



CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

APRIL 26TH, 2021

Present: Debbie Ahl, Sterling Chick, Chris Cochran, Ray Deck, Escarleth DeLeon, Mike Ford, Carol Frazey, Urvasi Graham, Yarrow Greer, Gregory Hansen, Melissa Isenhart, Mara Kelley, Monica Koller, Keith Montoya, Brian Nelson, Astrid Newell, Beverly Porter, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Mary Sewright, Komal Shah, Jed Holmes, Vesla Tonnesson, Jen Wright

Not Present: Jamie Desmul, Anne Granberg, Alicia Hanning, Brian Heinrich, Silvia Johnson, Katrice Rodriguez, Sarah Cook

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 whose land was wrongfully stolen from them. I would like to thank them for their relationship with the land and their passionate care of mother earth. I promised to tread lightly on the land with the same care and stewardship they did.</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"> • 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>Approve Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>No amendments to discuss, minutes from April 12th, 2021 were approved as presented.</p>
<p>Sharing Contact Information and Resources</p>	<p>A request to indicate interest in sharing email contacts with the rest of the group by placing a "yes" in the chat box.</p>



Finding Your Work Group	<p>A list of information on work groups was sent out via email. Please indicate in the chat which work group you are interested in. Clarification was shared that the work groups cannot contain quorum.</p> <p>The work groups will begin at the next task force meeting. These work groups will bring content back to the main meeting group on the work being done, and provide an opportunity to build relationships in smaller groups.</p>
Family Engagement	<p>The three guiding principles are Equity, Family Engagement and Results. We have addressed Equity and Results in previous meetings, but we have not addressed Family Engagement until today.</p> <p>The ordinance calls out a couple of tasks related to Family Engagement. One task is recommending ways to fully integrate parents and caregivers from under represented communities in the County committees and work groups as part of developing a children and families first path to policy and funding decisions. Another task is recommending policies and practices that increase accountability to those parents and caregivers in County committees and work groups.</p> <p>Description of how a beloved community may be expressed in Whatcom County, by supporting every child and every family as much as you would your own. Prioritizing equity is a key to creating that beloved community. Authentic family involvement and shaping government policies and practices is essential action in building that equity. Family involvement as a way of prioritizing equity as a way to build the beloved community.</p> <p>The Child and Family Action Plan calls out three agents of change: Families, Program and Service Providers, Community Partners and Policy Makers. Families are key stakeholders for change.</p> <p>The question was asked, “What would it look like to live in a community where government centers family voices and needs?” The answer having the assumption there are no barriers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normalizing the different ways to process and be present. • Meeting family’s needs, meeting them where they are at so that they cannot just survive but thrive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ways to achieve this and allow parents to participate includes providing stipends, childcare, and meals. • Feeling like the voices are heard and providing a safe place in the community. • Educationally the school leaders and parents collaborate; more resources offered and available for mental health, social and physical; food and financial assistance; accountability and reports. • Trust in government and institutions is necessary, achieved through actionable items and responding to feedback. • The government listening to the parents, leading to policy change. • Empowering the families. <p>Keeping these ideas in mind as you do the work, considering how the barriers in place can be removed.</p>
Decision-making Process	<p>A discussion and shared ideas on how to come to decisions as a group occurred. “Fist to Five” was suggested and supported as an opportunity to try.</p> <p>A presentation on a plan “Agree, Agree with Reservation, Disagree” was shared. If there are several oppositions amendments or overhaul of the proposal can be conducted, revisiting at another time. On the final round of voting would be majority rules.</p> <p>During further discussion of “Fist to Five” it was shared that the numbers are a more positive approach versus the thumbs up or thumbs down. https://www.lucidmeetings.com/glossary/fist-five</p> <p>The group was very interested in “Fist to Five”. Information will be emailed out and further discussion will happen at the next meeting. We can always change the decision-making process should it be ineffective.</p>
Work Group Chart	<p>Interests in the work groups were evenly distributed. The chart will be emailed before the next meeting.</p>
Public Comment	<p>None.</p>
Closing	<p>If anyone would like to do the land acknowledgement at one of the meetings, please let us know.</p>
Next Meeting	<p style="text-align: center;">Next regular meeting: May 10th, 2021 Location: Virtual</p>