



CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

MARCH 8TH, 2021

Present: Alicia Hanning, Anne Granberg, Brian Nelson, Melissa Isenhardt, Urvasi Graham, Debbie Ahl, Jamie Desmul, Jen Wright, Komal Shah, Mara Kelley, Mike Ford, Ray Deck, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Astrid Newell, Beverly Porter, Brian Heinrich, Carol Frazey, Gregory Hansen, Katrice Rodriguez, Keith Montoya, Monica Koller, Satpal Sidhu, Sterling Chick, Vesla Tonnesson, Yarrow Greer, Mary Sewright

Not Present: Escarleth DeLeon, Mark Johnson, Silvia Johnson, Chris Cochran

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
Welcome	<p>Introductions, land acknowledgement and housekeeping led by Lewin Consulting.</p> <p>Land Acknowledgement:</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>
Developing community agreements	<p>Community agreements help everyone to feel safe in the space. Some ideas include self-care and family first, step up step back (being mindful of holding space for others), having a foundational understanding that everyone is on the same team and working towards a common goal, be kind and respectful that everyone is coming from a different background, being open to learning about others backgrounds, be curious about each other and our journeys, treating each other with honor and grace, acknowledge that this is a complicated situation and give space to find the common goal, allowing for "and" not just "either/or", have fun, share the impact you had from a story without sharing the story.</p> <p>Typed up initial agreements presented for approval. These agreements will be reviewed and refined at the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and self-care first • Be kind and gentle with yourself and others, assume everyone is coming from a positive place (including everyone has the best intentions, listen with an open mind and heart, we are working together for a common goal, we are here to collaborate a common goal) • Be mindful of this space, offer your truth and insight and listen to others' truths and insights. • Treat other with humor and grace, we are working under difficult circumstances.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embrace diversity. Remember that we all come from different backgrounds providing perspectives. Embracing the diversity is when we can develop creative solutions. • Explore “and” thinking rather than “either/or”. • Share your experience with the story, not the story. <p>Two things that need to be discussed at another meeting, how to solve disagreements and an agreed upon decision-making process.</p>
How did we get here?	<p>People in Whatcom County have been meeting in various ways to create and improve systems to support young children and their families for decades. The Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribes have provided us examples as to how they prioritize and uphold their children. We stand today on the shoulders of many that have gone before us. In recent history, the Public Health Advisory Board (a group that advises the Health Board and Health Department) has declared young children and families as a priority and have challenged local government to do the same. The Public Health Advisory Board came alongside Generations Forward and developed an action plan specific for County Government. This action plan was passed in January 2020 but was overshadowed by the COVID pandemic. In the summer of 2020, after significant community advocacy work, the County Executive included children and families into his priorities. The Public Health Advisory Board seized and worked with Health Board to develop an ordinance creating this Child and Family Well-being Task Force. The ordinance passed in December and here we are today.</p>
Knowing your why	<p>When you start thinking from the inside out, your “why” is the first thing to determine. Your “why” strengthens your “how” and your “what”. To avoid resentment, the “why” needs to be from the deep heart and not person related or “what”. A video on the topic was shared featuring Michael Jr. Knowing your “why” makes the tough days easier. When doing this work, come from a place of your “why”.</p> <p>Members were invited to share some thoughts on this: giving the space and encouragement to share fully is powerful, we all belong here, our community needs to be the village the shows up for everyone.</p>
What is the role of the CFW Task Force? What are our guidelines?	<p>The official purpose is: “To review Whatcom County governmental impact on young children and families and make specific recommendations for improvements for all County government departments.” The guiding documents used for this task force are the Child and Family Well-Being Action Plan, and the establishing ordinance for the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force.</p> <p>Initially the work will be done to ground work in equity (specifically racial equity), and develop recommendations for the County regarding: infrastructure, policy, shared accountability, coordination and enhancing initiatives, and new or enhanced funding streams.</p> <p>There are some requirements to this task force. For transparency we must be open to the public, comply with Open Public Meetings & Records acts, and carry out tasks from the ordinance.</p> <p>New opportunities have been presented in the creation ordinance, allowing for more inclusivity in recommendations.</p> <p>The ordinance and action plan will go out in the next email.</p>
Public Comment	None.
Closing	Research and look up the phrase “Beloved Community”, keeping the equity lens throughout this work.
Next Meeting	<p>Next regular meeting: March 22nd, 2021</p> <p><u>Location: Virtual</u></p>