



CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

JULY 26TH, 2021

Present: Alicia Hanning, Anne Granberg, Astrid Newell, Brian Nelson, Carol Frazey, Gregory Hansen, Jen Wright, Keith Montoya, Komal Shah, Mara Kelley, Melissa Isenhardt, Mike Ford, Ray Deck, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Sarah Cook, Samya Lutz, Jed Holmes, Sterling Chick, Vesla Tonnesson, Urvasi Graham, Yarrow Greer

Not Present: Beverly Porter, Chris Cochran, Debbie Ahl, Escarleth DeLeon, Gregory Hansen, Jamie Desmul, Mary Sewright, Monica Koller, Sativa Robertson, Silvia Johnson

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
<p>Welcome</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 gather on the ancestral homelands, originally known as Tschakole-chy in Lushootseed, of the Coastal Salish Peoples, on the lands of the lower sqaʔtabš (Skagit), dxʷlilap (Tulalip), swədəbš (Swinomish), sduhubš (Snohomish), stuləkʷabš (Stillaguamish), and suqʷabš (Suquamish), who have lived in the Salish Sea basin since time immemorial and have hunted, fished, gathered, and taken care of these lands. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. Please join me in expressing our deepest respect and gratitude to the indigenous people of this territory and for their enduring care and protection of the land in which we currently occupy and share through the Treaty of Point Elliott signed by 82 tribes in Múckl-te-óh (Mukilteo) on January 22, 1855. I promise to do my part to tread lightly on these lands, for generations to come.</p> <p>https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/swsd/Board.nsf/files/BVH8WS2055EF/\$file/Tribal%20Land%20Acknowledgement.pdf</p> <p>If you'd like to learn more about the Treaty of Point Elliott and the importance of recognizing Treaty Day, please check out this documentary from Children of the Setting Sun. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVCo2Mp2di0</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>Check-in</p>	<p>Kenesha Lewin from Lewin Consulting will be taking the month of August off to put family first.</p> <p>A survey was sent out to provide input on how to proceed with cancellations. Please complete it: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScohfJHILr9ZtDY5o_I51YQ8giHKjwwUiECDMO-sBxlcR_gww/viewform</p>



	<p>When this task force began this work, each person’s “why” was identified. Our goal is to work from our “why” to work from the inside out. For today’s check in the request was made to summarize feelings into a word, and use a sentence to describe why you are doing this work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words – Listening, overwhelmed, busy, reflective, relieved • Why – Supporting those of modest means and vulnerable, alignment of coordination, engaging families in meaningful conversations as they balance priorities, prioritizing children and families in the big decisions, empower all children and families with actionable voices, the lens of every child and every family flourishing and identifying barriers that prevent it, families know what they want and need and the opportunity here is to translate that into systems, inclusion of indigenous culture and families <p>When you hit road blocks, remember why this work is being done to motivate pushing forward.</p>
<p>Approve Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>No amendments to discuss, minutes from July 12th, 2021 were approved as presented.</p>
<p>Upcoming events, community shares and shout outs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Family Council of Generations Forward hosted first family in person event this past Saturday at the Sportsplex. The event was a success. • Kendall Summerfest August 3rd at East Whatcom Regional Resource Center from 4pm to 8pm. This event is geared towards kids and families with activities and tabling. • Northwest Indian College hosting a Solidarity walk July 27th at 12pm. This is a memorial for the children being brought back home of the 1305 remains from residential schools in Canada. https://www.nwic.edu/event/solidarity-walk-for-215-indigenous-children/
<p>Sustainable Financing</p>	<p>Heather Flaherty from the Chuckanut Health Foundation provided a presentation on sustainable financing From the Policy and Advocacy Funding (PAF) group. The hope with sharing this information is to help build understanding and energy around building systems. These slides provide some information on what other groups have been working on in this area of focus. Our hope is that the task force can inform the work, and can be in a position to be comfortable with endorsing suggestions along with these groups when it comes time to give a report to Whatcom County Council. As this information is shared, please consider what additional information would help you to feel comfortable with this process of support.</p> <p>The pathway that connects different coalitions and groups with the Policy and Advocacy Funding (PAF) group was shared, showing the landscape of who is connected to this work. A solution that has been identified is a local, public, dedicated funding stream. Some key pieces to create this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. System building – identifying community-wide goals and desired outcomes for children and youth, identify/strengthen an intermediary that convenes providers and partners to engage in system-building and quality improvement, educate the public about the needs of kids and successes of the current system. 2. Research – conduct needs assessment, perform fiscal scan of all spending on children & youth, research the taxing authority of the locality to identify feasible options, research the history of local ballot measures, research the political path for generating and dedicating revenue for children and youth, conduct polling on public opinion and use the results to guide messaging 3. Coalition Building – identifying potential allies, conduct outreach and informational meetings within individual stakeholder groups, build a list of coalition partners and champions based on interest shown at meetings 4. Campaign Readiness – This step is messy. Some key points are to identify coalition members, identify target election dates for the ballot, campaign committee identifies consultants. <p>Fiscal mapping has been conducted for child care birth to 5 years old in Whatcom County. This mapping took over a year to complete. The take away was that only around 2% of local funding are used for child care, the siloed development of systems is not serving children, and expansion without forging a new system will be expensive and ineffective as there are a lot of systemic changes needed. In the research an analysis was done on revenue options and the PAF group chose to focus on local dedicated public funds, which translates to property tax or going to the people with a ballot measure. Local dedicated public funds are used in many counties and states around the country, which provides a significant number of models to help in this process.</p> <p>Whatcom County Council can vote to use banked property tax capacity., They have an opportunity to increase property taxes 1% each year and if they do not, it gets reserved for future use. Whatcom County Council has not chosen to do this for 15 years. Families are really hurting right now and this is a great opportunity to support them. With Whatcom County</p>

	<p>Council and leadership saying childcare should be considered infrastructure in our community, and with the work being done to invest one-time funds into child care, it is an opportunity to build on and provide ongoing revenue source to sustain a new system. This is our focus right now, and to have the support of groups like this task force to support the property tax recommendation.</p> <p>The group intends to advocate in the fall to Whatcom County Council to support the banked capacity proposal. The advocacy to council does not negate a ballot measure.</p> <p>A contract has been implemented with VIDA Agency https://thevidaagency.com/ to develop a strategic communications campaign.</p> <p>The next steps on how funding group and the task force can work together. Things we will discuss at the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we partner? • What is our role in shaping this? • Where does it fit with the existing work that the Resources and Funding group is doing? • Where does this fit with each of the work groups? • How does task force work support the request of sustainable financing? • How does the knowledge of the request of sustainable financing impact the work being done in the work groups?
Work Group Tasks Moving Forward	<p>A lot of work being done in each work group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources and Funding Work Group – intentions and hope for resolution provided from Rud and Carol, developing a plan to get community input especially from people of color. • County-Community Collaboration Group – has been attending RBA by Healthy Whatcom. Developing and landing on strategies and actions to support well-being of children and families. Identifying how to bring this work back to this task force and connection activity. • Family Involvement Group – resource for the work groups to have a family perspective and increase engagement. • Children and Families First Group – invited two Policy and Advocacy Funding team members that worked on developing infrastructure needs for children and families. Looking at how that recommendation has shifted since then, and what this group can do to shape or augment that recommendation.
Public Comment	None
Closing	5:00 pm, work groups were opened
Next Meeting	<p>Next regular meeting: August 9th, 2021 <u>Location: Virtual</u></p>