



CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

OCTOBER 10, 2022

Present: Anne Granberg, Sunshine Nelson, Beverly Porter, Carol Frazey, Escarleth DeLeon, Jamie Desmul, Kayla Schott-Bresler, Jen Wright, Keith Montoya, Mary Sewright, Mike Ford, Monica Koller, Samya Lutz, Sterling Chick, Vesla Tonnesson

Not Present: Alicia Hanning, Melissa Isenhardt, Ray Deck, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Sarah Cook, Sativa Robertson, Yarrow Greer

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
<p>Welcome</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.</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>https://www.lhaqtemish.org/ -Lhaq'temish Foundation</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>Fist to Five Consensus Tool – Amended 4.25.22</p>
<p>Approve Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>No amendments to discuss. Minutes from September 12, 2022, were approved as presented.</p>



<p>Upcoming events, community shares, shout outs</p>	<p>Keith Montoya suggested for the check-in on Indigenous People’s Day, folks could share a memory from a time they have interacted with a Lummi Nation member or Nooksack member or share what Tribal sovereignty means to you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beverly Porter shared an experience from an event on October 2 for Down syndrome families and the Lhaq'temish Singers performed at the event. • Mary Sewright shared they swore in a school board member who is the first Nooksack Tribe member to be a part of the school board in the Mount Baker district. • Vesla Tonnesson shared a shout-out to Heather Jefferson of Lummi Nation and projects with the library system. • Sunshine Nelson shared what Tribal sovereignty means to her. • Carol Frazey shared what Tribal sovereignty means to her. • Keith read a definition he found of Tribal sovereignty. • Vesla shared Racial Equity Commissions Public hearing is tomorrow night at 6pm and there is a party on the library green lawn from 430-6:00. • Keith shared that today at 5pm Whatcom community college and NWIC are hosting an Indigenous Peoples Day celebration with a film screening and discussion afterwards. The screening will be recorded. <p>Other shout-outs and shares</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith shared Monica Koller is doing a community voices film fest on November 5, sharing many stories her organization has collected: https://www.connectingcommunitybellingham.com/news • Allison Williams shared an opportunity for providers working with children under the age of 3: the Whatcom Infant & Children Council is looking to hear from providers on their thoughts on working with children with disabilities or behavioral needs: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMIFr-u8dN9IymWe3Jvld7UwbNvLEfKL6iYgO2L0bb9vIWhQ/viewform • Vesla shared that Whatcom Early Learning Alliance’s second Whatcom Parent Leadership Training Institute started last week.
<p>Task Force Updates</p>	<p>Vacancies</p> <p>Allison provided an update on Task Force vacancies. The County will be approving current applicants on October 11. Four people who previously applied have put their applications forward again, along with three additional new applicants. There are six openings right now, with three of those positions ending on 1/31/23. The Council will likely appoint people to fill the vacant terms ending 1/31/25 and wait until January to fill all the positions that will end 1/31/23. Currently, the only unfilled designated permanent position is the position representing the Health Department.</p>
<p>Phase III Workgroups</p>	<p>Standing Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith stated an agreement has been made on standing meetings times: Family-Friendly Employment Workgroup will meet the first Thursday from 10am-11am, Family Participation will meet the first Thursday from 1:30pm-2:30pm, Family Services & Support the first Friday from 9am-10am. <p>Spending Needs</p> <p>The Family Services & Supports workgroup provided a document to view: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yx2uyJdb2hGnGrGXHprhXF_mEc3XkYOC4MIB8j_GHJk/edit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently about \$53,000 in the 2022 Health Department budget that could be spent on contracted services outlined in the document. The contract would need to be initiated as well as significant service for the work would need to be underway by the end of the year in order to draw on this year’s funds. It could continue on to 2023 as long as significant work has been shown to be done in 2022. Funds would be lost if not spent by the end of the year. Bringing this discussion to the Task Force based on workgroup input about ideas for spending that would advance their work.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vesla sees this as an opportunity to demonstrate the value that the County can provide towards the open source utility (WRIC) and is an opportunity to blend public and private funds. Advocates for maintaining our local knowledge of this work by working with the WRIC and not outsourcing this to an external consultant. • Sunshine’s clarifying question confirmed that these funds would support the resource list/WRIC and not the gap analysis, although they could provide a foundation for a gap analysis. The initial WRIC focus is for populations prenatal to age five. • Kayla asked how this work is connected to the contract with WELA and United Way on the Help Me Grow expansion. Answer: WRIC work identifies resources that families can access and WELA/Help Me Grow expansion focuses on broader community assets, broader than programmatic services. The Help Me Grow work will include a gap analysis of assets. • Task Force used an anonymous Fist to Five consensus poll to gauge the group’s temperature on this issue. There is no way to abstain from the poll. Eleven of the 13 members participated with no votes below a 3. • Carol asked whether there is any other entity that would benefit from the money. • Beverly commented that she feels agencies would benefit—not through direct funds—but through improved connections within the system. • Vesla states part of the money helps pay for roles in separate programs—the Secretariat position of the WRIC and the data steward. Also provided a link for Whatcom Resource Information Collaborative Charter Adopted June 2022: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B84e0lxGmEDBibs9EEiq6abhMEdNBTwkOLrfOrs3xgE/edit?usp=sharing <p><u>Task took a formal vote through chat and visual indication of Fist to Five to approve the Family Services & Supports Workgroup recommendation to use funds to support the WRIC work. No members indicated below a 3. Approved.</u></p> <p>Phase III Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allison provided a document regarding the Phase III Report Timeline: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1z4WmPDP4b6mku6VgYoKukRJNz1XCo7VHJDdLE2M9bp4/edit?usp=sharing • Clarified that the Phase III report is responsible for operational plans and budgets for Task Force recommendations. • Need to determine which items are no longer relevant now based on the maturity of the task force and how Phase II items might be combined if the levy is passed. • Vesla recommended incorporating the work still left from the Phase II report and building off that to ensure we aren’t leaving that work behind. • Kayla recommended providing a status report on recommendations so work from Phase II is not left behind.
<p>Healthy Children’s Fund Implementation Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allison stated the Health Department, as the fund administrator for the Healthy Children’s Fund decided to work on the Implementation Plan regardless if the ballot initiative passes. The team developing the Implementation Plan is meeting weekly on Mondays. An outline for the plan has been developed and planning for a rough draft in early November. • Judy commented regarding the Healthy Children’s Fund Implementation Plan and the timeline and noted that the Task Force is integral to the plan development. Please look for more information regarding methods for Task Force collaboration—input on plan sections, surveys, or small group meetings.

Task Force Values Discussion	Decision made to discuss at another meeting.
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| Update on Allocation of ARPA Funds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kayla provided an overview of the spending buckets the county created for the ARPA funds and shared the Whatcom County – ARPA Updated Spending Plan, see below. • Vesla added additional information regarding the allocation of the ARPA funds. • Samya suggested revisiting this at the next meeting since we are short on time. |
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The screenshot shows a mobile view of a spreadsheet with the following data:

Allocation	Spending Plan	Committed	Proposed 2023-2024	Remaining to Allocate	Percent of Total
Childcare Capital	\$ 9,200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,500,000	21%
Laurel and Forest		\$ 200,000			
Childcare Stabilization	\$ 3,000,000		\$ 2,634,000	\$ 366,000	7%
Childcare Stabilization Grants			\$ 2,000,000		
Staffing			\$ 634,000		
Housing Capital	\$ 7,225,000	\$ 6,775,747	\$ 449,253		16%
Evergreen Ridge		\$ 2,000,000			
Laurel and Forest		\$ 3,000,000			
Savick Commons		\$ 525,000			
Thornston Street		\$ 3,250,747			
Homeless Services & Shelter Capital	\$ 5,500,000	\$ 2,524,481	\$ 2,975,519		12%
Landlord - Tenant Supports		\$ 74,800			
Premium Pay		\$ 184,921			
Shelter services		\$ 680,760			
Waystation		\$ 1,500,000			
Youth Shelter		\$ 75,000			
Criminal Justice Backlog	\$ 6,582,756	\$ 2,242,927	\$ 4,339,829		15%
Dibble Building Lease		\$ 79,208			
District Court		\$ 150,134	\$ 283,487		
Prosecuting Attorney		\$ 445,034	\$ 813,426		
Public Defender		\$ 1,083,864	\$ 2,253,718		
Superior Court		\$ 399,105	\$ 837,336		
Clerk		\$ 85,332	\$ 151,862		
Public Health	\$ 5,841,369	\$ 2,076,430	\$ 3,079,074	\$ 685,805	13%
Direct COVID-19 Response		\$ 1,864,000	\$ 2,876,785		
Jail COVID-19		\$ 212,430	\$ 202,288		
Broadband	\$ 4,000,000		\$ 4,000,000		9%
Food Security	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000			1%
Bellingham Food Bank		\$ 500,000			
Revenue Loss/Gov't Services	\$ 2,679,417	\$ 1,160,233	\$ 108,902	\$ 1,410,223	6%
Transfer to Northwest Annex Project		\$ 800,000			
Frozen Positions		\$ 348,033			
ARPA Administration		\$ 11,000	\$ 108,902		
Grand Total	\$ 44,528,542	\$ 15,479,818	\$ 22,086,837	\$ 6,962,088	100%

Public Comment	No public comment
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Closing	Adjourned at 5:30 PM
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Next Meeting	Next regular meeting: November 14, 2022	Location: Hybrid
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