



## CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

**Present:** Alicia Hanning, Astrid Newell, Carol Frazey, Chris Cochran, Debbie Ahl, Escarleth DeLeon, Gregory Hansen, Jamie Desmul, Jen Wright, Keith Montoya, Komal Shah, Mara Kelley, Mary Sewright, Melissa Isenhardt, Monica Koller, Ray Deck, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Sarah Cook, Sativa Robertson, Sterling Chick, Urvasi Graham, Vesla Tonnesson, Yarrow Greer

**Not Present:** Anne Granberg, Beverly Porter, Brian Heinrich, Brian Nelson, Mike Ford, Satpal Sidhu, Silvia Johnson

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
<p><b>Welcome</b></p>	<p>Introductions, land acknowledgement, housekeeping and review of agreements led by Lewin Consulting.</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><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>Sharing rainbows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long year for Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and everyone has stuck through it and only a few weeks left.</li> <li>• Chosen family who make me feel safe, seen and cared for</li> </ul>



<b>Approve Meeting Minutes</b>	No amendments to discuss, minutes from May 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 were approved as presented.
<b>Upcoming events, community shares and shout outs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jen Wright for advocating with State Attorney General’s office about the OPMA training not representing diversity, also included typical power dynamics. Well done.</li> <li>• Dr. Shah helped vaccinate 130 plus youth last week for Lummi.</li> <li>• Vesla and Keith graduated Parenting Training Leadership Institute and bring that program to Whatcom County.</li> </ul>
<b>Using Fist to Five</b>	<p>During the last meeting we discussed ways to come to a decision as a group. The concept of “Fist to Five” was widely embraced to try.</p> <p>As a reminder, the decision made on how to gauge the overall support of something is flexible, we can adjust it over time.</p> <p>The majority of the group is supportive of using “Fist to Five”. A poll will be presented for response to make it more clear.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If a fist is indicated on the “Fist to Five” poll there will be further discussion.</li> <li>2. If anyone indicates a two or less there will be up to three rounds of discussion with a vote after each round. The final round if there is a fist or two and below the proposal will be taken off the table and edited based on discussion points, then resubmit at the next meeting.</li> </ol>
<b>Report to County Council</b>	<p>The ordinance was written to include reports back to the Whatcom County Council, allowing the public to be updated on progress and outcomes. The first report is due for phase one on June 1, the second phase report is due March of 2022, and the third phase report is due October of 2022.</p> <p>For this first update Whatcom County Health Department will be providing an outline and status update, elevating the importance of the time to build the relationships and ground the work in equity and family engagement. We will provide an opportunity to provide feedback on the outline. Future reports are seen as being formed by the task force.</p> <p>The content of this report is about the first deliverable, which is building trusting relationships. This is not something often carved out with resources in the government, but it is the glue that binds us to each other and the work. This is necessary to build community agreements and springboard the actions.</p> <p>The outline will be emailed out Wednesday afternoon, requesting feedback and input so that this is a collaborative effort in reporting an update to Whatcom County Council.</p>
<b>Sharing work group plans and goals</b>	<p>This task force was created by an ordinance to advise the Whatcom County Council, specific items being called out in the ordinance.</p> <p>At this time there are funds available in the American Recovery Plan Act that are provided to local governments to be used for child care purposes. Council person Carol Frazey and Council person Rud Browne brought a resolution to the Whatcom County Council to consider investing half of these funds to find a permanent solution for child care. They are asking this task force to help inform in finding a permanent solution to child care in Whatcom County.</p> <p>A request was made for volunteers from this task force that would be willing to meet in one or two, one-hour long meetings to discuss the best way to organize and move this task force forward. The goal is to provide the requested recommendations to Whatcom County Council in September.</p> <p>The following members volunteered to participate in these conversations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vesla Tonnesson</li> <li>• Jamie Desmul</li> <li>• Debbie Ahl</li> <li>• Jennifer Wright</li> <li>• Monica Koller</li> <li>• Keith Montoya</li> <li>• Ray Deck</li> <li>• Sterling Chick</li> <li>• Alicia Hanning</li> </ul>

	<p>As we break out into our workgroups, each group will have another agenda based on outcomes from the last workgroup session.</p> <p>While doing the work today, consider what you will be bringing back to share out in a large group at the next meeting. Deciding who will share this information, if you want to share goals or next steps, anything that will keep us all tethered to the work as a collective. The share time will be around 2 to 5 minutes each.</p> <p>If you decide to invite a non-member to participate in the workgroups, please let the support staff know so that we can assign them to the break out rooms ahead of the meeting.</p>
<b>Public Comment</b>	No Comment.
<b>Closing</b>	Work group break out time.
<b><i>Next Meeting</i></b>	<b>Next regular meeting: June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b> <b><u>Location: Virtual</u></b>