



CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

MARCH 28TH, 2022

Present: Alicia Hanning, Anne Granberg, Annie Taylor, Beverly Porter, Brian Nelson, Carol Frazey, Jamie Desmul, Jen Wright, Keith Montoya, Komal Shah, Mary Sewright, Mike Ford, Monica Koller, Ray Deck, Samya Lutz, Sterling Chick

Not Present: Chris Cochran, Debbie Ahl, Escarleth DeLeon, Gregory Hansen, Jed Holmes, Melissa Isenhardt, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Sarah Cook, Sativa Robertson, Urvasi Graham, Vesla Tonnesson, Yarrow Greer

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
<p>Welcome</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.</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>https://www.lhaqtemish.org/ -Lhaq'temish Foundation</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><u>Fist to Five Consensus Tool</u></p>



<p>Approve Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>No amendments to discuss. Minutes from March 14th, 2022 were approved as presented.</p>												
<p>Upcoming events, community shares, shout outs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update that some Health Department staff will be transitioning out of supporting the Task Force, and there are now three vacancies on the task force. • Skookum Kids is hosting a poker tournament fundraiser on May 13th. https://give.skookumkids.org/event/charity-poker-tournament/e395934 • North Side Community Church is building an all-inclusive playground. There are opportunities to volunteer or donate through the website. www.northsidepark.org 												
<p>Report to Council: Additional Recommendations</p>	<p>Feedback that had been provided in editing the phase II report to Whatcom County Council was incorporated, and some additional content was included.</p> <p>The task force reviewed section by section and allow time for discussion. No challenges or further discussion was brought up.</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WewulxEr6ZZPsyLnv1Ph83WvOfsnQfky8tC4x6CujRk/edit</p> <p>The task force members were requested to vote through the Fist to Five Consensus, showing support to the report as it is.</p> <p>The task force voted and a consensus was reached.</p> <p>Three task force members were unable to be included in this vote, all indicated a five in chat.</p> <p>1. Fist to Five Consensus Vote (Single Choice) *</p> <p>13/13 (100%) answered</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Fist</td> <td>(0/13) 0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>One</td> <td>(0/13) 0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Two</td> <td>(0/13) 0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Three</td> <td>(1/13) 8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Four</td> <td>(5/13) 38%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Five</td> <td>(7/13) 54%</td> </tr> </table>	Fist	(0/13) 0%	One	(0/13) 0%	Two	(0/13) 0%	Three	(1/13) 8%	Four	(5/13) 38%	Five	(7/13) 54%
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<p>Letter from Children and Families First Workgroup to Council</p>	<p>Whatcom County and the County Council requested input from the Resources and Funding Workgroup on how spend the large amount of funding coming from ARPA funds. The Children and Families First Workgroup was approached by Whatcom Childcare Coalition to propose a way for proposals to be submitted to County Council on ways to spend this money. There are certain pathways and structures to reach County Council, and this falls directly within the mandate of this task force. The coalition is requesting we sign along with them on a letter to Whatcom County Council and County Executive outlining specific ways to get proposals to them.</p> <p>Meredith Hayes was an invited guest to share further information on this. As the Childcare Coalition met recently and received updates on funding allocations, it became apparent that there is no clear and transparent pathway to request use of these ARPA dollars towards the support of childcare in Whatcom County. The hope is to create an</p>												

equitable pathway to propose use of the ARPA dollars in a useful and effective way, leading to expanded access to quality childcare. The letter proposed and requested for this task force to sign in support was shared.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ak-PDcp0obLt66dRXYCgFRQ5WVRfilot/edit>

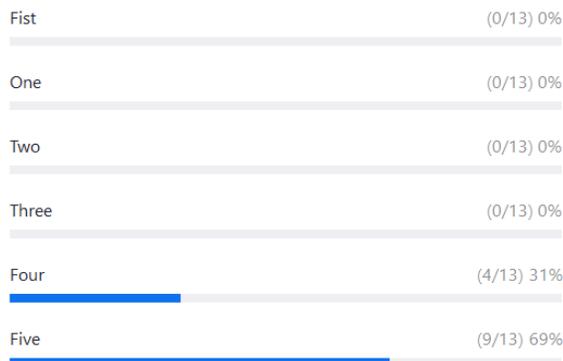
The task force members were requested to vote through the Fist to Five Consensus, showing support to sign the letter along with the Childcare Coalition.

The task force voted and a consensus was reached.

Three task force members were unable to be included in this vote, all indicated a five in chat.

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

13/13 (100%) answered



Update and discussion on proposed ballot initiative – Elements of the draft; potential role of this task force

A presentation was shared related to the ballot initiative. One of the potential new funding streams to fund the initiative is property tax of 30 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value would generate \$8.2 million a year, and be a cost of around \$100 per year on average per property owner. This would require voter approval. The fund would be very specific in how it is used related to child and family well-being.

The overarching goal is that children are safe, healthy and ready to learn; families are strong, stable, and supported from the start; and our community is a supportive and welcoming place for children and families to live and thrive. The priority areas for this goal would be early learning & care, strong support for families.

In the mechanisms for accountability, there is a hope that this task force will be an oversight as a represented community advisory body. Specific request includes two pieces: one is initiation and review of the spending plan and the second is an evaluation of fund effectiveness to meet stated purpose and goals.

The ordinance is going to council on 4/19 for a potential vote on 5/3.

Questions that arose:

- Concern about task force members that work for a local government advising on other local governments.
 - The conflicts of interest is going to need to be discussed and figure that out moving forward.
- Why the 7-year option for review when major elections are on every 2 years?
 - This is feedback that will be taken back to be discussed.
- This task force has a lot of volunteers and the annual report and evaluation being assigned to this task force would be a heavy lift. Is there an intention to provide a third party to take the lead and process the evaluation?
 - Yes, currently working with fund administration to address this and trying to figure out what is the right amount of expectation for this task force to take on.
- Are there any other funds that have an external evaluator?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Samya Lutz said the City of Bellingham’s housing levy does not have one because they folded the levy into a process that the federal government requires and is reported on in a transparent way to HUD and the public so there is not a need to do so. Heather Flaherty indicated that the evaluation has not been applied to some other funds like EMS levy. Allison Williams indicated Best Start for Kids requires an evaluation. Ray Deck shared a lot of federal funds require such an evaluation and that specialists are usually used to do such evaluations. The nature of the funding often calls for an external evaluator to get an external perspective. <p>There will be a Fist to Five vote at the next task force meeting on this task force supporting the proposed ordinance and being an oversight community advisory body.</p>
Meeting Feedback - Members	<p>This link is a way to capture feedback on the meeting, and provide input on agenda items. This will be available through Wednesday.</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf59ubhjlyXFZQJa0pXGgQQ5HhwJ1jamGFziQLXS6-zZC1hKQ/viewform</p>
Public Comment	No Public Comment
Closing	Adjourned at 5:28pm
<i>Next Meeting</i>	<p>Next regular meeting: April 11th, 2022 <u>Location: Virtual</u></p>