

Whatcom County Council Public Works & Health Committee

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010**



Committee Minutes - Draft Minutes

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

11:30 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY - ADJOURNS BY 11:45 A.M.
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Ben Elenbaas
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee Chair Jon Scanlon called the meeting to order at 11:26 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 2 - Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

Absent: 1 - Ben Elenbaas

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, and Kaylee Galloway

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2025-867](#) Presentation by Seva Workshop regarding the Healthy Children's Fund external evaluation

Sarah Simpson, Health and Community Services, introduced the report. She stated the official report will come out on Friday, and the plan is to come back in January to discuss the findings.

Vivien Savath, Seva Workshop, read from a presentation (on file) on the scope of the Healthy Children's Fund performance audit and process evaluation, key themes that came out of the evaluation, and areas of recommendation.

Scanlon stated it would be helpful to hear from the department (in a future presentation) what they are doing in response to the recommendations.

Donovan stated it would be great to get a clearer sense of what capacity would look like if they were spending more on administration, and that it is really hard to look at \$17.92 million of unspent funds.

Simpson spoke about recent requests for proposal (RFPs) that have closed and contracts that are being developed, and that those have just taken them more time to establish.

Savath answered what the evaluation says about capacity (that has been increased or not) for daycare since that was a priority, and she spoke about the slots that have been created. She answered why she thinks more slots have not been created, and stated there were a lot of operational and legal questions going into what the County can or cannot fund.

Ann Beck, Health and Community Services, spoke about their caution in using public funds to make sure they are using them for the best possible use in the appropriate settings, and to make sure they got it right from the beginning. There are big things coming but they want to honor that these are public funds.

Scanlon stated the next Child and Family Well-Being Task Force meeting is on Monday (December 15), and he spoke about a memo from the task force that addresses some of these things. He stated he thinks they should address that early next year and once the report comes in.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Jon Scanlon, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger