

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.106 TO CHANGE REPORTING DUE
DATE FOR THE CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, in December 2020 the Whatcom County Council (Council) adopted Ordinance 2020-079 establishing Whatcom County Code (WCC) Chapter 2.106, which created the Whatcom County Child and Family Well-being Task Force (Task Force); and

WHEREAS, the WCC 2.106.090 requires the Task Force to provide reports and recommendations to Council at least biannually, and no later than March 30 and September 30 of each year; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Evaluation, Communications, and Community Engagement plans called for in the HCF Implementation Plan have been delayed by hiring difficulties and other hurdles, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force expended considerable effort responding to a January 2024 request for feedback regarding the forthcoming revision of the Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has had a significant influx of new members, appointed and designated; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force requests additional time to draft the March 30 report to better familiarize and fully engage the new members in providing input on report content; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2024 county staff identified the need to extend the first report delivery date deadline for 2024 beyond March 30th; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Chapter 2.106 of the Whatcom County shall be amended as indicated in Exhibit A of this ordinance.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Christopher Quinn
Electronically authorized – 3/22/2024
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

() Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____

1
2 EXHIBIT A
3
4

5 Chapter 2.106
6 CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

7 Sections:

8 **2.106.010 Established.**

9 **2.106.020 Purpose.**

10 **2.106.030 Function.**

11 **2.106.040 Permanent members.**

12 **2.106.050 Additional appointed members.**

13 **2.106.060 Term of office.**

14 **2.106.070 Organization – Meetings.**

15 **2.106.080 Staff and funding support.**

16 **2.106.090 Reporting.**

17 **2.106.010 Established.**

18 There is hereby established a Whatcom County child and family well-being task force. (Ord. 2020-079
19 Exh. A).

20 **2.106.020 Purpose.**

21 The purpose of the Whatcom County child and family well-being task force is to continually review
22 Whatcom governmental impact on children and families and make specific recommendations for
23 improvements for all departments.

24 **2.106.030 Function.**

25 The task force will consider input from diverse families throughout Whatcom County and evidence-based
26 and promising practices and report on and make recommendations to county council, executive, and
27 other appropriate officials regarding implementation of recommendations in the Whatcom Working
28 Toward Well-being: An Action Plan for County Government (Action Plan) as adopted on February 4,
29 2020. (Ord. 2020-079 Exh. A).

1 **2.106.040 Permanent members.**

2 Members of the child and family well-being task force shall include the following 15 representatives,
3 appointed by their designated agency:

4 A. Three representatives from families selected by Generations Forward Family Council;

5 B. One representative from Whatcom Early Learning Alliance;

6 C. One representative from Whatcom Taking Action for Children/Youth with Special Health Needs;

7 D. One representative from school superintendents (selected by superintendents);

8 E. One representative from department of children, youth and families (DCYF);

9 F. One representative from the Whatcom County health department (selected by health director);

10 G. One representative from public health advisory board (selected by PHAB);

11 H. One member of the Whatcom County council/health board;

12 I. Whatcom County executive or alternate;

13 J. One representative from city of Bellingham;

14 K. One representative from small cities (selected by the Small Cities Partnership);

15 L. One representative from Lummi Nation (selected by Lummi Nation);

16 M. One representative from Nooksack Tribe (selected by Nooksack Tribe).

17 These representatives are not subject to term limits. The individual agencies will determine who will
18 represent them on the task force.

19 **2.106.050 Additional appointed members.**

20 In addition to officials designated above, the child and family well-being task force shall include the
21 following 15 members who represent at least one of the following experiences, appointed by the
22 Whatcom County council:

23 A. Community members from under-represented communities: Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska
24 Native, Black/African American, immigrant, rural (up to five members);

- 1 B. Representative from a community action agency, nonprofit housing organization or social service
- 2 agency (up to two members);
- 3 C. Representative from the faith community;
- 4 D. Representative from private school, home school, higher education or child care provider (up to two
- 5 members);
- 6 E. Medical and behavioral health care provider serving young children and families;
- 7 F. Community members with experience caring for children such as parent, foster parent, grandparent, or
- 8 guardian (up to three members);
- 9 G. Representative from private business, corporation, or philanthropic organization. (Ord. 2020-079 Exh.
- 10 A).

11 **2.106.060 Term of office.**

12 The term of office for appointed members shall be four years; members may apply for and be appointed
13 to an additional consecutive four-year term. Appointment of members shall comply with
14 Chapter [2.03](#) WCC.

15 **2.106.070 Organization – Meetings.**

16 A. Meetings of the task force shall be open and accessible to the public and shall be subject to the Open
17 Public Meetings Act.

18 B. At every meeting, the task force will schedule an open session to take public comment.

19 C. Written records of meetings, resolutions, research, findings and recommendations shall be kept and
20 such records shall be submitted to county staff and shall be made public, including posting on the county
21 website.

22 D. The task force shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the conduct of business.

23 E. The task force shall elect co-chairs (including at least one representing family perspective) from among
24 its members who shall preside at its meetings.

25 F. The task force shall determine its meeting schedule and agenda, but shall meet at least quarterly.

26 G. The task force may form and appoint ad hoc committees to work on specific issues, so long as at least
27 two committee members are also members of each ad hoc committee.

1 **2.106.080 Staff and funding support.**

2 The task force will have full support from the council, the county executive's office, health department
3 staff, and locally delivered paid consultant assistance to conduct and complete its tasks in an efficient and
4 effective manner.

5 **2.106.090 Reporting.**

6 As outlined in the phases of the ordinance codified in this chapter and at least biannually thereafter, no
7 later than May 7th ~~March 30th~~ and September 30th of each year, the task force will provide a report and
8 recommendations to the county council and county executive on progress.