



CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

OCTOBER 9, 2023

Present: Allison Bishop, Anne Granberg, Beverly Porter, Carol Frazey, Chelsea Johnson, Christina Jackson, Colton Redtfeldt, Jamie Desmul, Jen Wright, Kayla Schott-Bresler, Jason Oldham, Mary Sewright, Monika Mahal, Pamela Jons, Ray Deck, Samya Lutz, Tilda Doughty, Vesla Tonnesson

Not Present: Gregory Hansen, Katherine Orłowski, Mike Ford, Samantha Cruz Mendoza, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Sarah Kidd, Sativa Robertson, Sterling Chick, Vann Dartt

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
Welcome	<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.</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. 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 – Amended 4.25.22</p>

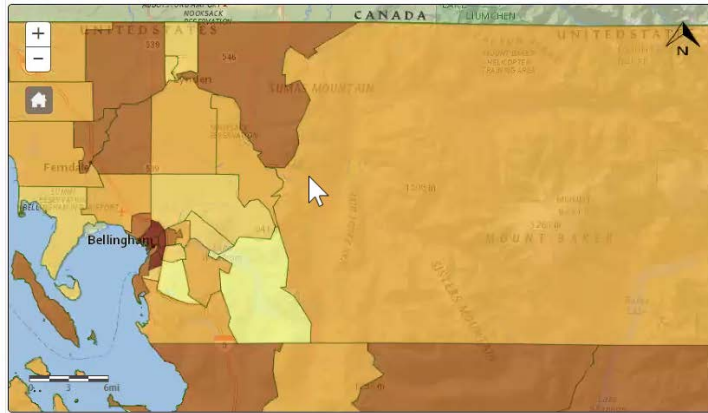


<p>Approve Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>No amendments to discuss. Minutes from September 11, 2023, were approved as presented.</p>
<p>Agenda Overview, Meeting Input/Evaluation</p>	<p>Evaluation tool: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf59ubhjlyXFZQJa0pXGgQQ5HhwJ1jamGFzjQLXS6-zZC1hKQ/viewform</p> <p>The purpose of this Task Force was reviewed, as stated in the Ordinance. "The purpose of Whatcom County Child and Family Well-being Task Force is to continually review Whatcom governmental impact on children and family make recommendations for improvement for all departments."</p>
<p>Community Shares, Shout-outs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northwest Youth Services hosted a Healing Centered Engagement symposium over the weekend. They discussed what healing centered engagement is and how organizations can implement that into their practice. Christina shared shout out to Jason, who is lead for the men's peer support group. Jason is filling a board member seat for Generations Forward.
<p>Lead Exposure and Impact on Children</p>	<p>Ray discussed lead exposure. A video from the CDC was shared regarding lead exposure. Ray noted a few key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 micrograms per deciliter blood lead level equates to a 6 to 8 lost IQ points Most common vectors of exposure is lead paint or lead dust. Another is top soil. <p>Ray shared data via maps from the State Health Department. When a child's blood lead level comes back at 3 micrograms per deciliter or higher, that triggers a Public Health response. 5 tests per year come back at 5 micrograms or higher. We would need to test at least 16% of kids a year to test all kids once before they turn 6. We are currently testing between .2 and 2.14% of kids under 6 each year. It becomes mandatory if they are on Medicaid or if they enroll in head start. It was stated they receive a lot of requests for exemption for children enrolling in head start. Ray noted lead exposure is one of the most common things confused with ADHD.</p> <div data-bbox="337 1339 1214 1856"> <p>Lead Risk from Housing</p> <p>Geography: Census Tract, Year: 2015-2019</p> </div>



Lead Risk from Housing

Geography: Census Tract, Year: 2015-2019



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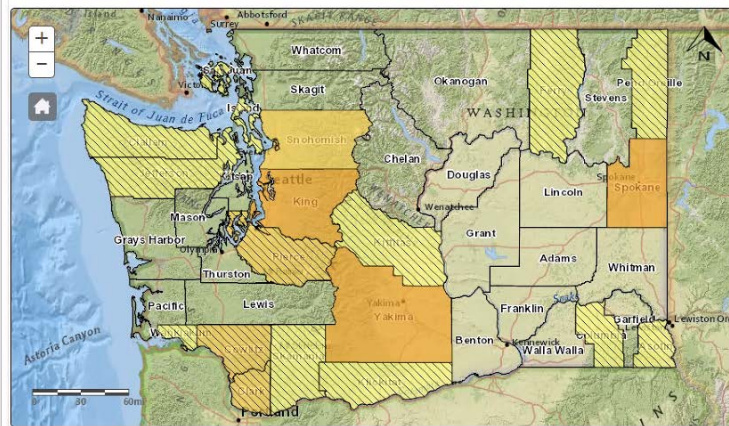
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Notes Table Chart Map

Measure 1

Percentage of Blood Lead Tests with Results $\geq 5\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ Per Year for Children <72 Months of Age

Geography: County, Time Period: 2020

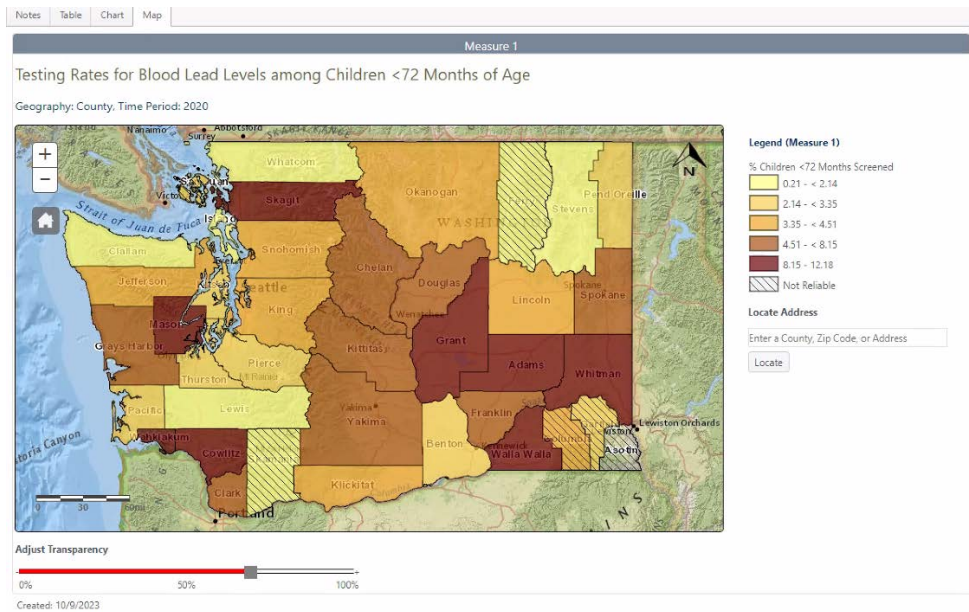


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Monika shared some of the medial implications of lead exposure.

- Lead can affect nearly every system in the body from the brain to the kidneys, starting with lost IQ points, connection to ADHD, hearing loss
- Can tap into disrupting hormones and vitamin d levels
- High levels of lead, patients can experience abdominal cramping
- It can lower sperm count and the reproductive system
- If lead exposure as a child, can cause high blood pressure as an adult
- Anemia – dizziness, fatigue
- Poor filtration through kidneys
- Testing rates under age of 6 were highest in 2022
- Washington is one of the lowest in regards to testing rates – average in the US is about 20%, we are about 5%
- Possibly a new testing kit available that is more user friendly
- About 50% of kids are on Medicaid in Washington State, of this group only 8-9% were tested
- Funding for billing home lead exposure assessments
- Lead prevention model was 4 pillars
 - Case Management
 - Testing Promotion
 - Community Education and Engagement
 - Infrastructure
- 1 out of 5 cases of ADHD were connected to lead exposure



	<p>Ray stated they could change the threshold for public health response from 5 to 3.5. Monika stated they may be bringing back screening tests into the clinics. The screener test is a finger poke and the lab test is a blood draw.</p> <p>The group further discussed the gap in the testing rates being due to no longer having the in-clinic screening. The process isn't super user friendly. When the levels of lead are high, there's no way to remove lead from the body. They start to investigate the source of exposure. The group discussed the intersectionality concerns around lead exposure.</p> <p>It was asked what conversations have been had on the prevention front as it relates to housing regulation and policy. The initial exploration was on those vectors: housing, top soil, and pipes. The Public Works department reported there are no lead pipes in the plumbing infrastructure they are responsible for. Samya stated they operate a home rehab program that works with the Opportunity Council to lead risk assessments and they also do inspections for properties where they have funding or provide rent assistance.</p> <p>The same team that does the case management/public health response when lead level is detected, also does testing and mitigation in schools in Whatcom County and there's some work being done to address that. Licensed childcare centers have to be lead tested every 3 years. It was also asked if any other environmental coalitions are thinking about this issue or any triaging that the board can do as they make recommendations.</p>
<p>Healthy Children's Fund Update</p>	<p>Ann provided an update on the Healthy Children's Fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Children's Fund Program Specialist, focusing on supporting vulnerable children and their families, hoping position will post next week • Supplemental budget requesting being introduced at County Council to vote on October 24th • Spending authority request for 2024 • Interviews for the Evaluation Specialist have begun • Presentation to Council for November 8th meeting – will provide an update • RFP's – working with county legal and community partners on how we can be innovative in spending these dollars • How to infuse money into Nurse Family Partnership program – which could include expanding access to doula services <p>Ray noted the ordinance for the task force calls for a report every 6 months. The ordinance calls for a report annually from task force to Council. Proposed that one report is focuses on the Healthy Children's Fund and the other report focus on the other work the task force does. Noted the group can discuss at a later date.</p> <p>Beverly suggested using other language instead of "vulnerable" or "at risk". Beverly stated words matter and the way people talk about their children can be a barrier for another parent. Beverly shared a link to Guiding Principles from the Parent Accountability Council in Multnomah County.</p>



	<p>The next Healthy Children’s Fund task force subcommittee meeting hopes to move attention to the external evaluation. The ordinance calls for a biannual external evaluation of the totality of the fund and the outcomes it’s producing. Will attempt to draft a document that is an expression of what the task force believes is important features in both the evaluation and the evaluator. Ray noted a colleague of his, who works at a program evaluation firm, as a possible resource. It was asked whether or not he will be applying for the position. Ray noted he’s unsure if he will. County legal noted input can be received as long as the Health Department doesn’t take his description of what counts as a good RFP and writes an RFP to his firm. The RFP process requires at least 3 bids.</p>
<p>Resolution on Equitable Financing Update</p>	<p>Jen shared an update on the Resolution on Equitable Finance. A meeting was held to put together a rough draft of the resolution from input and ideas they’ve received so far. A meeting will be held later this week to discuss community engagement – what questions we should be asking, whose voices are there and whose aren’t, who should we be hearing from, etc. Hoping to have first draft complete this week.</p> <p>The purpose of the resolution is to make things more accessible for folks who would like to participate in government systems and streamline processes. The group discussed who is able to attend the meeting on Friday. It was noted everyone who’s on the task force is welcome and it will later be decided when, how, and who to engage beyond the task force.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Colton shared that the accountability subgroup has not yet met but would like to get it up and running, and see who would be interested in being in that group. The exact goals of the subgroup are TBD but initial focus is to review task force recommendations to county government and determine progress. If anyone would like to join the subgroup, reach out to Colton.</p> <p>No public comment.</p>
<p>Closing</p>	<p>Adjourned at 5:27pm</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Next regular meeting: November 13, 2023 Location: Hybrid</p>