



**CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE**

**MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

**Present:** Alicia Hanning, Anne Granberg, Annie Taylor, Beverly Porter, Carol Frazey, Escarleth DeLeon, Jamie Desmul, Keith Montoya, Komal Shah, Melissa Isenhardt, Mike Ford, Ray Deck, Samya Lutz, Sterling Chick, Vesla Tonnesson, Yarrow Greer

**Not Present:** Brian Nelson, Chris Cochran, Debbie Ahl, Gregory Hansen, Jed Holmes, Jen Wright, Mary Sewright, Monica Koller, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Sarah Cook, Sativa Robertson, Urvashi Graham

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
<p><b>Welcome</b></p>	<p>Introductions, land acknowledgement, housekeeping and review of agreements.</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. 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><a href="https://www.lhaqtemish.org/">https://www.lhaqtemish.org/</a> -Lhaq'temish Foundation</p> <p><u>Agreements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family and self-care come first.</li> <li>• Be kind and gentle with yourself and others and assume everyone is coming from a positive place.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Everyone has the best intentions.</li> <li>○ Listen with an open mind and heart.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Treat each other with honor and grace. We are all working under difficult circumstances.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• What is said here stays here.</li> <li>• Have fun.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Fist to Five Consensus Tool</a></p>

<p><b>Approve Meeting Minutes</b></p>	<p>No amendments to discuss. Minutes from February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 were approved as presented.</p>
<p><b>Upcoming events, community shares, shout outs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The job description for the new childcare specialist position is complete, should be posted in two to three weeks, and be open for two to three weeks. When the job closes, a group will be created to review applications and provide an interview panel. At least one person from this task force will be included in this group, the goal being a collaborative community effort to find the right person for this role. This position was quicker to define due to having program specialists in the Health Department. The Child and Family Manager position is a new position that still needs to be clearly defined and developed. This will be done during the second quarter of this year and will include getting together with this task force to identify priority areas. There will be more to come including a timeline and engagement with this task force.</li> <li>• SEAS was awarded by the Health Department to expand navigation services to include support to perinatal populations, which is a new area. In the future, they will offer supports for resource navigation for all families with children under age 5, using the Help Me Grow Framework.</li> <li>• Sk'aliCh'elh-tenaut is an Orca that was captured and has been living in Florida. The orca will no longer perform for the public at Miami Seaquarium. It is hopeful that she will come home.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Update from the Children's Initiative Committee</b></p>	<p>Heather Flaherty and Meredith Hayes were guest speakers to provide an update on the ballot initiative. Meredith shared that the last update was on the broad work being done behind the scenes on this initiative. The key function areas being used to finalize and conduct outreach around this are early learning and care, mental health and trauma reduction around homelessness, and an element of accountability and oversight. It is a hope for this task force to provide oversight and accountability. Over the next 4 to 6 weeks of finalizing the draft, discussions to occur around what is the role of the task force, how can we embed accountability into it, providing a real focus that fund administrators and anyone that receives these dollars are given the tools for accountability. As we come back and spend more time digging in, these are some of the questions that will be discussed.</p> <p>Heather indicated that the initiative is around 85% complete and looking forward to coming back to discuss this further and work together to allow the task force to provide oversight.</p>
<p><b>Draft Report to Council: Review, Discussion, and Input</b></p>	<p>The task force was provided a link to the draft report to Whatcom County Council, providing 15 minutes to review. The next step will be to endorse this report or discuss what may be holding one back from offering an endorsement. <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VQ8TwBIH6TYwyq15ONrjsvf31EzmcbVi0WiXi1I7Zbc/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VQ8TwBIH6TYwyq15ONrjsvf31EzmcbVi0WiXi1I7Zbc/edit?usp=sharing</a></p> <p>After review individually, the task force reviewed section by section and allow time for discussion. Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tables for strategies related to Healthy Whatcom are great, but do not provide a lead-in or explanation as to why they are included. When looking at the strategies and the lists, there is concern that the representation of the "x" on the table will be misinterpreted. Suggestion was made to outline the "recommendations" and add comments of clarity. A thumbs up check in about the chart was requested for consensus to determine how to revise. Proposal to remove the origin document and potentially have an asterisk that these are a compilation of recommendations from represented groups. The consensus supported this.</li> <li>• It was suggested that the graph on page 17 is not the correct graph to use for this report. A thumbs up check in resulted in support to find another graph or image to replace this. It was suggested to construct something using the data from the fiscal map.</li> <li>• It was brought up that in the ordinance that created this task force there is a clear expectation for three reports. This is the second which expects the report to "develop and establish methods to increase and</li> </ul>

stabilize funding streams for child and family programs, services, and infrastructure” due in March, 2022. This report is not addressing this. Due to the deviation from this expectation, an explanation to begin the report is recommended. Thumbs up check in resulted in supporting this recommendation.

The task force members were requested to vote through the Fist to Five Consensus, showing support to the report as it is with the recommended changes and formatting edits to be provided. Any further work will come back to the next meeting as an addendum to be voted on as support.

The task force voted and a consensus was reached.

### Fist to Five

Poll | 1 question | 16 of 16 (100%) participated

#### 1. Fist to Five Consensus Vote (Single Choice) \*

16/16 (100%) answered



Allison Williams will receive minor edit recommendations thru the end of day Wednesday.

#### Meeting Feedback - Members

This link is a way to capture feedback on the meeting, and provide input on agenda items. This will be available through Wednesday.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf59ubhjlYXFZQJa0pXGgQQ5HhwJ1jamGFzjQLXS6-zZC1hKQ/viewform>

#### Public Comment

No Public Comment

#### Closing

Adjourned at 4:59pm

#### Next Meeting

**Next regular meeting: March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Location: Virtual**