



CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

APRIL 25TH, 2022

Present: Alicia Hanning, Sunshine Nelson, Beverly Porter, Brian Nelson, Escarleth DeLeon, Gregory Hansen, Jamie Desmul, Jed Holmes, Jen Wright, Keith Montoya, Komal Shah, Mary Sewright, Sterling Chick, Urvasi Graham, Vesla Tonnesson,
Not Present: Anne Granberg, Carol Frazey, Chris Cochran, Melissa Isenhardt, Mike Ford, Monica Koller, Ray Deck, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Samya Lutz, Sarah Cook, Sativa Robertson, Yarrow Greer

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
<p>Welcome</p>	<p>Introductions, land acknowledgment, housekeeping, and review of agreements.</p> <p><u>Land Acknowledgement:</u> 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. 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. 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. 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>Fist to Five Consensus Tool</p>



<p>Approve Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>No amendments to discuss. Minutes from April 11th, 2022 were approved as presented.</p>												
<p>Upcoming events, community shares, shout outs</p> <p>Proposal about TF Representative to Interview Panel for Strategic Initiative Program Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beverly shared positive feedback about the Earth Day celebrations hosted by Children of the Setting Sun Productions featuring youth leaders in the area. Sadie Olson from the Lummi Nation was one of the speakers. • The Parent Leadership Training Institute will be hosting their first Whatcom County graduation on May 14th at 11:00am. Around twenty parents will graduate from the program in Whatcom County Council chambers. Invitation to come. • Come As You Are, a newly formed parent peer support group is meeting three times a month and is hosted by two moms and a dad: https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/124gsMXytKy8ENALKFou_i3VHAuaH9CfK <p>Executive's Office is receiving applications for the new Strategic Initiative Program Manager. When it closes the HR department will review and choose top candidates to pass along to the Executive's Office. The Executive's Office is looking for a community interview panel to represent different groups, including one or two representatives from this task force. There will be a pre-established set of questions, and will include some specific to the panelists. The time commitment can be spread out between different representatives. Those that are interested please email Allison Williams the questions or interest in joining. AWilliam@co.whatcom.wa.us.</p>												
<p>Proposal to Revise Fist to Five Decision-Making Process</p>	<p>The co-chairs are proposing a change to the Fist to Five Consensus. Currently, if there are any fists, 1 or 2 we have a discussion and then vote again. We do these two more times and if no consensus we come back at a later date with a revised proposal and continued discussion.</p> <p>The proposed amendment will make the third vote a simple majority.</p> <p>The task force was asked to provide a Fist to Five consensus on this amendment.</p> <p>1. Fist to Five Consensus Vote (Single Choice) *</p> <p>14/14 (100%) answered</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Fist</td> <td>(0/14) 0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>One</td> <td>(0/14) 0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Two</td> <td>(1/14) 7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Three</td> <td>(4/14) 29%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Four</td> <td>(5/14) 36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Five</td> <td>(4/14) 29%</td> </tr> </table> <p>Due to one member voting a "two", discussion occurred. Jed Holmes spoke up to indicate that when consensus is not reached it can be presented to the public that the majority supported although consensus was not reached.</p> <p>A second vote supported the amendment. This vote was done visually and in chat, all voted 3 or above so it passed with consensus.</p>	Fist	(0/14) 0%	One	(0/14) 0%	Two	(1/14) 7%	Three	(4/14) 29%	Four	(5/14) 36%	Five	(4/14) 29%
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Resources and Funding Workgroup Letter to Council Regarding ARPA Funds for Child Care

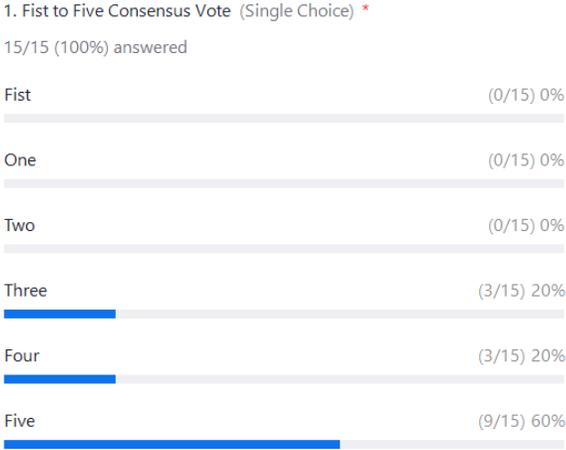
Judy Ziels presented and asked this task force to add their name to a letter of support for a proposal from the Opportunity Council to Whatcom County Council to request ARPA funds to be used for child care. This request to use funds is specifically outlined in the letter.

The Resources and Funding Workgroup worked through the summer to make recommendations in October on how to use ARPA funds for supporting child care. The first priority was to increase child care workforce stabilization, development and compensation. Whatcom County Council allocated \$6 million of ARPA funds to child care in 2022: half for capital projects and the other half for workforce retention and development. The City of Bellingham Council approved the allocation of approximately \$1 million in ARPA funds.

The proposal going to Whatcom County Council is for \$2 million dollars, working on Stabilization and Retention Grants (\$1.56 million), Workforce Scholarship and Business Development (\$294,043), and Emergency Child Care Vouchers for Families (\$94,729), specifically allowing flexibility for businesses to use funds in ways to best support their business.

The Opportunity Council would like to partner with the task force and get support for this proposal going to Whatcom County Council. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bkOrCdrD6Q4AVSMcg2SK7Q0lt6MQfa2JUrxY-xiuF_k/edit

The task force was asked to provide Fist to Five Consensus about adding the task force name in support of this letter, as written, to support the proposal.



The task force voted and met consensus.

Proposal Regarding Task Force Organization Processes and Procedures

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1omC4ZxQ-GG1otCMj9rCYSp16yCHPA7pdYIUEM0K4Yus/edit>

The Co-Chairs and staff support have been reviewing task force organization, processes, and procedures, with some proposals to be discussed in adjusting these.

The desire is to clearly define the responsibilities of task force members and Health Department support staff. Discussion followed to identify what task force members feel the members' responsibilities should be.

- Vesla said there is a need to clarify what it is being asked of this task force before focusing on roles and responsibilities, and clearly identify expectations of the Health Department staff both in this task force and in the full department work to support the county in children and family well-being.
- Allison responded that about a year ago there was discussion on where the county is supporting children and families. There was a budget review to identify the cost of general funds being directed towards this. There will be a follow-up to share more about the budget and what the county government already does.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith mentioned commitments and would like to identify what the minimum commitments are to be a task force member. This would include how many meetings can be missed, and identify if there is an expectation to participate in workgroups. • Allison shared that a general request has been made to move meetings to monthly full task force meetings, and meetings of subcommittee/workgroups based on need. Need to clarify if participation in subcommittee work is an expectation for each member. • Vesla wonders if our subgroups as currently defined are still relevant. • Komal is wondering about the vision of those who drafted the Whatcom Working Towards Wellbeing Action Plan: What did they hope this task force would accomplish and are we doing it? The action plan says it is modeled off the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction task force- what was successful about that group and should we look at what has made it work? • Several people indicated in chat support for one regular full task force meeting a month.
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/1FAIpQLSf59ubhjlyXFZQJa0pXGgQQ5HhwJ1jamGFzjQLXS6-zZC1hKQ/viewform</p>
Public Comment	No Public Comment
Closing	Adjourned at 5:30 PM
Next Meeting	<p>Next regular meeting: May 9th, 2022 <u>Location: Virtual</u></p>