



## CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

JULY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

**Present:** Alicia Hanning, Astrid Newell, Beverly Porter, Brian Nelson, Carol Frazey, Debbie Ahl, Gregory Hansen, Jamie Desmul, Jen Wright, Komal Shah, Mara Kelley, Melissa Isenhardt, Mike Ford, Ray Deck, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Sarah Cook, Samya Lutz, Jed Holmes, Vesla, Tonnesson, Yarrow Greer

**Not Present:** Anne Granberg, Chris Cochran, Escarleth DeLeon, Keith Montoya, Mary Sewright, Monica Koller, Sativa Robertson, Silvia Johnson, Sterling Chick, Urvasi Graham

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
<p><b>Welcome</b></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 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.</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>Link to images provided by Project 562 <a href="https://www.instagram.com/project_562/?hl=en">https://www.instagram.com/project_562/?hl=en</a></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><b>Last Meeting</b></p>	<p>Discussion about last meeting cancellation. The decision was made to meet everyone where they were, providing family and self-care first as outlined in the agreements. Allowing everyone the opportunity speak their truth and share what was best for their family through a poll to determine who could be present for the work. We are learning and growing, review of how to address these situations in the future will be put on the next agenda.</p>



<b>Approve Meeting Minutes</b>	No amendments to discuss, minutes from June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 were approved as presented.
<b>Upcoming events, community shares and shout outs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jen Wright for advocating with State Attorney General's office about the OPMA training not representing diversity, also included typical power dynamics. In final review process to post updated versions soon.</li> <li>• Generations Forward hosting first family event. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/515352203039610">https://www.facebook.com/events/515352203039610</a></li> <li>• Exhibit in La Conner – Dan Friday, represents Lummi Nation and Swinomish tribal community. <a href="https://www.monamuseum.org/event-calendar/dan-friday-future-artifacts#:~:text=The%20Museum%20of%20Northwest%20Art.and%20Coast%20Salish%20people's%20history.">https://www.monamuseum.org/event-calendar/dan-friday-future-artifacts#:~:text=The%20Museum%20of%20Northwest%20Art.and%20Coast%20Salish%20people's%20history.</a></li> <li>• PBS News Series on Childcare Dilemma “Raising the Future: America’s Child Care Dilemma” <a href="https://www.pbs.org/newshour/press-releases/pbs-newshour-series-raising-the-future-americas-child-care-dilemma-explores-the-countrys-broken-child-care-system">https://www.pbs.org/newshour/press-releases/pbs-newshour-series-raising-the-future-americas-child-care-dilemma-explores-the-countrys-broken-child-care-system</a></li> </ul>
<b>Update from Resource and Funding Work Group</b>	<p>The group decided to continue moving forward on the fiscal mapping project at the same time as developing these recommendations for childcare resolution process that will be brought back to Whatcom County Council in September. A few Health Department staff members are developing a contract with a consultant to help with this process. Additional meetings will be scheduled outside of this task force meeting time for this work group, limited task force members will be able to attend as to not meet quorum.</p> <p>Currently discussing ideas generated thus far for the child care resolution, begin to plan research collection for proposal ideas, and navigate ways to collect feedback from the community during and after this process. Defining a measurable proposal process that could gain the support from the council at large.</p>
<b>Work groups developing future action plans and timelines</b>	<p>Work groups are asked to develop a future action plan and a timeline. Discuss what to accomplish, and work backwards to determine the work that needs to be done and how to do it.</p> <p>Not all of the work groups are in the same place and this may take more conversation. If a work group is ready with an action plan, start assigning duties to continue the momentum.</p>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<p>Heather Flaherty was invited to share work in the community that is pertinent to the task force –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For about a decade there has been a dream to establish dedicated funds for children and families at a local level using public funds. Some examples are the Behavioral Health Fund and at the City of Bellingham there is a Housing Levy. There is increased recognition of the positive outcomes in community health outcomes, economically, and in child and family well-being. With the focus specifically on the public financing options and possible paths to get us there, in 2019 some very difficult discussions occurred to consider advancing a ballot measure to see if voters would tax themselves to support children and family. This did not move forward, and while a timeline was being determined this task force was established. There is a lot of critical work this task force is doing that would feed into support used in a ballot measure. It was recently discovered that the community cannot weigh in on a tax until County Council considers “banked capacity”. For number of years County Council has not voted to increase property taxes and we cannot go above that limit. If we put this question in front of County Council this year, then we can start to build the foundation to create a public campaign. Looking forward to coming back in a more formal way to get recommendations to help formalize and establish this advocacy. The team doing this work began in Generations Forward and the Policy, Advocacy and Funding Team.</li> <li>• Children and families need help now. For many years there has been a focus to wait and see what other dollars will do, and disagreements over if this should be addressed with City of Bellingham or Whatcom County. Families are struggling more than before with the COVID impact. We also have available funding from American Rescue Dollars that could be used to create a system. Now is the time, and with the political will there is more drive to get this through now.</li> </ul>
<b>Closing</b>	4:42 pm, work groups were opened
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p><b>Next regular meeting: July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>  <b><u>Location: Virtual</u></b></p>