



Memorandum

TO: SATPAL SIDHU, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FROM: Allison Williams

DATE: June 3, 2021

RE: Updates on the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force Phase I Report

Community Health staff from the Whatcom County Health Department will present the Phase I Report outlining the progress of work from the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force.

Background and Purpose

The Child and Family Well-Being Task Force, established by Whatcom County Ordinance 2020-079, is directed to ensure that diverse community partners are informed, collaborated with, and empowered in the implementation of the Child and Family Action Plan approved by County Council in February 2020.

The purpose of this update is to inform the County Council of the initial work of the Task Force and their progress towards developing recommendations as outlined in Phase I of the Ordinance. The Task Force's initial work has been to establish self-governance processes and procedures. The primary focus has been on building trusting relationships, developing decision-making processes, and grounding the group in the guiding principles of equity, family engagement and results-based approaches as well as the foundational community work that led to the creation of the Task Force. The full Phase I Report is attached. It includes progress of four Task Force Work Groups, established in May 2021, towards developing recommendations for consideration by the County Council and County Executive. Future recommendations will address:

- What innovative government infrastructure is needed to sustain child and family well-being as a priority?
- What practices will increase involvement of parents and caregivers, especially those with diverse life experiences, in County government?
- What resources are needed to support programs and services for young children and their families?
- What results and strategies should be shared across government and the community to improve the well-being of young children and their families?

Please call Allison Williams at 360-319-2064 if there are any questions.

