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PROPOSED BY: _____
INTRODUCTION DATE: NOVEMBER 24, 2020

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ESTABLISHING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.106
AND CREATING A WHATCOM COUNTY
CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, in April 2019, the County Health Board adopted Resolution 2019-020 affirming commitment to Whatcom County’s Young Children and Families; and

WHEREAS, in February 2020, the County Health Board officially adopted a child and family action plan entitled: “Whatcom Working Towards Well-being: An Action Plan for County Government” (Action Plan); and

WHEREAS, the Action Plan calls for the development of an ordinance to create a county task force, or other official county committee, with high level staffing and resources to ensure that diverse community partners are informed, coordinated and included in the implementation of the action plan, make additional recommendations, and regularly report progress to County Council and County Executive; and

WHEREAS, the Action Plan recommends using the County Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force as a model, including representatives from government, community organizations, and families; and

WHEREAS, the Action Plan also specifies that the task force will focus on tracking and furthering progress of community efforts to achieve the desired results for children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County Code Chapter 2.106 is hereby established, creating a Whatcom County Child and Family Well-being Task Force as outlined in Exhibit A to this ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the initial tasks to be accomplished by the Task Force are as follows:

A. Develop processes and procedures to ensure that all work of the Task Force is embedded in principles of:

- a. Equity, with specific attention to racial equity
- b. Family engagement
- c. Results-based approaches

B. Develop recommendations for County infrastructure to promote child and family wellbeing

- a. Clarify scope and purpose of infrastructure
- b. Identify and evaluate infrastructure models such as a County Office of Child and Family Well-being
- c. Recommend funding approaches to build and sustain infrastructure
- d. Recommend policies and practices that increase accountability to parents, caregivers, and stakeholders from under-represented communities in county committees and workgroups.

- e. Propose strategies to adopt trauma-informed practices across County government, including staff training and development

C. Develop recommendations for adoption of a “children and families first” approach for County policy and funding decisions across all departments

- a. Recommend policy and program review process
- b. Recommend ways to fully integrate parents, caregivers, and stakeholders from underrepresented communities in county committees and workgroups, including compensation for time
- c. Recommend processes to ensure consideration and prioritization of child and family needs in county funding decisions

D. Develop recommendations to promote shared governmental and community accountability for child and family results

- a. Review results approaches in other communities and recommend strategies for County adoption
- b. Identify mechanisms for government and community stakeholders to agree on and work together toward desired results, including identification of key strategies and actions
- c. Identify mechanisms to track and share progress on key indicators aligned with desired results

E. Develop recommendations for coordination and enhancement of existing county initiatives focused on issues impacting young children and their families

- a. Review existing County initiatives and groups focused on issues such as racial equity, housing, behavioral health, economic development, and incarceration prevention, and recommend ways to incorporate focus on young children and their families into these initiatives and groups.
- b. Review existing community initiatives addressing high priority concerns such as child/family homelessness, lack of access to affordable child care and early learning opportunities, and need for child/family behavioral health supports and identify opportunities for additional County support and coordination.

F. Develop recommendations for new, or enhancement of existing, funding streams to support child and family programs and services that are aligned with desired results

- a. Recommend scope and process of fiscal analysis
- b. Review and recommend options for new or enhanced funding streams

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED that the initial work of the Task Force for the above tasks shall be accomplished and reported to the County Council and County Executive in the following phases:

PHASE I – Establish Task Force processes and procedures. Clarify goals and metrics. Establish processes for shared accountability for results. Evaluate and recommend infrastructure model for County adoption. Propose scope and approach for County fiscal analysis to identify existing and potential funding streams for child and family programs. Review and identify existing child and family serving collaborative resources and initiatives, and infrastructure. Recommend strategies to fill the gaps identified. Deliver the initial Phase I report by June 1, 2021.

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PHASE II -- Develop and establish methods to increase and stabilize funding streams for child and family programs, services, and infrastructure. Deliver the initial Phase II report as completed no later than March 2022.

PHASE III – Develop specific operational plans and budgets leading to implementation of appropriate programs, services and infrastructure. Include details on assignment of responsibilities, and projected outcomes anticipated. Deliver the initial Phase III report with sufficient details to proceed with programs and infrastructure no later than October 1, 2022.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2020.

ATTEST:

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

() **Approved** () **Denied**

Date Signed:

EXHIBIT A

Chapter 2.106

CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

Sections:

2.106.010 Established

2.106.020 Purpose

2.106.030 Function

2.106.040 Permanent Members

2.106.050 Additional Appointed Members

2.106.060 Term of Office

2.106.070 Organization – Meetings

2.106.080 Staff and Funding Support

2.106.090 Reporting

2.106.010 Established

There is hereby established a Whatcom County Child and Family Well-being Task Force.

2.106.020 Purpose

The purpose of the Whatcom County Child and Family Well-being Task Force is to continually review Whatcom governmental impact on children and families and make specific recommendations for improvements for all departments

2.106.030 Function

The Task Force will consider input from diverse families throughout Whatcom County and evidence-based and promising practices and report on and make recommendations to County Council, Executive, and other appropriate officials regarding implementation of recommendations in the Whatcom Working Toward Well-being: An Action Plan for County Government (Action Plan) as adopted on February 4, 2020.

2.106.040 Permanent Members

Members of the Child and Family Well-being Task Force shall include the following 15 representatives, appointed by their designated agency:

- A. Three representatives from families selected by Generations Forward Family Council
- B. One representative from Whatcom Early Learning Alliance
- C. One representative from Whatcom Taking Action for Children/Youth with Special Health Needs
- D. One representative from School Superintendents (selected by Superintendents)
- E. One representative from Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF)
- F. One representative from the Whatcom County Health Department (selected by Health Director)
- G. One representative from Public Health Advisory Board (selected by PHAB)
- H. One member of the Whatcom County Council/Health Board
- I. Whatcom County Executive or alternate
- J. One representative from City of Bellingham
- K. One representative from small cities (selected by the Small Cities Partnership)
- L. One representative from Lummi Nation (selected by Lummi Nation)
- M. One representative from Nooksack Tribe (selected by Nooksack Tribe)

These representatives are not subject to term limits. The individual agencies will determine who will represent them on the Task Force.

2.106.050 Additional Appointed Members

In addition to officials designated above, the Child and Family Well-being Task Force shall include the following 15 members who represent at least one of the following experiences, appointed by the Whatcom County Council:

1. Community Members from Under-Represented Communities: Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Immigrant, Rural (up to 5 members)
2. Representative from a Community Action Agency, Non-Profit Housing Organization or Social Service Agency (up to 2 members)
3. Representative from the Faith Community
4. Representative from Private School, Home School, Higher Education or Child Care Provider (up to 2 members)
5. Medical and Behavioral Health Care Provider serving young children and families
6. Community Members with experience caring for children such as Parent, Foster Parent, Grandparent, or Guardian. (up to 3 members)
7. Representative from Private Business, Corporation, or Philanthropic Organization

2.106.060 Term of Office

The term of office for appointed members shall be four years; members may apply for and be appointed to an additional consecutive four-year term. Appointment of members shall comply with Chapter 2.03 WCC.

2.106.070 Organization — Meetings.

- A. Meetings of the task force shall be open and accessible to the public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.
- B. At every meeting, the task force will schedule an open session to take public comment.
- C. Written records of meetings, resolutions, research, findings and recommendations shall be kept and such records shall be submitted to county staff and shall be made public, including posting on the county website.
- D. The task force shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the conduct of business.
- E. The task force shall elect co-chairs (including at least one representing family perspective) from among its members who shall preside at its meetings.
- F. The task force shall determine its meeting schedule and agenda, but shall meet at least quarterly.
- G. The task force may form and appoint ad hoc committees to work on specific issues, so long as at least two committee members are also members of each ad hoc committee.

2.106.080 Staff and Funding Support

The Task Force will have full support from the Council, the County Executive's Office, Health Department staff, and locally delivered paid consultant assistance to conduct and complete its tasks in an efficient and effective manner.

2.106.090 Reporting

As outlined in the Phases of the Ordinance and at least biannually thereafter, no later than March 30 and September 30 of each year, the Task Force will provide a report and recommendations to the County Council and County Executive on progress.