



CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2021

Present: Anne Granberg, Beverly Porter, Samya Lutz, Carol Frazey, Chris Cochran, Debbie Ahl, Jamie Desmul, Jen Wright, Keith Montoya, Komal Shah, Mara Kelley, Mary Sewright, Melissa Isenhardt, Mike Ford, Monica Koller, Ray Deck, Jed Holmes, Sterling Chick, Urvasi Graham, Vesla Tonnesson, Yarrow Greer

Not Present: Alicia Hanning, Astrid Newell, Brian Nelson, Escarleth DeLeon, Gregory Hansen, Rosalva Santos-Gusman, Sarah Cook, 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> 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 acknowledgement 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>Images: http://www.project562.com/</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><u>Fist to Five Consensus</u></p> <p>A survey is coming for feedback on how best to move the task force forward. Your input is needed.</p>
<p>Approve Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>No amendments to discuss, minutes from September 13, 2021 were approved as presented. Fist to Five Consensus is used for approval.</p>



<p>Upcoming events, community shares, shout-outs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 30 is Orange Shirt Day & Canada's First National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Every Child Matters. Healthy Whatcom is preparing the next workshop series for Early Learning and Care, Stable Housing for Families and Children, and Youth Mental Health. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Vesla Tonnessen at veslat@gmail.com
<p>Final proposal and vote for child care recommendations</p>	<p>Resources and Funding Work Group has been working both in this meeting space and other work sessions to build recommendations for the Whatcom County Council on child care solutions for Whatcom County. Members of this work group: Ray Deck, Astrid Newell, Jed Holmes, Greg Hansen, Anne Granberg, Jen Wright, Brian Nelson, Vesla Tonnessen, Jamie Desmul, Judy Ziels</p> <p>Councilmembers Frazey and Browne recommended a large portion of County ARPA funds be used for solutions in Whatcom County for child care. It was decided that this task force would be best to make recommendations on this funding use. After identifying key issues and potential solutions through research and community interaction, this group narrowed down to 5 potential priority areas, and brought it to this group for feedback last meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Child care work force stabilization, development & compensation Child care capacity Child care affordability Family supports for early childhood well-being County infrastructure <p>The team took the feedback received and made adjustments to the proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included a section titled “Creating a community where all children and families thrive”. Added some language from the approved Child & Family Action Plan, and request to include task force members to continue this voice at the table given the lived experience and various levels of expertise. Under Priority A: Increase Child Care Workforce Development and Compensation, included information about the burden of the work falling disproportionately to women, and individuals of the BIPOC community, which compounds inequities. Language was also included about affordability. Incorporated more language addressing inequities. Included ways to measure success for particular intervention, and added desegregation by factors such as race, income, special needs, and geography. An example was added on how the \$22.25 million dollars in ARPA funds could be deployed across the five priority areas. A lot of disclaimer language around the example was included, it is just an example, not a definitive recommendation of five specific strategies. There were time limitations to consider, but several opportunities allowed for an estimation. Including an example is important because Executive Sidhu’s recommendation allocated significantly less for child care. The goal is to highlight what could be accomplished with the boldness of the full allocation. Another additional section was added to describe our process and the different data sources used. This included data, work force forums, models throughout the nation, fiscal maps, and lived experiences. The process of bringing this forward to the task force and the logistics that went into preparation were also included. <p>Feedback that was shared about this recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The measurements and process are going to be really helpful to the Council members. Organization is very clear, and the examples are very helpful. There may be a question about permanence, as council meetings are unpredictable. This definitely shows it comes from the community and it is what the community needs and wants. Thank you so much team! I appreciate the ongoing highlighting of equity for under-served populations (including BIPOC folx and women.) The group has done an amazing job on taking on the complexity of child care, and identifying the issues and proposed solutions to them. A concern about permanence, lack of pilot recommendations. Ongoing support is going to need to come from a larger source, perhaps the state. Consider having a controlled test to identify if the funding actual made a difference. Whatcom County Council may look at this and not feel it is not sustainable, so how do you position and present that as these recommendations are really strong? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ARPA money is to stabilize child care post COVID. The retention bonuses for child care workers was identified as a short-term resolution associated to COVID. It is hard to know if bonuses every 6 months would be reasonable for any organization. The City of Seattle is doing a similar program with

their ARPA funds and retention bonuses for child care workers. This is why it was identified over a long-term pilot project that may not be sustainable with these temporary funds.

- Further concern about how this is presented, worried that the council members will view this as just throwing money out the door as it is not sustainable. Addressing up front what happens when the funds run out.
- It was recommended to frame it as looking at it as a possible long-term component if measured outcomes over time.
- The language can be modified to include these are short term preventions, and can seek further measurement for ongoing recommendations. Pilots can have significant unintended consequences, especially inequities, that would require a lot of time and support to help. This can also impact child care providers that could be bumped out of social service supports.
- It is important to recognize and honor the council and executive's request to not invest in things that would require long term investments. One way to make the case for that could include working with Center for Retention & Expansion of Child Care to develop pilots that could be accessible to all agencies. Maybe there is a suite of 3 of the 5 strategies that are determined to be the most realistic and highest rate of success in Whatcom County, that different child care centers could identify works best for their own work force potential. Identifying what is sustainable for our region in the long term and in the way of a pilot, that would allow all child care facilities to engage in the pilot.
- Similar concerns were voiced. Consider beefing up the closing section to reiterate some components. In the prioritization section the need and recognition that all of these are related to each other, and that is difficult to move forward with one thing only. This could be an opportunity to underscore the main point, that this bold and higher amount is beneficial to move forward simultaneously in all of these areas. There are brick and mortar plans for child care in the next couple of years. This could be a strength in closing. Also note, there are additional recommendations coming out from the Healthy Whatcom Team, making note of this in closing would also bolster.

A review of the [Fist to Five Consensus](#). At the May 24th, 2021 meeting it was confirmed that the task force wants to use this way to come to a consensus of approved with these guidelines:

1. If a fist is indicated on the "Fist to Five" poll there will be further discussion.
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.

Clarity discussion:

- If there is a three, the conversation would occur in an email after the final document is complete with the individual.

Vote, one person could not vote and indicated a vote of a three.

1. Please indicate your comfort level with approving. (Single Choice) *

19/19 (100%) answered

5 (8/19) 42%



4 (7/19) 37%



3 (3/19) 16%



2 (1/19) 5%



1 (0/19) 0%



Fist (0/19) 0%



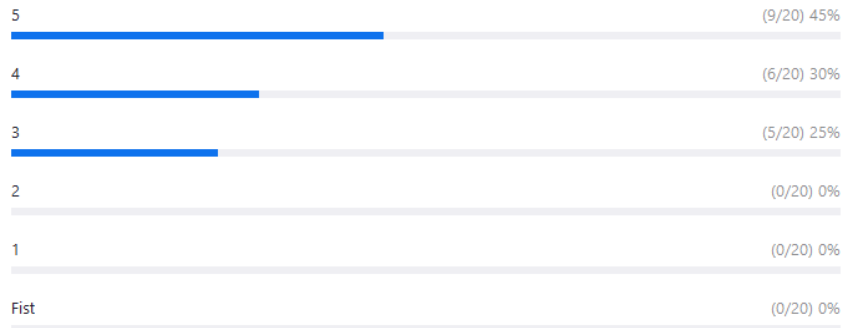
Due to the indication of a two, this results in further discussion, followed by another round of voting. The person who voted two was requested to share the concern for further discussion to potentially resolve and have another vote. The person sent a message to Kenesha saying it was a minor question and not major for a discussion, hoping to change the response to a three. New poll was taken.

Fist to Five

Poll ended | 1 question | 20 of 22 (90%) participated

1. Please indicate your comfort level with approving. (Single Choice) *

20/20 (100%) answered



When break out rooms are opened for work groups, those that indicated a three were invited to the Resources and Funding Work Group to discuss questions.

Fiscal mapping updates

Vivien Savath from Berk Consulting is part of a team of four analysts working on fiscal mapping for Whatcom Child and Family Well-Being. Vivien has been working with a subgroup of this task force. Vivien presented an update to the process. Phase one was scoping, working with workgroups and staff to identify pieces and resources in Whatcom County. The next phase is data collection and analysis, which will include interviews and surveys. This includes key system stakeholders and data requests. This should take into November and will result in a draft fiscal map by the end of the year.

The goal of fiscal mapping is to align line items with outcomes and identify gaps, adding layers of equity and understanding.

Theory of Change is a priority of scoping. Strong stable families and system partners were identified as priority. This then includes four "buckets of work": Housing Stability, Economic Stability, Family and Household Strengthening, Systems Coordination. Additional parameters include: age, time, income, geography, funding streams, race/ethnicity, migrant farmworkers. Desegregation will be contingent on how data is collected.

Currently at the beginning of the journey for gathering data and are open to leads for information and any feedback.

- There is Chuckanut Health Foundation fiscal map available <https://www.chuckanuthealthfoundation.org/every-child-initiative>
- Question if this work and the one from Chuckanut Health Foundation are integrated, or if these are separate silos.
 - Kylie from the Children Funding Project was an advisor on some of the data tools and discussion guide. Methods-wise it is following in their footsteps. The data and content will be quite different, but everything will be compatible.

There is a more detailed document to connect with potential people to interview.

Public Comment

None

Closing

5:09 pm, work groups were opened

Next Meeting

Next regular meeting: October 11th, 2021

Location: Virtual