



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

September 24, 2021

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

As required by Ordinance 19267, this letter transmits a proposed Ordinance to update the composition and duties of the Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB). Concurrently, I am transmitting a Best Starts for Kids Governance Update Report, a proposed Ordinance adopting the report, and a proposed Ordinance to update the composition and eligibility requirements, and extend the existence of, the Communities of Opportunity (COO) Best Starts for Kids Advisory Board, commonly known as the COO Governance Group, as directed by Ordinance 19267.

As required, this proposed Ordinance would implement necessary and recommended changes to King County Code and ordinances governing the CYAB as needed. The CYAB recommended updates are reflected in the concurrently transmitted Best Starts for Kids Governance Update Report and in this proposed Ordinance.

The renewal of the Best Starts for Kids levy by King County voters in August 2021 presents this need and opportunity to update the CYAB's composition and duties in the new cycle of levy investments.

Recommended updates to CYAB's composition and duties will enhance youth representation on the CYAB in the new cycle of Best Starts levy investments. The CYAB recommends increasing the number of board seats for youth 24 years old and younger from at least three positions to at least five positions. In alignment with Ordinance 19267, the CYAB also recommends providing youth on the board with a monthly stipend and support to earn service-learning or community service hours when their service on the board qualifies for such hours.

The CYAB includes an array of community members who bring diverse content and context knowledge to inform the activities of the boards. Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) staff partnered with the co-chairs of CYAB and members of the CYAB's Young Leaders Subcommittee to hold board meetings to formulate

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recommendations on changes to board composition and duties. The CYAB has recommended that youth voices play an even stronger role in the governance and oversight of the levy funds.

Best Starts advances commitments in King County's Strategic Plan to address the root causes of inequities and improve all King County residents' health and well-being. As one of the citizen oversight bodies for *Best Starts* investments, the CYAB provides strategic guidance on furthering these goals, while contributing to the Strategic Plan's goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government.


Best Starts is at the forefront of the County's equity work, and the CYAB was an essential partner in the development of the Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan. The CYAB is committed to assuring that *Best Starts* is designing and implementing policies and practices that reduce the role a person's race or identity plays in whether they benefit from society and feel like they belong. By elevating the voices of Black, African American, Indigenous, and other People of Color in governing board decisions, King County advances the policies and practices that will undo inequities and promotes comprehensive well-being for communities.

The CYAB also furthers recommendations of the Youth Action Plan by serving as an advisory body for King County policies and investments related to children, youth, and young adults, and by intentionally including diverse youth voices, and voices of people affected by policies and services in meaningful ways.

Thank you for your continued support of *Best Starts for Kids*, and for your consideration of this Ordinance, the accompanying Governance Update Report, and the proposed Ordinance updating the COO Governance Group. I look forward to continuing to work with you and our many community partners to achieve our shared vision that every baby born and child raised in King County reaches adulthood happy, healthy, safe, and thriving.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, 206-477-4384, or Dennis Worsham, Interim Director, Public Health Seattle-King County, at 206-263-8158.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

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cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Janine Weihe, Interim Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget

Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services

Dennis Worsham, Interim Director, Public Health Seattle-King County