



Memorandum

TO: SATPAL SIDHU, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FROM: Allyson Halverson

DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

RE: Child and Family Well-Being Task Force Report

Child and Family Well-Being Task Force co-chairs will present their annual report to Council on September 24, 2024. The update describes Task Force work including recommendations for the County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan and ways that the Council could advance the well-being of Whatcom children and families.

The September 2024 report includes the following updates:

- The Task Force has undergone structural changes to enhance its effectiveness, including establishing new sub-committees focused on uses, progress tracking, and rapid response.
- The Task Force provided recommendations to Chapter 7 Economics of the County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan including recognizing affordable childcare availability as an economic risk that justifies special treatment for childcare providers; naming family access to behavioral and mental health support as another area of infrastructure consideration; and prioritizing policies that bolster infrastructure to fight food insecurity.
- The Task Force provided recommendations concerning Chapter 3 Housing of the County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan to include policies to increase family-accessible housing and reduce regulatory hurdles that restrict housing development.
- The Task Force provided recommendations regarding Chapter 10 Environment of the County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan to include a goal to reduce the risk of early childhood lead exposures across Whatcom County.

Please call Allyson Halverson, WCHCS staff support to the Task Force at (360) 410-4175 if there are any questions. Thank you.

