



## CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2022

**Present:** Alicia Hanning, Anne Granberg, Sunshine Nelson, Beverly Porter, Carol Frazey, Jamie Desmul, Jed Holmes, Jen Wright, Keith Montoya, Mary Sewright, Mike Ford, Ray Deck, Samya Lutz, Sativa Robertson, Sterling Chick, Vesla Tonnesson, Yarrow Greer

**Not Present:** Brian Nelson, Chris Cochran, Escarleth DeLeon, Gregory Hansen, Melissa Isenhardt, Monica Koller, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Sarah Cook

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 April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, were approved as presented.</p>												
<p><b>Upcoming events, community shares, shout outs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are three vacant positions on this task force.</li> <li>• Whatcom Early Alliance did a significant needs assessment for services. It is on the website and available in English and Spanish. <a href="https://www.whatcomearlylearning.org/whatcom-family-needs-survey-report">https://www.whatcomearlylearning.org/whatcom-family-needs-survey-report</a></li> <li>• Whatcom County Executive’s office is adding a Special Project Matter Strategic Initiatives position and has four candidates to interview this week. A request was made for a Task Force member to participate in the interview process. Keith Montoya was nominated. The task force was asked to provide Fist to Five Consensus about designating Keith Montoya as the task force member to participate in candidate interviews.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fist to Five</b></p> <p>Poll   1 question   16 of 18 (88%) participated</p> <p>1. Fist to Five Consensus Vote (Single Choice) *</p> <p>16/16 (100%) answered</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Fist</td> <td>(0/16) 0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>One</td> <td>(0/16) 0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Two</td> <td>(0/16) 0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Three</td> <td>(0/16) 0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Four</td> <td>(2/16) 13%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Five</td> <td>(14/16) 88%</td> </tr> </table> <p>Komal Shah abstained due to being on a call. This vote met consensus for approval.</p>	Fist	(0/16) 0%	One	(0/16) 0%	Two	(0/16) 0%	Three	(0/16) 0%	Four	(2/16) 13%	Five	(14/16) 88%
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<p><b>Public Health Advisory Board Member Expansion</b></p>	<p>Steve Bennett from the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) attended to share the adjustments with expanded roles and responsibilities to the PHAB based on the new state guidelines. In reviewing how to achieve these expansion goals, PHAB identified that many task forces and committees are under the Health Department umbrella and share many of the same goals but are not as coordinated as they could be. PHAB now has the ability to review and bring forward new policies to County Council. Two suggestions from PHAB are to connect more strongly to the other committees/boards by using a hub and spoke collaborative model and to connect with other existing committees/board in order to increase PHAB member numbers and diversity. PHAB is attending all committees/boards to invite each one to provide a member as a representative in PHAB. This is also an opportunity provide more coordination among all committees/boards forces to move common initiatives forward. Those interested will email Allison Williams with a show of interest and the task force will conduct a vote at the next task force meeting.</p>												
<p><b>Update on the Proposed Ballot Initiative</b></p>	<p>The task force has been invited to participate in public comment to the County Council on the proposed ballot initiative both on 5/24 and 6/7. As an attending task force member, it is important that participants only represent themselves as an individual, not on behalf of the task force.</p> <p>Lobbying guidelines: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uSYj_Bq6LEIQh_kD_Za21WH2GLMCNyp/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uSYj_Bq6LEIQh_kD_Za21WH2GLMCNyp/view?usp=sharing</a></p> <p>The task force was asked to provide Fist to Five Consensus about recommending Whatcom County Council approve the Healthy Children Fund to be placed on the general ballot in November.</p>												

## Fist to Five

Poll | 1 question | 17 of 17 (100%) participated

### 1. Fist to Five Consensus Vote (Single Choice) \*

17/17 (100%) answered



This vote met consensus for approval.

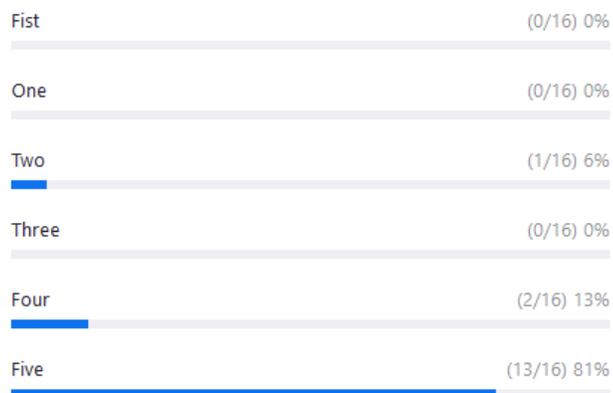
The task force was asked to provide Fist to Five Consensus about designating Sterling Chick as representation of task force at Whatcom County Council on this matter.

## Fist to Five

Poll ended | 1 question | 16 of 17 (94%) participated

### 1. Fist to Five Consensus Vote (Single Choice) \*

16/16 (100%) answered



Vesla voted a two and indicated needing clarity on representation. Two changed after discussion. Sterling abstained. This vote met consensus for approval.

The task force was asked to provide Fist to Five Consensus about designating Ray Deck as a second representation of task force at Whatcom County Council on this matter.

## Fist to Five

Poll | 1 question | 16 of 17 (94%) participated

1. Fist to Five Consensus Vote (Single Choice) \*

16/16 (100%) answered



Ray abstained. This vote met consensus for approval.

The task force was asked to provide Fist to Five Consensus to hold a special meeting to vote approval for a letter in support of the initiative.

## Fist to Five

Poll | 1 question | 17 of 17 (100%) participated

1. Fist to Five Consensus Vote (Single Choice) \*

17/17 (100%) answered



This vote met consensus for approval.

### Update on Phase II Report to Council and Next Steps

The Phase II Report was presented to Whatcom County Council and is complete. The Phase III Report is due in October.

Council was very supportive and interested in encouraging and highlighting opportunities and accountability. There are some conversations to continue about metrics and benchmarks for tasks.

### Overview of Stages of Group Development

Jennifer Wright shared a video on Tuckman's stages of group development: Forming, Storming, Norming, and Performing.

**Review of Task Force Purpose and Function – Function, tasks, and membership of subcommittees; proposal to approve member roles and responsibilities**

Per the ordinance, the purpose of this task force is to continue to review the Whatcom County governmental impact on children and families and make specific recommendations for improvements, considering evidence-based and promising practices. There are great directional pointers for the task force, but there is some latitude in response.

After the last report was submitted, the task force agreed that the structure and function of workgroups would be reassessed. Some questions arose related to types of workgroups and frequency of meetings.

- Vesla shared that the Phase III report is quite detailed and a workgroup to complete this report would be helpful.
- Yarrow recommended considering the specific focus of groups and recognized that some of the workgroups are lacking members at this point.
- Ray recommended having a focus for each workgroup. For example, having a goal and a group that identifies how to achieve a measurable goal such as kindergarten readiness.
- Samya identified that subgroups have been challenging as a variation of “meat” happening in some and not others, which would be great to see in this full group with homework happening in the subgroup. A workgroup would be useful for creating the “how” as opposed to the “what” in finding solutions. There is so much work that includes incorporating and bringing stakeholders into the processes.

If the task force moves to a single monthly meeting, the goal would be for workgroups to meet separately in a capacity and timeline that worked for that group.

More to come at the next meeting.

**Proposal to Revise Task Force Meeting Schedule**

The task force was asked to provide Fist to Five Consensus about changing meeting sequence to the second Monday every month and removing the fourth Monday meetings that are currently scheduled. This will be applied going forward.

**Fist to Five**

Poll | 1 question | 17 of 17 (100%) participated

1. Fist to Five Consensus Vote (Single Choice) \*

17/17 (100%) answered



This vote met consensus for approval.

Meetings will be moving to hybrid soon, but a virtual option will continue. More to come on this.

<b>Meeting Feedback - Members</b>	This link is a way to capture feedback on the meeting, and provide input on agenda items. This will be available through Wednesday. <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf59ubhjlyXFZQJa0pXGgQQ5HhwJ1jamGFzjQLXS6-zZC1hKQ/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf59ubhjlyXFZQJa0pXGgQQ5HhwJ1jamGFzjQLXS6-zZC1hKQ/viewform</a>
<b>Public Comment</b>	No Public Comment
<b>Closing</b>	Adjourned at 5:30 PM
<b><i>Next Meeting</i></b>	<b>Next regular meeting: June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b> <b><u>Location: Hybrid</u></b>