## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 5 | **Name:** | Miranda Leskinen |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2019-0412 | **Date:** | November 5, 2019 |

**SUBJECT**

A proposed Ordinance confirming the appointments of Marguerite Ro and Carolyn Busch to the Communities of Opportunity – Best Starts for Kids Advisory Board; and amending Ordinance 18442, Section 2, as amended.

**SUMMARY**

The Best Starts for Kids levy Ordinance 18088 and subsequent Ordinances 18220, 18373, and 18442,[[1]](#footnote-1) collectively set the framework for and establish the membership requirements, appointment process and duties for the Communities of Opportunity – Best Starts for Kids (COO-BSK) Advisory Board. Ordinance 18442 codified the board in KCC 2A.300.520. Of the board positions listed in KCC 2A.300.520, 10-14 of the positions, depending on the size of the board, are required to be appointed by the Executive and are subject to Council confirmation by motion. Two positions are subject to appointment by the Seattle Foundation and have no Council confirmation process. One position, the Executive representative, is subject to appointment by the Executive and Council confirmation by ordinance.[[2]](#footnote-2) And one position, the Council representative, is subject to Council appointment and confirmation by ordinance.

Proposed Ordinance 2019-0412 would confirm the following appointments to the COO-BSK Advisory Board:

* Marguerite Ro, as the Executive representative to the Board
* Carolyn Busch, as the Council representative to the Board[[3]](#footnote-3)

**BACKGROUND**

Ordinance 18088[[4]](#footnote-4) approved placing before King County voters a ballot measure authorizing a six-year property tax levy to support Best Starts for Kids (BSK), a prevention-oriented regional plan to support the healthy development of children and youth, families and communities across the county. The measure was approved by King County voters on November 3, 2015. Ordinance 18088 identified the Communities of Opportunity (COO) Interim Governance Group (IGG) as the advisory body for BSK levy proceeds set aside for the COO initiative, and directed the executive to transmit a plan relating to the COO IGG and a proposed ordinance that identified the composition and duties of the IGG with respect to the COO portion of the BSK levy proceeds.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Ordinance 18220[[6]](#footnote-6) identified the composition and duties of the IGG with respect to BSK levy proceeds, as required by Ordinance 18088, and directed that the IGG “shall serve as the advisory body for the communities of opportunity elements of the best starts for kids levy as set forth in Ordinance 18088 until a successor group is established by ordinance.”

Ordinance 18442 established the successor to the IGG and codified, in King County Code Chapter 2A.300.520, the membership requirements for, term limits, and duties of the COO-Best Starts for Kids Levy Advisory Board (COO-BSK Advisory Board).[[7]](#footnote-7) Ordinance 18442 also confirmed the appointment of Betsy Jones as the Executive’s representative on the COO-BSK Advisory Board, and appointed and confirmed Katherine Cortes as the Council’s representative on the COO-BSK Advisory Board.[[8]](#footnote-8)

Ordinance 18442 was amended in July 2017 by Ordinance 18553 to appoint and confirm Laura Hitchcock as the replacement Council representative to the Board, and was subsequently amended again in February 2018 by Ordinance 18657 to appoint and confirm Alison Mendiola as the (most recent) Council representative to the Board.

**ANALYSIS**

Proposed Ordinance 2019-0412 would confirm the appointments of Marguerite Ro, as the Executive’s representative, and Carolyn Busch, as the King County Council’s representative, to the Communities of Opportunity-Best Starts for Kids advisory board. The term of the Executive representative and the term of the Council representative to the Board are ongoing until replaced.

Marguerite Ro is the Chief of the Assessment, Policy Development, and Evaluation unit and the Director of the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention section of Public Health – Seattle & King County. Dr. Ro, who obtained her doctorate from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, serves on a number of advisory committees including the CDC’s Health Disparities Subcommittee and the Washington Health Benefit Exchange’s Health Equity TAC.

Carolyn Busch is the Chief of Staff of the King County Council with areas of policy expertise that includes K12 and higher education, as well as public finance and budgeting. Prior to working at the County, Ms. Busch served as Chief of Staff for the Washington State Senate Democratic Caucus. Additionally, Ms. Busch served as an education policy and budget advisor to Governors Gardner and Locke. She has also worked as a researcher and administrator at the Universities of Washington and Wisconsin-Madison.

Staff has not identified any issues with the proposed appointments. These appointees fulfill the general membership requirements of King County Code 2A.300.520.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Ordinance 2019-0412
1. Ordinance 18442 amended KCC Chapter 2A.300 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ordinance 18442 appointed and confirmed Betsy Jones as the Executive representative. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Would replace Alison Mendiola as the Council representative to the Board, who was appointed and confirmed by Ordinance 18657, which amended Ordinance 18442, as amended by Ordinance 18553. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Adopted July 20, 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ordinance 18088 also required the establishment of an oversight and advisory body for the remainder of BSK levy proceeds. Pursuant to this requirement, Ordinance 18217 (adopted January 11, 2016) created the Children and Youth Advisory Board. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Adopted January 19, 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The Best Start for Kids Implementation plan, adopted by Ordinance 18373, describes additional participation requirements of the COO-BSK Advisory Board in deliverables such as the Performance and Evaluation Measurement Plan and Annual Reporting. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Ordinance 18442 was later amended by Ordinance 18553, appointing and confirming Laura Hitchcock to this role. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)