



**CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE**

JUNE 13, 2022

**Present:** Alicia Hanning, Anne Granberg, Sunshine Nelson, Beverly Porter, Brian Nelson, Carol Frazey, Escarleth DeLeon, Jamie Desmul, Jed Holmes, Jen Wright, Keith Montoya, Mary Sewright, Mike Ford, Monica Koller, Ray Deck, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Sterling Chick, Vesla Tonnesson, Yarrow Greer

**Not Present:** Gregory Hansen, Melissa Isenhardt, Samya Lutz, Sarah Cook, Sativa Robertson

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
<p><b>Welcome</b></p>	<p>Introductions, land acknowledgment, 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. 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><a href="https://www.lhaqtemish.org/">https://www.lhaqtemish.org/</a> -Lhaq'temish Foundation</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><a href="#">Fist to Five Consensus Tool – Amended 4.25.22</a></p>



<p><b>Approve Meeting Minutes</b></p>	<p>No amendments to discuss. Minutes from May 23, 2022, were approved as presented. Minutes from special meeting on May 31, 2022 were approved as presented.</p>
<p><b>Upcoming events, community shares, shout outs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birchwood International Market was on June 17<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• The position for the Strategic Initiatives Manager has been narrowed down to a single candidate. The person is well qualified and is currently the Deputy County Administrator for Skagit County.</li> <li>• June 15 at 5:00pm, Imagining Longhouse Restoration in the Salish Sea, presentation by Lummi Nation member Sadie Olsen, <a href="https://www.indigenousspeakerseries.com/upcoming-speakers">https://www.indigenousspeakerseries.com/upcoming-speakers</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Approval of Representative on the Public Health Advisory Board</b></p>	<p>A proposal was brought forward for Vesla Tonnesson to be the representative for the Public Health Advisory Board. The group voted Fist to Five by show of hands and indication in chat.</p> <p><b>This vote met consensus for approval.</b></p> <p>A second proposal was brought forward for Keith Montoya to be the alternate representative. The alternate would attend in case of Vesla’s absence or if there is another member position available Keith could hold the additional representative position.</p> <p>The group voted Fist to Five by show of hands and indication in chat.</p> <p><b>This vote met consensus for approval.</b></p>
<p><b>Early Learning and Care Program Specialist Position</b></p>	<p>The Early Learning and Care Program Specialist position has been posted by the Whatcom County Health Department. The position will close on June 26<sup>th</sup>. This role will provide leadership around improving access, quality and coordination in early learning and care environments. The person in this position will work closely with this task force and Healthy Whatcom, doing program work and focusing on policies and systems. Task force members interested in being involved in the interview process can indicate interest on the form shared in the chat or contact Allison Williams.</p>
<p><b>Update on the Proposed Ballot Initiative</b></p>	<p>The ordinance to place the Healthy Children Fund Initiative on the November ballot was approved by the County Council.</p>
<p><b>Workgroups: Structure and Function; Phase III Work</b></p>	<p>The co-chairs met with the different workgroups to discuss the path forward during Phase III work. After reviewing the feedback, the Child &amp; Family Action Plan, and the Phase II report the co-chairs created a proposal which they presented to the task force today. The document will be emailed out after this meeting, nothing to vote on today, just a review process.</p> <p>A reminder that group editing using a platform like Google Docs is not allowed as it would not be compliant with OPMA guidelines.</p> <p>One of the proposals is to hire consultants. A request to identify the money that is available to this task force has been made to identify what can be used to do this work.</p> <p>Feedback was requested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beverly – On the County Community Collaboration workgroup. Enjoys seeing the personal feedback being incorporated into the goals.</li> <li>• Jamie – Indicated concerns about a goal to “open child care spots immediately” due to the depth of what that takes to increase this capacity, as a measurable goal this does not feel accurate. There is a need for layers as not only do facilities need to be identified, but then staff shortages need to be addressed before there can be more spots available. A lot of these steps come from the state and that creates a barrier to meeting the “immediate” part of the goal.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sterling – The infrastructure was a core piece of the Child and Family Action Plan. Depending on what happens in the fall there could be a big need for the administrator to take on the load, which would require models to move forward the infrastructure. A consultant would be needed to identify models used in other counties or municipalities.</li> <li>• Yarrow – some of us already do work with Healthy Whatcom, curious what further alignment would look like. Unclear if a consultant would be needed on an equitable results-based plan.</li> <li>• Sunshine – these goals seem so broad. It would be good to identify who is already doing some of the work and showcase what is being done in these areas and coordinating it. It would be good to identify how we can reach families in places like East Whatcom where Wi-Fi is an issue.</li> <li>• Keith – Healthy Whatcom has a lot of overlap with this group and would be a great partner.</li> <li>• Sterling – Becoming trauma-informed as an agency is a significant body of work. It includes how you work with your coworkers, how you deliver to the public and work in the community. It requires cultural change and can be a multi-year project taking 5 to 10 years.</li> <li>• Ray – feeling a little surprised about the outcome of weeks long processing and ending up with the same four workgroups. The actual action plan does not seem to be the best way to apply to this task force, especially when the groups cannot proceed without information and collaboration within the other groups. Keith replied indicating that only a few members were leaning towards dissolving the workgroups and starting fresh. Carol would like to know more about this. Ray suggested having three workgroups that are based around specific goals. Even suggested that the phase II report largely answered some of the questions in phase III report, so could reidentify needs. Sunshine indicated she is not sure that this proposal would not align with the long-term change that is being requested. Keith thinks that the current workgroups could also meet these same goals Ray is discussing. To clarify, if a workgroup has a single goal, it would allow more progress due to the one group’s ability to be productive without working with other groups. In the current dynamic each workgroup needing to do pieces of a common goal and contingent on each groups progress. We can implement the action plan with a different structure than the document has.</li> <li>• Sterling - Kindergarten Readiness has been addressed and is being addressed by the Healthy Whatcom team through Results-Based Accountability.</li> <li>• Vesla – clarified that the goal of allowing a workgroup without an expectation that members will be required to participate in a workgroup seems concerning with the goals and decrease of meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposal to Approve Member Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<p>A proposal for defining roles and responsibilities to members was shared. There is further discussion needed. A reminder that using a group editing platform is not allowed as it would not be compliant with OPMA guidelines.</p> <p>Carol indicated that is best practice to be provided in advance of the meeting to allow the group to process and consider, with a clear indication a vote was expected at the next meeting on the topic.</p> <p>Jennifer is going to bring this document back for consideration and voting. Hoping for feedback ahead of the next meeting. Send any comments to Allison Williams to be brought to the next meeting.</p>
<b>Meeting Feedback - Members</b>	<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><a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf59ubhjlyXFZQJa0pXGcQQ5HhwJ1jamGFzjQLXS6-zZC1hKQ/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf59ubhjlyXFZQJa0pXGcQQ5HhwJ1jamGFzjQLXS6-zZC1hKQ/viewform</a></p>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<p>No Public Comment</p>
<b>Closing</b>	<p>Adjourned at 5:32 PM</p>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p><b>Next regular meeting: July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>                      <b>Location: Hybrid</b></p>