shares and shout outs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vesla and Keith graduated from the Parenting Training Leadership Institute. Plan to bring the program to Whatcom County. Seeking facilitators in our community. Here is a link to job descriptions for English and Spanish speaking Parent Leadership Training Institute facilitators. We are looking for 8 local facilitators for each language cohort https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PySZbGmA7n59u9mN7sbNK9LzGNAPaCbZ?usp=sharing • Jen Wright for advocated with State Attorney General’s office about the OPMA training not representing diversity, also included typical power dynamics. The managing deputy Attorney General has reviewed all of the materials to update. • Allison is presenting to Council on the update for Phase 1 of this task force tomorrow. https://whatcom.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx • Astrid shouted out to the members also participating in the Healthy Whatcom work. This all ties together. • Kenesha gave a shout out to all of the participants in this meeting. The dedication and work.
<p>Sharing work group plans and goals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources and Funding update – A lot of discussion on how to proceed. Connecting and learning from experts in the field about fiscal mapping, process, potential outcomes. Planning to review the Early Learning Frameworks building blocks. When reviewing the budget, it appears 3.7% of the budget goes towards 17 and under, this is heavily towards the Health Department, and 0.7% of that is allocated to children under 5. Under 5 represents about 5% of the population. Around half of that 3.7% is used towards Juvenile Court. There is an opportunity to reallocate this funding to align with population demographics. Reviewing the new money that is available due to COVID, and existing allocation. It was observed that the entire group is white presenting. Money is power and this may need more representation in this group. A big focus is making sure everyone has a voice in directing these funds, and respect is shown for the work that has been done before. • Children and Family First update – Reviewing different office structures and evaluating models that can be replicated in Whatcom County. In the two meetings that have been held the focus has been relationship building. The next steps are to review and develop recommendations based on models that could be useful to Whatcom County. • County-Community Collaboration update – Results Based Accountability is a decision-making framework to help guide policy makers. Right now, the Healthy Whatcom Team is working on RBA work shops related to early childhood. Many of this group are working with Healthy Whatcom so processing this work in that lens, with a that information. The break out time has been used to talk through emotions and questions related to the data and stories. As the solutions are identified, this work group will bring that back to this task force. • Increasing Family Involvement update – The first meeting was relationship building. The conversation has been around the need of a shift at County government, empowering BIPOC families and participants in policy change. Family participation needs to drive the policies and practices that impact them. Discussing some barriers in systems, racial discrimination, preventing families from having safety and trust. Reviewing the Racial Equity Commission, discussed cross department joining GARE, and also discussed learning more about Public Health Advisory Board.
<p>Task Force structure for making recommendations about a permanent solution to child care</p>	<p>In Feb 2020 the Whatcom County Council passed the Child and Family Action Plan and committed to the four proposed next steps to implement the plan recommendations (both votes 5-1-1 with Byrd opposed and Donovan absent). American Rescue Plan was passed, funneling money to counties to use as they see fit. Council members Frazey and Browne created a resolution to use these funds to find a permanent solution to child care in Whatcom County. It was recommended to bring it to this task force to make permanent recommendations. A sub-group of 9 members was created to review how to do this best. The recommendations need to be presented back to Whatcom County Council in September. Of the 9 members, 7 members indicated a comfort level of “4” and 2 members were at a “5” when rated using Fist to Five for approval to bring it to this group. The recommendation is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Resource and Funding Workgroup should take leadership in developing recommendations for the County Council. The process should include learning from what has been done to date, engaging with families, childcare professionals, and the childcare coalition. And, members of this Task Force with a keen interest in this process, should be able to join this work group temporarily. <p>Final recommendations would be presented to this work group before presenting to Whatcom County Council.</p> <p>Council member Frazey expanded on this information sharing that if bringing in people to add to this work, bring in people whose voices are not usually heard, and make a permanent solution that would be in place for generations to follow. This is for a specific funding source.</p>

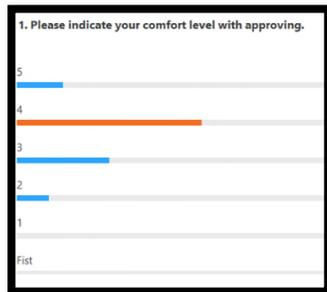
It is recommended that we use the work “sustainable” because the word “permanent” to allow for this ask to feel possible.

With adjustments:

- The Resource and Funding Workgroup should take leadership in developing recommendations for sustainable childcare to the County Council. The process should include learning from what has been done to date, engaging with families, childcare professionals, and the childcare coalition. Members of this Task Force with a keen interest in this process should be able to join this work group temporarily. The workgroup will give the task force an update at each meeting with time for conversation.

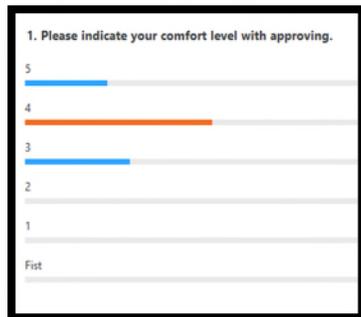
The task force used Fist to Five to decide about this recommendation. Due to the agreement made at the 5/24/21 meeting:

1. If a fist is indicated on the “Fist to Five” poll there will be further discussion.
2. If anyone indicates a two or less there will be up to three rounds of discussion with a vote after each round. The final round if there is a fist or two and below the proposal will be taken off the table and edited based on discussion points, then resubmit at the next meeting.



More discussion occurred. New recommendation:

- The Resource and Funding Workgroup should take leadership in developing recommendations regarding the “Permanent Affordability of Childcare in Whatcom County” resolution for sustainable childcare to the County Council. The process should include learning from what has been done to date, engaging with families, childcare professionals, and the childcare coalition. And, members of this Task Force with a keen interest in this process, should be able to join this work group temporarily, with the workgroup giving the task force an update at each meeting with time for conversation.



<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Rachel Lucy – Appreciating the work that is being done, looking forward to contributing to a work group. Emily O'Connor – Thanked everyone for the work and look forward to supporting this work. Heather Flaherty – Enjoying listening in to the work being done.</p>
<p>Closing</p>	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Next regular meeting: June 28th, 2021 Location: Virtual</p>