

**Whatcom County
Council Public Works & Health Committee**

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



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

11:15 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

Ben Elenbaas
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee Chair Jon Scanlon called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Jon Scanlon, Mark Stremmler, and Ben Elenbaas

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

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2025-243](#) Presentation from the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force regarding the Healthy Children's Fund Report Card 2025

The following Child and Family Well-Being Task Force Co-Chairs spoke:

- Colton Kaltenfeldt
- Sallye Quinn

They read from a memo (on file) regarding progress that has been made on feedback they gave in their last report, remaining challenges, and recommendations. They spoke about the following:

- Progress made on contract development, timelines, and transparency
- The Gift of Public Funds Doctrine being a roadblock to moving things forward
- The need for more communication with respondents about the RFP process and with the public about how the fund is being spent
- Ensuring that the external evaluation is being done by an outside group and is adequately funded
- A question about whether some of the administrative budget of the fund can go to other County departments that are needed to help facilitate the effectiveness of the fund to address bottlenecks
- A recommendation that contractors be able to see a draft contract when an RFP is published

The speakers answered questions and they and Councilmembers discussed the item along with the following:

- Christopher Quinn, Prosecuting Attorney's Office

- Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office
- Sarah Simpson, Health and Community Services

They discussed exploring gifting of public funds further, hearing more from partners in the community about where they see barriers to the process, that they should be asking what programs are being held up or what contracts are not being funded because of issues around the gifting of public funds, whether the issues they were experiencing with that have been resolved, that the Administration is finding ways to move the work forward and not currently experiencing the aforementioned issue as a barrier, a question about the authority of the related ordinance for the collection of taxes, specific issues around wage boost as it relates to the gift of public funds, that the Administration has been talking in their office about alternative ways to support childcare worker wages and sustainable operations for childcare providers through the rate augmentation program, and the timeline for the RFP process for the subsidy and rate augmentation program.

This agenda item was PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Jon Scanlon-via email 4/7/2025

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Jon Scanlon, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

SIGNED COPY ON FILE

