



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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Coalition to End Homelessness Provider Meeting - Friday, February 12th, 2021

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SPEAKERS

Stina McLamore, Julian Wheeler, Tee, Tina McLeod, Rosalyn Wallace Brown, Gerrit Nyland, Kevin Glackin-Coley, Todd Holloway, Stephen Pagan, Carolyn Reed, Rob Huff, Opening Video, Theresa Power-Drutis, Penny Belcher, Rosemary Powers, Mike Boisture, Colin DeForest, Al Ratcliffe, Reverend Boyce, Tiegan Tidball, Janet Runbeck, Maureen Howard, Valeri Knight, Sarah Teague

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Rob Huff

right but. Thanks. And it looks like let's see we're getting more folks on the call I'm going to play a short video clip to play us in. If I can get this to work correctly so

Opening Video

a society can be judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members, look around, as a nation, who does America allowed to become homeless. And what does that say about us, black and Native Americans are disproportionately impacted by homelessness. It is no accident. For generations, people of color have been denied access to everything. At the heart of adjust and fair society, including a place to call home. People burdened most by these inequities are more likely to be met by a punitive system instead of a social safety net. And when they do become homeless, the systems that respond to homelessness, often do a better job of supporting people who are white than those who are not homelessness is a mirror. It reflects our nation's living history of racism, it also reflects the stark reality that these are life and death issues. But ending homelessness would reveal something else that is also



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true. We can create a future where a place to call home is within reach for all, and the impact of racism is truly a thing of the past, we can deliver on the promise of the United States as a just an equitable nation, our decisions created this crisis. We have the power to create something new, something better. Something just join us.

Rob Huff

So good morning everyone. Let's get started. Rosemary Would you like to welcome folks into today's meeting.

Rosemary Powers

Thank you Rob and welcome everyone. I think this short video, reminds us of as we look around in the snow of this day of the importance and the continuing importance of our work. And I was thinking I was trying to think about situating myself within this particular moment, and realizing that a holiday that often is sentimentalized very deeply is almost upon us. Now it's Valentine's Day. And one of the things that our small organization does each year is to send out an annual letter on this day to remind everyone about how much the heart that is a muscle makes it possible for us to do the work we do. So, I just put that out there for you to think about today in terms of this holiday and, and thinking about people that maybe have made it really possible for you in this past year, to do the work you do, and find a way to thank them too. And so I thank all of you for coming today. And what we usually do at this time is to invite anyone who is new to our gathering a twitches an open table we welcome everyone here. Anyone who's new or hasn't been here for some time and would like to let us know they're here or anyone speaking so that we can know that they're here to just take a moment to introduce themselves not lengthy just who you are and if you're associated with a group what that group might be. Anyone can start since I can't tell who's new and I can't see all the screen.

Rosalyn Wallace Brown

My name is Rosalyn Wallace brown and I met the Tacoma rescue mission that demonstrates campus family campus.

Rosemary Powers

Welcome rosin Welcome to have you.

Rosalyn Wallace Brown

Thank you.

Todd Holloway

Hi, my name is Todd Holloway, I'm not new but I'm back, and I'm work for the Center for Independent Living in Lakewood Washington. And we represent and work on behalf of advocacy for all people with disabilities. And I can't say enough about all the wonderful work you guys do.



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Rosemary Powers

Well thank you, Todd and thanks for your work and welcome to our conversation. Well welcome everyone and if you you're new and you weren't quite sure how to get into that just the next time you come just Chirp Chirp right in or sign right in. So, let's go.

Rob Huff

Thank you, rosemary. So to kick off this morning's meeting. I've been notified. This is this portion of the meeting where we talk about what's happening on the streets this week, encourage people who are providing direct providers to offer an update on what they are seeing and what's different this week than the last. Other than the obvious that it's much colder and snowy out there, and that can definitely be part of the update. Normally this section would be introduced by Nathan Blackmer he's busy so we're just going to open it up and see if folks have things to share about what they're seeing on the streets this week.

Mike Boisture

I'll jump in there real quick. Right. It is been interesting let me put it that way. We were able to open up for 10 more beds and east side. So now, we put the net together, it'd be 6065 beds. Okay, but the tanner for inclement weather. So, depending on the weather, either. We'll have to move people out of the inclement weather section. Sunday or Monday depending on whether we opened it, I think I opened it sometime yesterday. And I only have two bits left. So an East Side. Basically, I'm at capacity. The hot team has been fantastic, if you will. They brought I think four or five people in yesterday. And that was the beside nor point. We're still. We have 10 people there. So that's kind of where we're at. It is really sad to see people that don't want to come in and I had an email this morning someone says I'm afraid to go anywhere. I feel safer here, when they're covered with snow. You know, and it's like, you know, I don't know what to do with that, other than to offer the service, and then try to get him someplace. So, it's kind of where I'm at.

Rob Huff

Thanks, Mike. Anybody else with what they're saying on the streets.

Reverend Boyce

I visited 38th Street encampment yesterday. One woman had a tent that was shambles. And I said, you know, can I help you get a, you know, shelter or anything like that and she says no, I need to be here. I can't be in a shelter and broken Denton all she stayed and is not leaving so somebody has a spare tent that they could throw by the 38 cameras, that would be good. Pretty much everybody at that and camping is hunkering down, they, they all have chosen to knock out a shelter to stay where they are.

Rob Huff



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Thanks Jeffrey. I have some anyone else.

Gerrit Nyland

Yeah, kind of connected so Catholic community services, decided to open its new pool of hotel based shelter early. So that is now operational and access Yea h no, that's, and they I mean there's still pieces that have to come in like I don't think they have case management on site yet but, but they have the beds available and access to that is through the police department and a couple other access paths, so I'll shoot something in chat when I get the exact stuff down so we can't refer people to that shelter, but there are mechanisms within Puyallup. So know that that's an option if you're engaging with people in this, in the city of Puyallup so it's very tied to the geography of where somebody is experiencing homelessness.

Rob Huff

Yeah, Garrett on that point. They already had 17 people into rooms. So, they don't have many left. Yeah, they have 20 that are right. Yep. Just an FYI.

Stina McLamore

So a follow up question to that, um, do we direct people that we know are homeless in Puyallup to to the police.

Gerrit Nyland

All I have is what was in the newspaper article. I haven't really had a chance to talk to Fatimah so if somebody else knows a little clearer but I think it's through their, their outreach teams, or you could hook into Melissa moss, she might know if any of you have contact with her with the city appeal.

Mike Boisture

Or you can go on the city webpage to and Kirsten Hoffman is the EEOC manager for the city. And she's the one that was involved with doing the contract. Officer Chad Pearson is really the gold between he's the person that's taking people to the motel so that's kind of the process.

So I have

Jeff Bennett, is actually a police homeless service,

police officer I'm trollop, I'll put his contact number in the chat if anybody wants it.



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Mike Boisture

Yeah, also been in is no longer doing that.

Oh,

Mike Boisture

Chad Dickerson Chad Pearson is the officer that replaced him.

Okay, is is is just still with the police department or Yeah,

Mike Boisture

he was just, he was in rotation out.

Got it. Okay. Thanks, Mike. Yeah.

Rob Huff

This is why we have these conversations.

Todd Holloway

Garrett This is Todd, I'm. I'm curious if if we've learned anything more about the 100% match that FEMA public assistance will help with getting folks out of keeping them out of congregate settings and getting them into hotels. I from everything I know about trying to navigate public assistance with FEMA, you, if you know what you're doing, it's, it's cumbersome. If you don't know what you're doing. It's a nightmare. So I'm wondering if that is something that that everyone is taking into consideration that's passed through money so it usually falls to the local communities to do all the legwork to get that done.

Maureen Howard

You want me to take that. So if the issue Todd and everybody is that the local government has to make the request. Neither the city of Tacoma, nor Pierce County at this time is willing to request, FEMA public assistance Part B it's called for hotel rooms for non congregate shelter. They are both using that source of money for congregate shelter, but not willing to request for non congregate. That being said, we have not let up. And also, because FEMA has now announced that they will reimburse at 100% back to the beginning of their of the pandemic. I think I think they're actually going back to January. So the county will receive that 25% that it's already funded. And I've asked, Heather moss. I've told her we



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want that 25% going into the homelessness response. It was not her money, though, it came from somewhere else in the county but she thought it was a good idea to go looking for the money. And I don't will make the same request, maybe I have of the city. And I don't know what they used for for the match. But, if anybody else wants to wait into FEMA, shoot me an email and I'll send you the stuff.

Rob Huff

Thanks Maureen. So let's go ahead real quick last call for anything from the on the street section of today's meeting.

Maureen Howard

One last thing. In response to Jeffrey and some others who are interacting with people who are saying I want to stay where I am unsheltered. Remember that could change with six or eight or 10 inches of snow. So don't be afraid to ask again.

Rob Huff

Thank you, everybody. So, let's move on to our first item on the agenda for today's meeting. I would like to welcome Penny Belcher from United Way Pierce County. She and her staff we're going to provide an overview, so that we better understand the 211 system. So penny. Thanks.

Penny Belcher

Yeah, thank you everyone for having us. I'm Penny Belcher director at 211 from United Way. Also, in the meeting we have Denise servantes who oversees Operations Management at the two on one center, and then also Sarah Teague, who is our data manager for the program. So, the idea I think for today really was to go a little more in depth about the service of 211 that oftentimes people don't hear about people know the number and are familiar a little bit with information and referral, that we do over the phone. But we wanted to share more of a little bit of how we provide our services in particular with the color experience maybe light. So, hopefully we'll have time for questions on any topic at the end but I want to go ahead and first turn it over to Steena Macklemore She is our housing solutions navigator, and she'll be able to walk you through a little bit what that looks like. On a two on one call.

Stina McLamore

Hello everyone. I'm so glad to be at this meeting. It's my first time and I'm thrilled I've been a housing solutions navigator for about two years. But I also have important duties on 211. And so, this is what I'm usually doing at this time. Hello, this is South sound 211 Steena speaking, how can I help you. Now, the answers we get are very different. It has to do with. Of course the person who's calling you know some people are a straight to the point. I want coordinated entry. Some people don't know how to phrase the question, I need rental assistance. Some people simply don't know can't pull out of, of all of their experience, what is the.



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Maureen Howard

She hit the wrong button

Rob Huff

Steen your mic cut out for some reason it somehow seems fitting that technology issues would hit. Yeah, we're still not able to hear you for some reason. Now, so. All right. So it looks like your mic is not working at all unless mine is just not working. Okay. Okay. So, it with the technology issues. Any. Should we possibly just try to do a redo next week. Now I'm hearing you I think Steena. Good. Yes,

Janet Runbeck

yes,

Rob Huff

you're back on.

Stina McLamore

Right on. Okay, so always shake. Let's see. So people referred to 211 for various different sources. For example, we get calls from people who are referred from medical providers. From DSHS is from. Who else. Well, a whole bunch of different sources. And we also give resources like Legal Aid and food banks. Income Tax transportation. If people need help finding a job, applying for Social Security, how to do that where to go, what are the requirements, where other state benefits, people also call us about COVID vaccinations things having to do with health and housing. So, the people who call and asked specifically for coordinated entry. They either have been through the system before they've been enrolled in a coordinated entry program, or they have been specifically referred by family housing network or associated ministries are one of the other organizations who have been the front door in the past. So, well, they're they're still the front door as far as, you know, in person kinds of things. But now to when one is doing the screening for coordinated entry. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with people about housing, and about other issues because you know a person is a whole and not a part of course housing is a very important part of that but still. So when someone calls to and one. If there's. If they don't know what's up we explain what two and one is, we have information about community resources. And when people are specific, where if we find out that they are experiencing housing, like that their housing situation is unstable, that they might lose housing. They have to be out by the end of the month, or they were just evicted or had to leave the family home for some kind of family crisis. In those instances, we're talking about the whole. There might be legal aid. That's important as far as the eviction is concerned or we might talk about the eviction moratorium, what their rights are in the first place. We refer to landlord tenant hotlines all of that good stuff. At the same time, I'm planning ahead if they're determined to live somewhere else we're giving them information about low income housing resources, and we have specific information about like the websites. Some of the housing that's referred to, whether it's for seniors or it's for people with seniors, with disabilities or have families, and



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also different income levels because just being low income is not, it's not specific enough. When you're searching for low income housing. So all of this information. We try to give depending on the time of the person who calls us. How much time that they have on their phone, because you know, that is a big issue is getting disconnected. But we do call people back, and they do call us back, if they give us a voicemail. We do return the call before we leave for the day. So, Let's see here. Now someone who identifies as homeless. We do the screening for coordinated entry. Now it's it's a very strict definition. It's a yes or no. And so, if, if it's a yes. Then we schedule them for a housing for an appointment with a housing specialist. And this housing specialist can be at two and one through myself or associated ministries, or to come a ministerial Alliance, or excuse me family housing network, we scheduled for all of these people, and we give contact information for the agency itself. We don't have information about the individual workers at each location. So, that is the long and short of it. Let me see if I forgot anything. So when a caller is is trying to get coordinated entry through to one one, whether or not that's what they specifically asked for. The important thing to realize is that that's not the end goal to get them enrolled in a coordinated entry program. Because the main goal is to help somebody out and help them get to the permanent housing solution, you know, to stability. All right. Well, thank you very much. That was it. Okay, great. Um,

Rob Huff

so do you have time for some questions.

Stina McLamore

Yes, absolutely. Okay,

Rob Huff

Great. So I don't know if you're able to see the chat at all. I posed one question in there just about if someone is scheduled to go to have a meeting with housing specialists, roughly, what's the kind of average for how long it takes to get that appointment. Alright, I'll

Stina McLamore

answer. Let's see, that would be within five days usually five business days. In fact, it's pretty. That's it's often the next day.

Rob Huff

Fantastic. Teresa has her hand up.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Hi, thank you for coming. And I just have I wonder if you could talk a little bit about the changes to the online resources, I want to frame it this way. You have always been a great organization for checking back in to make sure that data is current and I really admire that. However, I've really stopped using the



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site for the last couple years. It keeps saying it's sort of under construction. And it used to be very very easy to use, I get this drop down menu the information I wanted was there in a snap I could scan all of the different organizations that did the thing I was looking for when I was trying to help people. And now it's much more cumbersome, so I wonder what's going on there is there. Is there a reason for the change. And is there any possibility that you could also provide the, the list sort of system used to have which was much more useful I think to people who are trying to help other people.

Sarah Teague

Hi Teresa, it's Sara. Um, so the main website of. It is under construction. The goal is to make it that user friendly type of service and we're just hitting. I don't want to say roadblocks but, yeah, we're keep running into technical issues with it, we do have a backup website on. It's the two on one temporary database you can access it through United Way of Pierce County's website, it does give you the option of searching. You know by zip code or city or county. You can search by program name on that temporary site. And then you can also just kind of type in what you're looking for, and then there's also a way to bring down that drop down menu that we used to have. Turn on my camera here for you give me just a second. There we go. So we are working on it we are aware of it, I'd like to take your feedback back to the place that's in control of the the main state website. And so that way we can let them know that people are having issues, and we really want to get it fixed and worked on. And then we've got a backup in the meantime, and I can send out that link in the chat. All right, thank you.

Penny Belcher

Yeah, I would just add that because ourselves, two on one is part of a statewide network to provide the two more one access statewide. The state office is in control of the website itself, however, you're right, Teresa just like we always have for years and years and years we maintain our own resources and update them. So, the problem and it is a major problem that we were absolutely aware of is, you know, linking in to those up to date resources with that statewide front end, you know, Paige under construction. So, first of all, complain. You can you can use my email address because those complaints go directly to Washington 211. So the more the better because I spend a lot of my time and so to Sarah, you know, sending those detailed tickets in about the website. But yes, Sarah. I want to make available that direct link so you're kind of bypassing that public website front page through the state, and you're linking right into our resource database. So, it may not be as pretty, right on the display, but it's what we're getting at, and you're getting to the resources that we're keeping updated directly and we can share that with all of you and you can share it with others, again because for for Pierce County we want people to get right in. And then also if you do forget or, you know, if that link is too long, you can go to you, wpc.org and then we've posted the link there for Pierce County.

Theresa Power-Drutis



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Ah, thank you for that I didn't know there was a workaround and I'm going to ask if that can be put on the web, our website here because I think there are a lot of people who would really appreciate being able to get to those resources again.

Rob Huff

Thank you. So there were a couple of questions from Maureen in the chat and then Todd has his hand up next. Steena I don't know if you can see Maureen's questions.

Stina McLamore

I'm looking right now.

Maureen Howard

Well, while you're looking. There's another question that. So, when the first economic impact payments came out. The United Way worldwide had a number which worked for Pierce County. I mean it was county by county across the country that you called, and you got an AI recording directing you exactly what to do, which was really excellent. And then if you still needed help. There was a number that you could click on sort of thing. And I'm just wondering what it takes. I mean, are there things that you could do from a technology standpoint, if we knew what to ask you, so that you could respond. And we don't have any after hours information for people who, who seek shelter or who are trying to help somebody, we don't have a place for a neighbor to call in and say, I'm worried about this, they're not really 911 calls. They're a community, call. And is there a, and you don't have to like answer right now, but that's on my list of things that I've seen work really well connected to 211. And I want to know if we can make them happen locally. Yeah, so

Penny Belcher

I may need to clarify and make sure I'm understanding all the pieces to that morning so, yes. For after hours for 211 operating incoming calls. We do, you know, people can reach us by, by email or voicemail like Steve said and then that's returned. You know either people that are working in the evening or the next day so it's not it's not immediate access but there is a chat bot. That is on the Washington Zoo on one website. So it's the same website that we were talking about where the search for resources is not working, but watch one one. org on the front page there is a chat bot. I will give the same disclaimer that the state office you know is still building and improving and working on that, but it is also something that we have input on and that Sarah has some input on, and they're really trying to refine that to be to be responsive to kind of what you're, what you're saying I think Maureen right so if we were if you if we were to get information from this group you and others about what are the types of questions to load into the that, you know, the AI tool, right, that we would then know we can help feed that what resources would link back to the person for those answers. And so, absolutely. And again, happy to, to keep you up to date on the on the work with Washington to one and involve you if you're interested, I can be your contact for that as well so it is a work in progress on that. The 211 chat bot.



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Maureen Howard

Super. Thank you.

Stina McLamore

All right. Sorry, Maureen. As far as your question about low income housing information goes, No, we cannot say whether there is an availability or not. We simply don't have the staff to call every single place every single day before the day begins so it's, I apologize for that I wish that we had a better that they were informing to one one about availabilities,

Maureen Howard

and no apology needed, it's a problem across the system. And that's just one of the things we've got to put on the list that we saw we've got 20 housing navigators calling the same people every day, probably. So, I have to believe there's a solution. So, thanks.

Stina McLamore

Thank you.

Rob Huff

Todd Do you want to ask your question.

Todd Holloway

Thanks Rob So Steena in Penny Sara. Along the same lines of what Maureen is talking about and I really appreciate the fact that you're looking to partner with folks in this trying time of a pandemic so that we can better work together I think we are organizations have some obligation to, to work with 211 to better provide you with the information, and vice versa. So, my question would be, if I'm, if I'm homeless, and I have access to a cell phone and dial 211. And I need information about getting vaccinated. Where would you route me so that I could find out if I in the right phase where I would go to get the vaccine, any of that information. So,

Penny Belcher

right now calls about the vaccine there. We are trying to assist folks at 211, as much as possible on the immediate call. There is a Department of Health. COVID-19 hotline. That is actually tests, and has the contract to provide all of that information statewide. And again, from a statewide perspective, we are, we are part of that network, but it is separate from the two on one line. So we do have the option of referring people to the Department of Health hotline, because those call takers are trained in depth and have been working on that hotline you know everything COVID-19 since early March. So we know that there's more information and more expertise there. However, with the rollout of the vaccinations. The,



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we realized that the call volumes went up there, you know, and there are a lot of people who need more assistance than what can be provided online, and an answer your question about the phases and whatnot. Really the Department of Health website is the best place to go for that and to fill out the phase binder. That's, that's really where, you know, in the state wherever you want it is being directed in to use that tool. And so because there are so many folks that are hitting that hotline you know we're, we're moving into a stage now where, again, whether we're contracted to do so or not or, regardless of who is full transparency our specialists are just beginning to help people. Fill out the face finder or walk them through it. You know there's a bit of a challenge whether there are some vaccination sites that that require a printout of documentation of eligibility and over the phone service wouldn't be able to provide that. So then we're going to refer on to others who can provide more assistance. That's not to say that we don't also, you know, Sarah is always directly linking in and providing information here at our 201 from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, as well as, you know, of course, what's those updates that you can get in real time. alerts from the Pierce County website so we're tapped into all the local, and yet we're still trying to stay along on top of what is happening from the Department of Health, and that kind of required pathway, as, as the vaccines roll out, but again I, you know, as you all have experienced it, you know it has been bumpy rollout and not smooth. And so we are just on the fly trying to pivot and assist where we can and then, you know, work out the details later we can also monitor that Department of Health hotline and see wait times and whatnot so again. Our goal is the caller experience and not to send them on to the statewide hotline number. If we know that it's something we can provide to them locally, without the weight.

I just I had a question about. I've been working with helped me grow in Pierce County, and I know that they're using. They this your service. Your service is something really helpful and trying to prevent child abuse, and that that's something that they're really looking at in certain zip codes. And I know that if your service could be 24 hour. What would that look like to help make it a 24 hour service, because you are providing something that is necessary that can can actually prevent child, child abuse from happening, which I know sounds strange but 1130 at night when you're having a crisis because you're going to be homeless tomorrow. Being able to reach someone and have them reassure you that we will be here tomorrow to help you, it can sometimes save a kid's life.

Penny Belcher

Right, Sarah. And that's a big question and I don't have an easy answer right so we have had as part of our strategic planning for 211. We've had 24 seven certainly as part of that and on on our list of goals for quite some time. It will take a lot. It will take a lot of resources for us, locally to be able to implement 24 seven. What we're doing it United Way of Pierce County is again a focus on that planning piece for this year, 2021, our leadership and myself are working on that planning and you know it, again, not necessarily to flip the switch, where all of a sudden we have all of the resources and capabilities and the quality of service to be 24 seven. It would be a phased approach. I think Denise put in the chat that



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yeah the nine to four hours. The idea would be expand hours first utilize technology like Maureen mentioned, as well as possibly text messaging, rather than a full Call Center Operation 24 seven. So there's lots of strategies and lots of different models and even rolling over to another center for coverage and things like that that we're looking at. I don't again because of that. It's not like we have \$1 amount, ready to say that. Oh and if only you know the county or the state could fund us to this level we could immediately go 24 seven and part of that is again because of what we are learning it. What we've just learned and what we're continuing to learn from the pandemic. So, you know, having activated, you know, in March and dealing with a 65% increase in call volumes across the board up to one one as well as trying to support. Department of Health and, you know, direct response to COVID-19. You know what we're finding is that we need to be more thoughtful about how we implement these other ideas in being able to be responsive after hours and again our staff at 211 doesn't just work nine to four clock in clock out and we're done. So, when the incoming calls are not coming in, we are still working with clients. And so there's some of that that that can be done. Um, you know, I knew because Garrett and I you know have even talked about, you know, the 24 seven, and how close we are and I just want to be again honest and transparent with everyone here that we're not close right now and it's not going to happen in, in 2021, but that that that planning is being done. We also again in partnership, if you know if this group wants to help support that. I think it would be more feedback and information and, and especially data. You know we have phone data so we can track the number of calls, you know that that you know are that come in when the when the to one line is closed. And it's also something to consider and how you're providing service on those off hours

is.

Penny Belcher

But if there's, but there's obviously data. Beyond that, that we're not getting about what is the need right and what what type of service is needed, and what type of resource connections can be made and important points like you made Sarah about sometimes it's not necessarily having the resource open. It's about having the human there. All of that input I think can be helpful over the next year, as we're doing as we're doing internal planning out united with Pierce County and then also, again, you know, our focus on on quality of service and not being, even though we are in response to an emergency right now not being reactionary to try to somehow think that processing more contacts in more calls is more important than the quality of the service that our caller experiences and kind of the description of what Steena went through on what our navigators are trying to do on the call so we want to take all that into account and it's a lot my hope would be that our first goal would be to expand from nine to four you know and move to a 257 to six and, you know, and beyond and then also try to implement some of those other strategies that we would love. We would love to have more input and especially data around that on what would be important.



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Rob Huff

Thank you, Penny. So, one, if there's any one last question before we move on to the next item. Thank you. Yeah, I agree with Maureen Thank you Penny and team for filling us in and do let us know I appreciate you letting us know how we can support you and advocate for those expansions, much appreciated.

Thanks everyone.

Rob Huff

All right. So, next on our agenda. I'd like to invite Teagan Tidball from the city of Tacoma to queue up some conversation that will lead to short breakout group discussion Teagan.

Tiegan Tidball

Hi all, thanks for having me back it's good to see all your lovely faces on a snowy Friday. Have y'all got dusted. So, as I am going to continue on from our last conversation of really looking at outreach and communication for the homeless strategy. And so, I have done a lot of reflecting I reached out to a lot of you I know a few of you are still on my list so you will be hearing from me soon. You gave me a lot of information that I also needed to review and look at and like I think when I talked to rob you said it's like a firehose of information so when I was still going through all the I still have a lot to do I want to be really intentional and I don't want to ask you questions that you've already answered in other forums, even though we also know that due to COVID and just weightings are, there's a lot of changes for people experiencing homelessness. So, some of the feedback I got was really dive into what it can look like and I know over time I really want to look at the whole continuum of services is a great place to start. So one of the things that the city is bound by some of our guiding legislation, but of course be Martin versus Boise and the Knights Circuit Court ruling, and the CDC guidelines for unsheltered persons so I want to keep us, the in the frame of those are our boundaries. When we look at interventions approaches and strategies. So the question I can put this in the chat is going to be easier when we go into out into breakout sessions is knowing what you know about the gaps and supports and services to persons living in encampments. How would you protect prioritize investments to address their needs. So that's kind of what I wanted to wrap our thinking around and break out into anybody trails off of there of course are always welcomed and. Thank you so much. I think that was my lead and Rob.

Rob Huff

Okay, great. So what I'm going to do is put us in small groups for the next 10 minutes or so. Taking if you could put that question in the chat. I will broadcast it a couple of times throughout the 10 minutes we spend in the breakout rooms, just like we've done before the my request would be that at least one person in the breakout room take some notes. When we come back from the breakouts. If you could



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just paste your notes into the chat. That way Garrett and I can capture those make sure we get them back to Teagan. To help inform the work. So again, the question that we're going to be considering is knowing what you know about the gaps in support and services for those who are living in encampments, how would you prioritize the city's investments to address the needs. And I added the city maybe that's not appropriate we could talk on a larger scale. So I will break us into rooms now again please assign somebody to take some notes, and we'll spend 10 minutes doing this. And I will put the chat question into the broadcast once everybody's gone. And as always if you're in this room that means you're not in the actual chat rooms, the breakout rooms, which is fine. I know some folks don't have the time to do both and are actually multitasking right now but that's why it's gonna be relatively quiet in here unless Garrett and I start bantering about something

10 minutes of Breakout Rooms

Rob Huff

Welcome back everybody.

Maureen Howard

I had a really fun room.

Rob Huff

Good, that's what that's what we want to hear.

Kevin Glackin-Coley

I'll put my room up against your room or in any day.

Rob Huff

No, ours is better.

Kevin Glackin-Coley

We had a two or three year old who was trying to wrestle her mom to the ground.

Mike Boisture

Oh, okay. You got down

to the toddler have any good ideas they wanted to contribute to the discussion.

Kevin Glackin-Coley



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They did not they weren't. They were not.

There's lots of kisses. He just wants to kiss everybody.

Oh no, I

was.

Maureen Howard

I offered my suggestion that we buy the city and county council members, each a copy of everybody poops. Now,

Rob Huff

on that note, yeah I see Carolyn typed her or pasted her comments in the chat if others from the breakout rooms can put their notes in the chat will capture those and relay that information to tieken. I want to thank everybody I hope that was useful I know 10 minutes is an awfully short time when it really comes down to it, so I appreciate everybody for their attention to that. And looking at our agenda we're only 15 minutes off the agenda so it's a good Friday. I'm speaking of that, Todd Holloway from the Center for Independence Would you like to talk about our next item about vaccine site accessibility.

Todd Holloway

Hey, Thanks Rob and I'll be quick, keep us on track because, really, this is an area where if if people have the opportunity to attend the free training coming up on the this coming Tuesday at noon. It's a great opportunity to get a refresher, if you've ever looked at accessibility and wanted to know more about compliance when it comes to the Americans with Disabilities Act or the Rehab Act of. The 70s. There, the people that we have that are going to be speaking on that from the partnership are really experts in this area, and they can dispel a lot of myths about what to what to know about accommodations, but also how to find them. And a lot of important information that you know eases a lot of the anxiety that people sometimes feel whenever we're talking about something like the Americans with Disabilities Act and 504 compliance and those types of things. But that was really I think the key is whether or not you can attend that training will we'll have recordings of it this is just a kickoff for the month of February and March. We're going to do a lot more work in this space. So we'll be getting back in contact with you. I think it's incredibly important to. Excuse me. Make sure that the the coalition has all the tools that you need to make sure that we're getting folks, not only to the vaccine but understanding where they may fit in the phase finder and all the other complex issues that that



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everybody is having trouble with now so you can imagine what it's like for folks with disabilities or who have limited access to broadband and everything else that is a barrier. So, again, the flyer is in the is in the chat at the head of that my email is under it, if, if anybody's interested it's there, feel free to reach out to me and if you can't make the training on the, on Wednesday. I apologize if I said Tuesday. It's going to be the follow up training on the following Tuesday on the checklist that will be used at the vaccine sites, and some other documents that will be helpful. We're working directly with the Department of Health. So I'll leave it at that and I'll share as much information through Robin Garrett as I can so that the tools are made readily available to you.

Rob Huff

Todd if you have a chance, could you repaste the information about the training I know not everybody's probably been on the chat or in the chat since the very beginning of the meeting, so that'd be great. Happy to. Awesome. So, any quick questions for Todd before we move on to the next agenda item. All right, let's move on to carat.

Thank you Rob,

Gerrit Nyland

I am bringing a request from law, Ryan Mello on the county council who's bringing it for Michael Mirra with the housing Tacoma Housing Authority, and that request is to support a request by the Tacoma Housing Authority and the Arlington for the Arlington Drive project which is a youth crisis Resource Center, so that 13 to 17 year olds from across the region, not just Pierce County, that are homeless, and more. They're more complicated than that. And for their 58 bed permanent supportive housing project for young adults, and the cost is incredibly high and the amount that's currently to operate it. The crisis resource centers we have mandated staffing levels that are pretty significant. So they need to people on 24 seven, as well as case managers and project directors and three people on except for when people are sleeping, and currently the budget has about half a million dollars a year and they need around 2 million a year. And so this is a request, they are making with a number of the Washington delegation, or the Pierce County delegation to the state. The state, and so it's really state funding they're going for so not competing with other funding for our programs but really just a state request, and it looks reasonable to me I asked for details on the money because it seems like a crazy amount of money like more money than we typically have but but it's it's perhaps the level of funding we ought to have. And so, I'm recommending we support it I've put at the beginning of the meeting I put a link in to the letter that we'll be signing on to as the coalition. And I've also included a way for your organization to sign on to that letter as well, if that's something you would like to do so. I'd love any comments about that, and then we'll take a vote as to whether or not we want to support this this is something that it's a little bit outside of things we've agreed on supporting before and so we wanted to make sure that this was something that the coalition wanted to support. And there was one note from



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Greg Walker in the letter, it says that this is the only crisis Resource Center in Pierce County which is technically true but the coffee Oasis does have a resource for our minors 13 to 17. And, and that that perhaps the phrasing could have been a little better around that in the letter because there are other options as

Valeri Knight

well. Except the coffee Oasis can't take folks who are involved in foster care and CRC are almost all involved in foster care so there are actually two very distinct differences. Very, very few of the 12 beds at the CRC have ever been homeless. Most of them have been removed from foster care due to either on the foster care side or on the child side due to safety concerns. And so that's the difference and so that's why we both need both units. We need CRC and we need coffee Oasis at their full capacity of 12 beds, if not more.

Gerrit Nyland

And that's why it's awesome having you here Valeri, I stand corrected, or refined. All right. Seeing no other questions or hands raised or strange looking expressions. If you could just give a little thumbs up to support this and put the thumbs down if you're against it. And we'll just see the consensus. Thank you, everybody. And I expect that there'll be significant support from other groups again if you can if you can get your organization to sign on. And they said, you can even have your logo in the sign on which is exciting. I can't wait for our logo to show up on the letter. Thanks everybody.

Rob Huff

So carrot that's a great segue into the next topic, which is about formalizing a coalition. So

Gerrit Nyland

we've talked about formalizing the Coalition for some time. And the last time was last fall, and we had discussed, becoming a formal 501 c three and taking on a number of responsibilities. And one of the outcomes of our most recent summit, and some other discussions, led some of us to expand what we would like that to be expand what the coalition takes on in the community. And to do that, as soon as possible. And so, this is like, I think our coalition needs to answer a call and so I'm going to tell you what this expanded call is, and we're going to hopefully have time to discuss it in a week or so following and time at the next meeting so this is an introduction to it, I want all of your feedback. We don't have a huge time for it now, but you know how to get ahold of me by phone you know how to get ahold of me by email, we will discuss this at our steering committee meeting next Wednesday. And we'll also discuss it prior to voting on it next Friday, and I'm accelerating it because I think it's important. So here's my deep breath. I think it's time for the coalition to end homelessness, to fill the leadership void in Pierce County around homelessness. There is not a plan. By the by Pierce County, or by the City of Tacoma, or by any other group to end homelessness in Pierce County. And that's not to throw criticism anywhere. it's just to state of fact like we do not have a comprehensive plan we don't know how many



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people we need to serve we don't know the amount of resources we need to bring in, and you don't get what you don't ask for. And so, I believe that we have to take on that rule. And I believe we have to have the full support of the Pierce County Council, and of the city of Tacoma City Council. And so, I have a letter basically that outlines the, the importance of this activity and how we would go about it. And so we would become a formal organization, and one. We have a lot of things we are going to do in parallel, right do at the same time. And one of those is to become a 501 c three but this work needs to start now. and thankfully associated ministries is more than willing to continue to be our fiscal sponsor, and we will take them up on that as we sort of mature as a group as we try to get funding. So, what, what we're basically saying we're going to do is we are going to convene a group of people experiencing homelessness of county staff of city staff have our own internal expertise of whoever wants to be a part of the process because that's the, the meat and bones of our coalition to put that plan together, right, and we'll be looking at you, using the built for their model. Right, which is, it's something the county already does. In a way with the work it does around youth homelessness and the work it does around veteran homelessness, so this is not foreign territory, but you count everybody, you put them on a list, right, and then you bring the resources and to end homelessness, and what we do with those two groups or are working towards doing, however you want to phrase that we need to do for the entire community. And that's a long term project, and I was talking to Theresa last night and my optimism, gave away a little bit to Teresa's reality of well you know we are fighting an unjust, you know, economic world that we live in and that drives homelessness and that's true. But still, we can we can lay out what we need, and then work to get all of our funding to to work towards that end right so we're asking the council's to, to, to buy in to this work right to agree to have staff available to do this work to approve the plan when it comes before them to align and centralize their funding to pursuing the plan. And until to align their policies together in support of this plan, and to align their advocacy efforts in support of this plan and advocacy we're looking to get local funding federal funding state like all of that work none of it's easy, but it's going to be possible, or at least most successful when we're all on the same sheet of music. So that's part one, which seems big enough. And that's part one and how the continuum of care fits into that I don't fully know right they do some of that work like they have a five year strategic plan but that's about improving what we do and incremental growth, we're talking about, we're talking about that and more right so we build on the foundation of that five year strategy, but we actually end homelessness. The second part, and this one kind of came out of a lot of us sitting and listening to the last city of Tacoma study session and other things that are going on but the other thing is, we need to end unsheltered homelessness in Pierce County. And a lot of us years ago felt putting resources to that was, was not as important as putting resources to permanent housing, and we starve the shelter system in order to drive so many resources into permanent housing. Rapid Rehousing permanent supportive housing right those other things, and and i think that i think sheltering people is really important. And so our other drive simultaneous because we're going to chew gum and walk. And apparently, write the next great American novel, all at the same time. And that is, we are going to put a huge amount of energy into sheltering everyone in Pierce County. By November 1 of 2021. So, before, before we have another inclement weather season, and shelter doesn't mean perfection shelter means



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safe and Kamins shelter means safe parking shelter means tiny houses shelter means our congregate living shelter means non congregate living right shelter means whatever we can do and some of it will have to be efficient, and the shelter has to be appropriate. People have to have options they take the sex offender with the Rottweiler needs, shelter, and that's going to be right, a population we serve with more than one option. And I don't know how this is going to look or what it's going to cost but I think it's time, I think everybody's ready. I think if we can guarantee that success, we can bring the entire community online. As a funder as a supporter. And so that's the drive and so that's what we, as a coalition need to do in my opinion. And so, Next week we're going to vote on whether this is practical. Whether this is wise, we'll make adjustments to what that plan is, we'll make adjustments to what our requests are of the county council and the City Council, and we've been doing a lot of talking with people on the coalition people that reach out to us with with council members, and we think we think there's support. Right. For the coalition to take on this role. And so the question is are we up to the task. And I'm gonna stick a couple things into the chat. And right all right um but this bad boy in what I call it is the coalition charge, and it's it's gone through a couple of us writing at the steering group reviewing it that's the Wednesday meeting, you can be part of the steering group too You just have to show up, the steering group reviewing it and providing comments, and now I'm ready for you all to review it and provide comments. I'll kind of give us a chance who is at the meeting today to give me some comments and then I'll send it out to the whole coalition email this weekend. But it's. I don't know it's a big deal. And I, I think, I think it's us or nobody right drives this work. And this isn't, again, to wrap up like like would I change the way the county spends its money right now. Probably not. Right. I mean they are best practices they are supporting their programs right when I stopped the, the city from standing up additional shelter like it's been doing no like that's been really good work right. This isn't a criticism of what we're doing or how we're doing it as agencies being good fiscal stewards of money this is about thinking bigger and coordinating things in a really formal way, that may be informally coordinated or not so coordinated. All right, that's my spiel, what do you got for me.

Carolyn Reed

Eric. I really applaud it, I think that it's about time that we as a county, try to take a comprehensive, more effective approach to a complicated, you know topic, and you have all the expertise in this group to ferret out and have a plan for all of those complexities because it's not you know it's not a one pass answer. And I believe that it's a solvable problem, but only if we all get behind that vision zero, and we all agree that that's a possibility. And I am glad that we're making moves that way.

Gerrit Nyland

There's a question in the chat, just to me though, but will the coalition keep its open meeting for everybody who wants to stay informed and involved. Absolutely. And as we get ourselves formalized a bit. I mean, that's our anger, it's a grass roots movement, and we need to constantly reflect that I think because we will make crappy policy. If we don't have people experiencing homelessness and people directly serving people that are homeless. Right, informing our decision so when I, when I brought the,



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when I brought my model of what the Homeless Coalition needs to look like I used that what's called an inverted. org chart. Right. And the idea behind that is that, you know, the board that will get created supports the work of the executive director right, who supports the work of staff, who support the work of all right our initiatives in our agencies right and it's, you know, there's, it's all in support of our line staff and our people experiencing homelessness right like that's, that is our constituency, right, they need to inform our decisions, and everyone down the line needs to fall in behind the needs of what they have. So when someone says shelter can't work for them. In this way, we need to make that change, we don't try to change the person to make them conform to the shelter we think they should have. Janet.

Janet Runbeck

Um, basically the 501 c three is an issue of governance, and it is not, it's not a scary thing it's a it's a living, plati and and you know if you do your Articles of Incorporation on state level you apply for the 501 c three, hopefully we'll get some volunteer lawyers to draft the articles of incorporation and to do our application to the IRS. So if there any volunteer lawyers out there I'd love to hear, hear from you but we need to have a mission statement. And we need to have a vision statement. And then it helps to have a board, and by that time it's going to be November, right and will. So, so we're, we're going to be spending some energy on the governance side concurrent with the goal that we want of ending streets or encampment unsheltered a situation by November. I do think that this coalition has the energy to do both. So, um, but I would like to hear those who have the skills to volunteer to step up. Now, as far as I'm doing the mission statement the vision statement, the legal aspect both statewide and IRS, and then remember just because we're a 501 c three, we still don't have to have our own bank account, we could still ask for other agencies to be the fiscal agent. I've done that, I mean, so we don't even have to do our own Treasury work. If we can find a partner to be the fiscal agent, if that's where we choose to do. I'll shut up.

Gerrit Nyland

Thank you, Jana. Can we just have our mission statement the name of our organization. Kidding. Tina. Thanks. Good

Tina McLeod

morning, Tina McLeod landlord liaison program at associated ministries, and I look forward to reading the proposal I definitely am interested in giving feedback. This voice is gonna sound a little different than what the couple I've just heard, and I'm actually going to push back against becoming a 501 c three. And, and to be honest the Audrey Lorde quote that comes to mind and I'm going to misquote them but the master masters tools can't dismantle the Masters house. And, and I don't think our, I don't think our community needs another 501 c three there, there are ways if we're really looking at doing it from a grassroots community standpoint, that we can do that continued partnership with associated ministries for fiscal things for staffing folk, and that can staff the coalition but that it still remains very



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much grassroots and and not fall into if you will, if you look at it from a racial equity lens, the whiteness of a 501 c three process that a couple people have just spoke about So, and I'll put my thoughts in writing to those that are coordinating it but I think we needed to hear that lens, and especially when I look and see so many people on these calls that look like me, middle, you know, middle aged white person, and that we need to that that's not necessarily in alignment with our homelessness population here in Pierce County.

Stephen Pagan

It's like a second call I'm sorry, go. No, go ahead. If I could second that. I think it'd be much more advantageous to try and build bridges between the encampments and the communities. They are they exist within similar to what's coming mutual aid is doing to kind of encourage more just everyday people going in helping those candidates. I feel like that would have much more of a long term impact than a 501 c three, a 501 c three would have a lot of resources but I feel like getting something more grassroots would have more legs to it or more energy to it, whatever the metaphor might be.

Rob Huff

Teresa I see your hand up.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So I just want to say to Tina and Steven that you would you would sound a lot like I did two years ago that I was really very much opposed to having a 501 c three. And the only thing that is shifted my thinking for all the reasons that you're talking about. And I think there are many of us who really struggled with this we don't want to lose this, I still think the mission of this organization has to be a very important part of this mission is to bring people together and to try to bring in the diverse community you're talking about Tina, in a way, and to do the outreach to people who are have lived experience those are those are huge and it's hard, but I don't think that having a 501 c three would actually change what this meeting does and what this meeting is I think it's possible for us to hang on to this and actually expand it and do some of the things you're talking about especially with your help, because you're both involved in these ways and there are lots of other folks involved. The thing that I, the thing that turned my heart towards saying, Okay, I think a 501 c three is not just okay but probably a really good idea is that that coordination piece, I've really noticed the difference since. This group has hired Kevin, having somebody who is a you know a bonafide person who's working for this organization has really upped our game, and it's it's made and marine and Rob and Garrett and others who who've taken some leadership in this. We're starting to have some traction on a policy level. And I think that's what I'm, that's what I'm aiming for with supporting this is that we need to we need to shift some of the ways that we do business, not just the one on one. I'm much more comfortable with the one to one work that I do in my organization, but I'm happy that there are people who are interested in doing this broader expansive work that was longer than I meant it to be sorry.



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Rob Huff

Thanks Teresa I saw, I'll let the hand up and then I think Jeffrey and T maybe had a question as well. So I'll

Al Ratcliffe

know I didn't general sense but my reservations are more practical and logistic. Number one, we're talking about a plan that brings together all of these resources toward trying to accomplish the goal. And I just think about how complex that planning process is going to be, and how it will be supported. I presume that one of the strategies will be that we'll have to apply for a grant somewhere to to pay for the costs and time involved in developing deployment. So that's one logistic issue but for me the other one is very important that we always talk about but never seem to accomplish it is. We need to start by recruiting representatives of the homeless and underserved communities into this process from the beginning not build it on us. But go out there and get some people to participate in this planning process. So I think those are very complicated and very challenging and very worthwhile things to do. I think we have to be really realistic about how hard the work will be. And that costly the work will be and political the world working.

Rob Huff

Thank you. Jeffrey.

Reverend Boyce

Well, I a formal organization does provide a common voice in setting policy. And it seems that the city and the county, are really not willing to go to that step. And we need to have some kind of direction to go forward. It is true that having a formal organization does help with funders. It does help with talking to the state, it does show some strength when talking to the city, or the county. But I'm also agree with Stephen that we need to have a lot of this grass roots and adopting individual camps and trying to help the people who are out there tonight. Get through the night. And, but I don't believe that the 501 c three is going to interfere with that. Matter of fact, I see the coalition as being a part of supporting that. I have seen nothing but positive results of since I've joined this coalition in November, October. And I see it's going in the right direction and I really do believe that it's a 501 c three does provide the supporting organization that is needed, because we're not seeing that in the city and we're not seeing that in the county.

Rob Huff

T you had a question as well or a comment. Yeah.

Tee

So I started a 501 c three, um, basically based off a lot of things that people were saying I started it four years ago I retired out of the army and started working for the school district in Tacoma. And what I



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have found is getting support even for the my organization because 2012 was has been incredibly hard that's why I joined this group to see if I could find information out. Three years ago and try to get support to push the state. I'm in the city rather to, you know, help us out on some of these issues that we're facing. Um, funding has been incredibly hard to get things done and just finding the right people have been, I don't know, more than a challenge for the last four years that I've been doing this. Um, so for me, I think it would be good to have, I don't know, I don't even know if it's a 501 c three c three thing, but just those resources. Um, for somebody that actually, I hate to say it this way but in, in, in Pierce County to take a series that we really need to help the people that's out there. So that's, that's my state.

Rob Huff

Thank you. Rosemary. And then I see Kevin next.

Rosemary Powers

This is just a really quick thing to think about whether we need to be a nonprofit tax exempt organization or we just need to be a nonprofit formal organization. And so to re research a little whether the 501 c four could be as easy and not as complicated perhaps a process to to join that was all.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Rosemary Kevin.

Kevin Glackin-Coley

Thanks Rob I think this has been a really helpful conversation for me, and crystallizing some things. I think we're going down a rabbit hole earlier than we need to I think what for me as I as I read and I've been talking to Garrett and Maureen and others about this over the last week. I think we should have formed follow function. So whether we're a 501 c three or a 501 c four or we remain where we are now, that format I think gets determined by what we say we want to do and so I think the really important thing and what Garrett's brought before us is saying there needs to be an overarching plan that brings all the partners to the table. So that's one thing and then the second part is as having someone who was brought in here at the beginning of November to try to do winter shelter beds, that was the worst time to try to do winter shelter beds because it's basically winter. Is that commitment that we would put forward that challenge we would put forth to ourselves that by November of 2021, there would be nobody in unsanctioned encampments outside so it doesn't mean that we've put everybody inside that we found a home for everybody, but that that folks are in stable, secure places across the gamut of hotels congregate safe encampment safe parking one family per church, all those different options so that people have a place to be, which I then think in genders community support for the efforts because they see a difference in the community, you're not driving down Yakima and seeing an encampment people aren't having to step out of their businesses or their homes. It's also much safer at the beginning thing for the folks who are experiencing homelessness. If we make that commitment and work on that I think the form for what the organization looks like whether paid staff not paid staff 501 c three



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grassroots organization I think that'll get determined down the road. But if we can commit to the work then we'll figure out how we do it. Well, that was longer than I thought to soft stop talking.

Rob Huff

So Garrett, in terms of queuing this up this is a really good conversation to get us started anything else that we want to cover before we move on in our rest of our meeting.

Gerrit Nyland

I think I'm good. Again, I want to take all of that stuff in. So Tina. Yeah, especially those of you that that see flaws. Tina and and Steven just can't get a hold of me, and let's, let's kind of talk, talk that through and see how how we can shape the plan to kind of mitigate. Even though I said I wasn't gonna use the word mitigating anymore. sorry.

Rob Huff

These things happen.

Kevin Glackin-Coley

We can have a mitigating jar so every time you say it just put some money in it get

Maureen Howard

a quarter, eight people, that's what we're not gonna mitigate, right, we're gonna mitigate stuff but not people,

Gerrit Nyland

great and another great time to talk about this is next Wednesday. Right, so you guys all know this, the steering committee which is called a variety of things but it's that wednesday 3pm meeting. It might be the winter shelter group it might be the safe summit planning group, it might be the steering committee. But it's all the same thing three o'clock, the links on the website. And, again, feed information or talk to other people to write. You got concerns, and you want to hammer it out with Rob or with me or with marine or with Collin or Teresa or kind of any of us that talk a lot. Thanks everybody.

Rob Huff

Thanks, Karen. So let's move into our government updates. Valerie has been in the center of my screen this whole meeting, and I know she wants to talk. So go ahead, Valerie.

Valeri Knight

It's a little. So now I have a complex about being in the center of a screen the whole time. Thanks to everybody for having me. So, I'm super super busy over here at the county as always rental assistance



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we got word yesterday from the federal from the federal government, I don't even know anymore so the state governor has released additional funds for rental assistance effective immediately to go through June 30 Pierce County was awarded just over 4.8 million. This is on top of the 20 million from the US Department of Treasury This is also on top of the trap, t wrap money that is coming from the Department of Treasury to the state, we have a ballpark figure for that but we're hopefully next week we'll get those dollars. So our current plan for that 4.8 million. We have two providers that it's going to everyone who applied in 2020, that was not served as being contacted. And so they will all get to go through that fast portal to where they just they've already applied their informations already in the system and they'll go straight to those two providers so our goal is to be up and running next week, which if you know the county, that's huge right like found out yesterday contracts are already working through the process and we will get those programs up and running by next week so the providers are onboard and ready to start rolling. The next thing I'll update on is rental assistance for the Department of Treasury money. We are actually going to open to landlords first potentially as early as next week. Also, and so I have started collecting emails and addresses for all the landlords I can find that we served last year, the landlord liaison project but housing authorities, any provider I could think of to reach out to that has any kind of programs with landlords so if any of you have landlords, if you can send me their name, email address, or email address either one we are going to do USPS and do snail mail to let them know the portal, the requirements and let them pre register. That's going to speed up the process for when their tenants go on. And so that's huge and super exciting. And so that portal will open for them for landlords as early as next week, I will keep you posted and you will all see a list go out to the listserv Maureen, we are still waiting for new Department of Treasury guidance Yes, but that's the 20 20 million, so there's, there's so many buckets.

Maureen Howard

People need to know that that's really important because other jurisdictions across the country are not waiting, they're using the old guidance and it's not helpful to tenants. So congratulations to Pierce County for waiting for the guidance.

Valeri Knight

Thank you. Yeah, we worked very closely with the state. I for the love of me could not figure out how to do a treasury ask a question. I don't know where they're getting their FAQs from because I have searched that website and called every phone number on the website so if any of you know how to do an FAQ to the Treasury. I need to know. But what I did instead was cheated and send it to the state and ask them to ask. So, hopefully we'll get some answers but the state has put out some guidance they're slowly issuing it to us and we will share with you what they have determined and so we're waiting for the Treasury to determine if it's accurate but the state is currently saying friends and family will be eligible. They are also saying hotel motels will be eligible, and that's not how Pierce County's interpreting the guidance from the Treasury directly. So we're waiting to see what those to look like so I have like a plan a policy and procedure, and a plan B policy and procedure and then whichever one we



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go with is what we will issue out. So that will be huge. Depending on how that rolls. So, we are working very very hard to get all of that out the door and up and running. So just to recap, we have 4.8 million that has to be spent by June, we are told there is additional dollars coming July one from the state budget for the two year biennium, which will be rental assistance so we are all set and ready to go for that implementation of that program. We have just over 20 million from the US Department of Treasury, we have a ballpark figure of anywhere between 20 and 35 million for our state allocation of the Department of Treasury so 60 million or so to spend by December 31. Do you see why I have to start coloring my hair. So, that is the rental assistance update any. do you have any questions on rental assistance. I see Rob.

Rob Huff

Yeah, so I'm just curious if you if there is a calculation out there what the actual need is though in Pierce County.

Valeri Knight

So actual need not not actual need. There is a formula of like, X number of 64% of rental assistance or rental program rental housing units are outside city of Tacoma but there's 53% of all renters are in Pierce County are in like I have that chart. But the determining factor is that impacted by COVID and how we can determine that to be eligible non eligible also keeping in mind everyone with the T rap and the Treasury dollars, they can apply for just utility assistance. So if they are caught up on their rent because they moved hell and high water to get their rent paid utility assistance is eligible on its own. And that's water, sewer garbage, electricity, gas and fuel oil so just sharing that as well that folks will be able to come through and apply for just utility assistance which is huge. We estimate to serve at about 10,000 households we did a calculation of 6400, which is approximately eight months of average, we weren't able to factor in utility assistance because we just don't know what that looks like. We will work very closely with both of the energy assistance providers MDC and Pierce County, because if they're under 30% ami and they only need electric or gas, we'll be able to refer folks to that. And then we will be able to cover the gap with our other funds source so that they ensure they get their spend down as well as we serve everybody as fast as possible. Yes. And there's even more money in the Biden really. So I gotta get all these dollars out the door. So January 2022. Not only can we do a point in time count but we can start with even fresh dollars so we will be working very, very closely with to come up pro bono because they're amazing, and making sure everyone knows that the resources going back and forth, so that if there is anybody who's in mediation, they can access rental assistance to help to help solidify that mediation process. So, all of those things are in the works. Yes. Okay, great. So next, the project for the ESG CB funds that closes on the 19th so apply, apply, apply 5.7 million needs to get out the door for that. We are just, you know, waiting to see what happens. hygiene sanitation, emergency shelter expansion hotel and motel isolation quarantine all eligible and outreach, all eligible so I encourage you all to apply for that. I get a lot of questions and unfortunately I'm not as engrossed in it because I'm spending so much time trying to translate 45 documents into five different languages right



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now, which is not my strong suit, but working hard. And so that's where a lot of my focus has been so I don't know a lot about that NOFA but Anne Marie Edmonds would be a primary point of contact for that. So I'm happy to answer your questions. I hope you all got snow I got about five inches so if you need to go plan snow keeping it slow has lots, and we have some to share, just remember they do not plow our roads, so be very careful.

Kevin Glackin-Coley

Rebel I just want to know what you're doing in your spare time,

Valeri Knight

more work. And I am actually I'm very proud to say working on my second master's degree, so I will graduate with my second master's degree in December, so my spare time is spending time with buddy, taking care of our kids who are all still remote like forever, and getting my second master's degree and working. Thinking about work. So, okay, well if anybody needs anything I'll be on the call till 11. And then if you want anything after that, I'm off work at 1230 today because I have too many hours this week so if you need me. Get me before that or I'll see you on Tuesday. And enjoy my holiday weekend, it's my birthday so you all get three days off. So, there you go.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Happy birthday.

Valeri Knight

Thanks. Thank you. It's nice.

Julian Wheeler

Birthday here, Valerie Happy birthday to you. Thank you,

Valeri Knight

I appreciate it. Y'all have a great one and I'll be here again next week.

Julian Wheeler

It's also st Julian's day, really.

Valeri Knight

And it's Chinese New Year. Yes, lots lots to celebrate this weekend.

Rob Huff



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So thank you for that update Valerie and happy birthday. So for our next update I don't know if I've seen anybody from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department on the call. If I have missed you, and you have some updates, could you hop in now. Okay. And same call out for folks from the emergency Pierce County Emergency Management Office I don't know that anyone's on the call, but if you do have anything please pop in now. A tigon was there anything additional that you wanted to share from the city of Tacoma.

Tiegan Tidball

You call me with food in my mouth. Lovely.

I don't think we had anything else. To update I know that obviously a lot of you're listening to the council session as I'm sure not appropriate or professional. Trying to get it in before my kid gets home. Um, so I know not obviously you guys all probably the majority of you watch Council and it went in a lot of places, so there isn't a lot of feedback I was hoping that we would come back with a little bit more updates on the hygiene issue which is the whole intent of going back to Council for that day. We're still noodling on that so we've got some, some internal work to do on that before we come back and present, and I'm hoping that we can also come and present after the 23rd study session too, so we can ask some questions about our general overview of our homeless update too. So, what I know more you'll know more, hopefully I can get that back to you guys soon but that's all we've got for now.

Rob Huff

Thank you

AI Ratcliffe

again. Do you have any idea who is in charge of the Purple Bag program.

Tiegan Tidball

Yeah,

AI Ratcliffe

so we have to try to find some human being, who's who's responsible for that so I can ask him some questions that anybody doesn't go.

That's a great question out, so I know it's with environmental services oversees that program. I'll get a contact and I would probably be great to even have them come and talk about that process because I know they're hoping to expand it as well. Obviously we partner with them. Because maybe it'd be great.



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We could ask a bunch of questions and get to the nitty gritty of what that looks like what the expansion would look like as well. So, um, you okay Rob. Yeah. I mean it's a bug. Um, so, uh, let me let me get back to you on that hell and I'll see I'll see what I can get

Gerrit Nyland

Keegan. Yes. You can you describe what NCS was proposing with the, with the hygiene sites, and where it was left at the end of the city council study session.

That is a big question. Um, I probably cannot give you the full summary in the sense that would satisfy your question at this moment, mostly because I've been working on other projects than that one. So, that being said, I think the hope was to get hit like hygiene stations around the community where the larger encampments are there were some canvassing that was being done. We were looking at city owned property as well that we could put them on that were close to locations of larger encampments. So the hope was really to provide those immediate services to individuals, whether it's garbage hygiene restrooms potable water, things of that sort. So that was the intent. And I think. Our plan was kind of stopped when they wanted to come back and think about it more. So we haven't evolved at past what you've heard in the in that original presentation so that's kind of where we're at right now and that's what we're noodling on for the moment. I can see your face it didn't satisfy your question.

Gerrit Nyland

So you had suggested five sites and put some funding out for it, and the the end product was a you're gonna continue attempting that or put it on hiatus or just like other concerns in Council I guess maybe that was the question.

Tiegan Tidball

I'm sorry. Say that one more time.

Gerrit Nyland

Oh, I don't okay so what was the charge the council kind of gave NCS to do in order to come back with another plan is that what that is.

Not that I'm aware of, I feel like there's there's more noodling that has to happen for me to come back with another plan in any sense. Okay.

Rob Huff



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Thanks tieghan sorry to put you on the spot I'll work on my timing next time. So, Colin, can you offer for an update for safe parking.

I have no food my mouth.

Tina McLeod

Well, I can just, you know, not a whole heck of a lot I mean there's always new stuff going on and nothing crazy Marcelle Hill Baptist East pier site is full, we have been just really people been rolling through there. We got a lot of people that are staying a couple days and then moving along. A lot of partnership with Paula, Anderson and her mobile unit, which has been really great. A lot of partnership I think greater legs, path outreach has been out there two times this week. Working with a pretty, pretty serious dv situation with a pregnant female so we don't have an outcome on that one yet but a lot of really good stuff, some really good connections actually with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department also this week they've been, they're spread so thin so they've been really challenging to kind of get on board. But we have a direct contact now with a officer Payton, who is great. He's so that's a big step because they were kind of they knew about the program but now they're getting it out and I might go present to all of the Sheriff's Department on the parking network because I think we've talked about before, oftentimes, especially in the county in the sticks. Those are the, the it's oftentimes the sheriff's that are coming across individuals in cars or poor families. So we got that going on South Hills full east side has, I think they had three cars on three car falls last night. We're not getting any families right now families are just, they're not really showing up we've got a couple of referrals but for the most part has been individuals and couples, and that's fine, we're serving individuals and couples. So we got a couple openings at the side sites still. So if you have any referrals most definitely get in my way. After this meeting. Jeffrey and I are going to have a meeting with a father Kendall from St. Matthews, very interested in doing some stuff at his site I believe that's up on in northeast Tacoma. I'm going to do like a presentation next week to TCC trying to finalize a plan on what that would look like presentation to their president so that's going to be, that'll be good. There's a lot of interest from them still, and I've been working with Sarah rumba, and also talking to Jeffrey and we're definitely trying to come up with a plan to try to wrap three to four churches around that TCC site just to support TCC, and make sure that we have something in place moving forward. Salvation Army from keola, they have from Pew all, not from Tacoma, they got the green light they're ready to go with it which is really interesting how it's a different conversation in the Salvation Army in Tacoma, I think so. Their major kinda is awesome. So, she really wants to serve seniors, which unfortunately is a thing. But so she really wants to focus on serving seniors out there site and Pew all up which will be interesting because it's just, I believe it's just NPR city limits. So, we will see how that goes with PR. Outside of that, I know there's a lot of others that are always doing work and always talking to churches so if anyone else has any other information. Feel free to share, nothing from any of the churches like spanaway is kind of haven't really heard anything the Lakewood churches I haven't heard anything. So some of the churches have, they're just



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I'm just kind of waiting to hear back so Jeffrey or anyone else who has any other information please feel free to share, or Janet.

Janet Runbeck

It's great. No, yeah, we're really, we really have momentum now and I give a lot of credit to Collin and everybody but the momentum is there.

Nice. Yeah,

Reverend Boyce

you wrapped it up pretty well they're calling.

Colin DeForest

Thank you. You know, as I said you know I think that, you know, we had this this female with the kind of the issues and just to see the community and members of the coalition kind of rally around it i think that's what this program is all about. And I think what we're going to show in the end is, that is, it's a it's a really bare bones. And there may not always be a need for it, but when there is a need for it, it's really easy to set up and quickly respond to the need, you know, and I think that's what we're learning from the safe parking program.

Rob Huff

Thanks Colin. So let's turn it over to Maureen for a quick advocacy update I see our time is rapidly running out in the hour so

Maureen Howard

I got the most important things into the chat and, but the only other thing I would say is that that what keep an eye on the state legislative session. Because bills have to start moving by Monday. And I'll just keep sending out the Alliance's alerts. And we're keeping an eye on the feds for the binding relief bill, it's targeted to pass both parts of Congress by March 14 so to keep those unemployment the federal unemployment benefits coming. It's getting tweaked here and there but right now there's 19 billion for rental assistance. Probably 5 billion for a homelessness program that it looks like it will not come through ESG Connect because that money is not getting out fast enough nationally, but we'll come through the home allocation channel with all sorts of waivers and things but anyway there's money on the way and then there'll be another relief bill probably after that. So they are lining up money. Hopefully it all passes. So, Anyway, you know how to find me. Thank you.

Rob Huff



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Thank you, Kevin quick updates on commitments.

Kevin Glackin-Coley

Yeah, so I've been working on tracking commitments. We're having a meeting today with someone from Tacoma family medicine to look at how they might be part of the medical outreach program have been working with Tacoma ministerial Alliance and associated ministries on trying to develop a way for churches to welcome individuals or individual families into spaces that they have as a way of providing shelter also offering safe parking as an option in that working on some administrative details on how we might find a way I platforms to gather signatures, gather support for letters that we are putting out or a way to ask, and also to develop a number format for when we get asked to support something. How we can get approval for that it's one of the joys of being elucidate coalition is it's hard to figure out who can speak, and how, when we can say yes and when we can say no. And I had one other thing, and it's gone. Oh, I would say also I spent a lot of time this week on legislative meetings with the housing and homeless advocacy day program I was one of the coordinators for the 27th and 28th and I got good feedback on a lot of our, the Housing Trust Fund, and on satana just just protections or just cause for evictions. And so that was helpful. I'm not sure how it went in the other districts across the county I haven't heard back yet but at least in the 27th and 28th, there was some good feedback and hopefully we will continue to work through the legislative processes more as things switch over from the house, you know from the respective chambers they have to get out of their Chamber of origin soon and go over to the other side so we'll have more sense of what's in play.

Maureen Howard

Rob if I can add one more thing. Following Kevin's that when we met with Senator, Jeanie Darnielle whenever day that was this week. Anyway, so I'm grateful to those of you who responded when I went out about a month ago and said, if somebody you know bridge housing was willing to buy a hotel, if there were a provider, and four of you, organizationally came back and said yes, we would be a provider we would operate emergency shelter now, non congregate emergency shelter we would move into permanent housing in some form in the future. So I was able to actually give her that kind of very specific information to backup the \$70 million in the capital budget for rapid shelter acquisition. So, anyway, so thanks.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Maureen. So, we have run out of time. There's a couple minutes for items for the good of the order I see Al's hand up.

Al Ratcliffe

Maureen and Teresa pursuing Boyd employees credit union about the possibility of making banking services available to homeless people. They are quite open to doing that. The usual requirements. Meeting ID needing an address. At least someplace that can receive mail that has an address rather



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than general delivery. And no background of banking fraud kinds of issues. They're quite willing to do that they have no fees to open an account. And I will be tracking with Teresa and writing up something for use by the advocates in case managers and navigate, but it looks like a positive thing at this point.

Maureen Howard

Anybody else have any, Carolyn lenders.

Carolyn Reed

Oh, I just real quick. We have, you know, we've been trying to get the county to approve the tax and they are pretty clear that they're not interested in that at this time. But we're continuing to line up speakers, every week to talk about the importance to have a funding stream and how housing so important. So if any of you would like to help us with that vigil, so to speak, to keep this in front of them, please let me know. And one of our gals is coordinating that for the Tuesday council meetings. The other piece where there's a three pronged approach we're taking we're going to also try to change the narrative, so to speak, especially in the outlying communities by holding a viewing of a film of blended Joe Rayburn who lived in a homeless encampment for a week and documented it and use that as a platform to invite our council members to have a dialogue with his instance in their district so you know like calling I noticed that you have a lot of contacts of churches on the east side so there might be a point where I would ask you know if somebody could, if all of you can get that form information invite out to especially communities outside of Tacoma. And the last thing we're going to do is, with the help of some of you talk to the council people one on one, see what it is that they need to move forward and, you know, incorporate that into our invite for them to participate in this viewing of the film we'll call it, plus a little community forum. That's going to be March 31. If anybody wants to help work on that, let me know. I'll put my email in the chat, but we meet on Mondays for one hour at nine o'clock.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Carolyn. Anybody else with anything for the good of the order before, we're already past 11, but

Gerrit Nyland

I do, I do on our Facebook page, I want to start highlighting success stories of our clients entering permanent housing, so rapid rehousing clients diversion clients so we posted one today cc was kind enough to ask a client if we can use their photo on the Facebook page and she said yes. So I would love all of you just to send those to me, and I think their stories are super fun to see. So, pass those on to me, please.

Rob Huff

Awesome. That's a great addition. All right, so most of you know the routine by now we are wrapping up our regular meeting now but if you would like to hang out and help us plan for next week's meeting



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that's what we will do. After a five minute break. Thanks everybody. Jeffrey here muted. Thanks, everyone.