



King County

Dow Constantine

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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 directed by Ordinance 19267, I am transmitting a proposed Ordinance to extend the existence of the Communities of Opportunity (COO) Best Starts for Kids Advisory Board, also known as the COO Governance Group. This proposed Ordinance accompanies the transmittal of the Best Starts for Kids Governance Update Report and a proposed Ordinance updating the composition and duties of the Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB), as required by Ordinance 19267.

The renewal of the Best Starts for Kids levy by King County voters in August 2021 presents the need and opportunity to update the COO Governance Group's composition and duties in the new cycle of levy investments and to extend the Governance Group's existence to coincide with the levy.

The proposed Ordinance provides changes to King County Code and ordinances governing the COO Governance Group as recommended in the Best Starts for Kids Governance Report submitted under separate cover. The COO Governance Group recommended the changes reflected in the proposed Ordinance and described in the report. These recommendations are designed to increase and amplify community-voice in COO's governance model of shared power and decision-making, guided by the values of authentic community engagement, respect, and partnership. The COO Governance Group recommends updating eligibility requirements for board members to include a proactive commitment to dismantling racism and building anti-racist processes. They also recommend increasing the overall size of the board from between 14 to 18 members to 20 to 24 members, increasing the number of community-designated seats on the board, and adding one non-voting seat for the COO Program Director or designee.

The COO Governance Group includes an array of community members who bring diverse content and context knowledge to inform the activities of the board. Public Health Seattle-King County (PHSKC) staff facilitated the planning of COO Governance Group meetings where board members discussed and approved recommended changes to board composition. The governing board has recommended that community 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 a citizen oversight body for *Best Starts* investments, COO Governance Group provides strategic guidance on furthering these goals while contributing to the Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government.

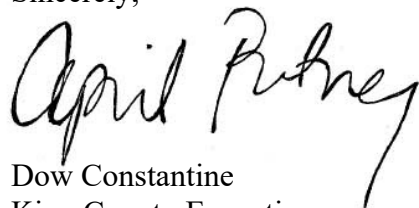
COO is an exemplary public-private partnership that has been at the forefront of the County's equity work. As an essential partner in the development of the Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan, COO has been committed to assuring that King County is designing and implementing policies and practices that reduce the role that a person's race or zip code plays in their health and well-being. 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 promote comprehensive well-being for communities.

This ordinance required approximately 20 staff hours to prepare, costing approximately \$1,177.89.

Thank you for your continued support of Communities of Opportunity as part of *Best Starts for Kids* and for your consideration of the proposed Ordinance. I look forward to continuing to work with you and our many community partners to achieve our shared vision that all people in King County are part of safe, healthy, and thriving communities.

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

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

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

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

Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services