



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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Coalition to End Homelessness Provider Meeting - Friday, January 29th, 2021

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SPEAKERS

Lisa Mader, Heather Moss, Irene Morrison, Mike Yoder, CC Mendoza, Jenifer Palm, Gerrit Nyland, Robb Huff, Carolyn Reed, Dupree Whitten, Rob Huff, Keith Helmka, Brianna Betancourt, Rosemary Powers, Maureen Howard, Sheri Waller, Janne Hutchins, Nate Blackmer, Al Ratcliffe, Reverend Boyce, Janet Runbeck, Valeri Knight, Theresa Power-Drutis

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Rosemary Powers

Yes, I want to welcome everyone today, and I was thinking this morning as I was getting ready to sign in of how important to words that Maureen Howard left us with. At the end of the summit that we had on Monday, which we'll be talking more about today. She's been working on this issue as many of you have for many years, and I was just thinking so much about the word persistence, as a word that characterizes, all of us, and hopefully will take us into action, as we move forward till today. She said, in I don't know if I quoted you just exactly I did take notes down morning but said we will do this work the best we can, until we don't need to do it anymore. And have a name the coalition to end homelessness, with the bold claim that we can actually do this really requires the kind of persistence, that I see represented in the people here, and I want to welcome any of you who are new who want to join this persistent crew. So one of the things we do at the beginning of a meeting is to invite anybody who's here for the first time or who's been away for a while and would like to let us know that they're back, or someone who may be speaking today to just briefly say who you are, What group you're connected with any group, or whatever else you'd like to just say that connects you to this work, and then we'll move forward from there so I invite anybody who's new or returning to check in with us and let us know who you are.



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Dupree Whitten

Hear me a little bit louder.

Rosemary Powers

Hello. Yes.

Dupree Whitten

Hi. How you doing great. I work with definitely Community Services. I've been with the company for about six years now. I recently began doing case management work at disability site, back in April, where sometimes new things. And what's going on around a city.

Rosemary Powers

That's wonderful. Now I have seen do pray. Is that your name or died Did I hear it wrong.

Dupree Whitten

Friends my first name, please my middle name.

Rosemary Powers

All right. All right, welcome. Thank you. Any other new folks here today who maybe were at the summit and thought you'd give us a try.

Jenifer Palm

I'm Jen, I'm from Northwest integrated health into Allah, and I'm the recovery coach, so I just connect people with resources, and I, I'm new to all this, I've only been here for two months, but I'm just trying to get involved wherever I can to help the clients.

Rosemary Powers

Well great welcome. You'll be a great resource for us.

Sheri Waller

Good morning, can you hear me. Yes. Oh hi this is Sherry I'm the Social Work manager at good Sam hospital here in Puyallup.

Rosemary Powers

Sherry very much welcome We look forward to being able to have a connection with you there. That's great.

Lisa Mader

Hi, this is Lisa Manley Social Work manager over at tg to go to come in general with multi care.



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Rosemary Powers

Wonderful. This is a really great connection with the work. So, welcome.

Rob Huff

And for those who can't see chat. There's a reminder from Cynthia Stewart, in the chat, just reminding everyone if you're not currently speaking if you could mute. It can help knock down the background background noise. So, thank you.

Rosemary Powers

Well, thank you for your introductions and it's wonderful to have some new folks working with the medical system we really do need to have our web as Maureen described it grow so that we do cover King County. Pierce County and wherever else we can cover with the work that we do so. Rob I'll give it back to you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, rosemary. So the next item on our agenda is our regular standing item to hear what's happening on the streets this week. So, Nathan I don't know if he'd been able to line anything up but I'll let you kind of lead us through just a call for what's happening. Sure. So,

Nate Blackmer

we always like to have the space just for folks that are doing direct service to report any trends or things they've seen I don't have a speaker lined up but if you're listening and you're on the call and you've noticed any major trends or anything it's been kind of happening that you've been seeing. I know the big things we've been talking about our difficulty with getting things through. dll which still exists. But in addition to that, I know there was some hectic action kind of this week, around the idea that we have encampments that are being swept that have like active COVID cases in them, and sort of what we're going to do in regards to that and I know that that was kind of a shock to the system for some of my other like outreach workers that are on my team right that are like, hey, like, you know, what and how and why would we be sweeping people during a pandemic that are you know where we know that there's COVID cases in the community right because it does create this big barrier for for both like you know us as outreach workers and for like the community itself right like like how do you even offer resources to them aside from the COVID Hotel right because if you know that there's a cluster that has it and you kick them out like you're not just gonna go down and be like, yo, do you want to go to the shelter now, because like you know you're not going to like spread a communicable disease that

Robb Huff

way. So,

Nate Blackmer

you know, I know that there are a lot of discussions happening amongst the other outreaches about how how and why Where can I engage with that. So I guess if you're doing direct service work and you



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have anything you want to say about that or anything else that you're seeing this would be the space and the time to do so so I'm gonna open it up.

Maureen Howard

So I'm starting to feel like a direct service worker.

Nate Blackmer

Because you are.

Maureen Howard

But I just want to add to that conversation. I don't know if we have anybody from Food Not Bombs on the call today or not, but I did work with him this week, and with some of you about a person who tested positive for COVID and the net result if you've heard any of the bits and pieces that person is at St. Joe's and will remain there for the appropriate length of time, unless the person is transferred to the temporary Care Center, and that activated. a number of conversations and concerns about access to the temporary Care Center, especially directly from the encampments, and through people who are not part of the formal homeless response system. And I know that's on the agenda, either later today or coming. But the other thing is, you know, if we're gonna have these encampments, and it appears that we are, how are we going to make them safe. And, and I see Jan, and I need to close the loop with you on some things that the street medic idea is moving forward really fast. And, and a late night conversation so anyway thank you to all of those of you who actually leave your computer and go your phone and go out, but just to add that in. It's not where I really want to be. I just want not to screw anything up. Yeah, let me,

Nate Blackmer

let me reach out to you and then later to I know that the the street medic thing was being pushed from a couple of different angles and I'm having some traction with getting some nursing students involved to take it out to provide kind of wound care and basic like training on that stuff as well. So let's look around.

Rob Huff

And if anyone else has additional on the streets items. Now, it'd be the time to bring them up or we can move on to the next item on our agenda which is of course related and that would be kind of a look back at the safe shelter summit but here, now's the time if there are any new developments or needs on the street. We also had talked about in the planning group last week, making it a regular thing for people to be able to briefly announce items that they have available that could go out to people at the tail end of this section so if you have anything in that vein. This could be an opportunity to announce that as well.

Valeri Knight

Here's county released a Notice of Funding availability at about 6:30pm last night. It is ESG funds 5.8 million. It includes increasing Rapid Rehousing emergency shelter and diversion increasing permanent



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housing outcomes from those project sources, increasing street outreach, which is new for the county and increasing emergency shelter locations specifically and including outside city of Tacoma. So we are looking for new projects 5.8 million, the Notice of Funding validity ability is on our website so please take a look.

Robb Huff

Thank you, Valerie.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So this thing is very small in comparison and is, but I have like four really nice new mats, sleeping mats that I was thinking would be good for somebody who's opening up a temporary shelter so I'll put my phone number in the chat if you're interested, give me a call.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Teresa. All right, so if we have no additional items for this section of the meeting. Let's move on and have a conversation about the safe shelter summit. Can I turn this over to Garrett and Maureen, to talk a little bit about the event and where we're at now and that will lead us to a small group conversation. We want to get some feedback from everyone in the group who attended two summits, either the first or the second one, and also to solicit ideas for how we can move forward with items that have been committed so far.

Gerrit Nyland

How about if I jump in with some statistics marine and then you can do some more healthy human things. Not that we didn't have the full plan beforehand. So, we had about, actually, we had exactly 197 people attending our second summit, which is more than we had expected. And when you put the two summits together and then you look at all the unique individuals that attended either the two summits or both, that number was 331, which is a lot of people, and interesting only about 80 people attended both summits. So, a lot of people have their summit experience as one or the other. And looking at like the domains from the email addresses that different people registered with, I can get a bit of a window into what groups were there. And so I'm just going to give you kind of the statistics on both summits but our biggest attendee number set in terms of sheer numbers from one organization was the city of Tacoma, and they had 23 different people attending either one, either both of the summits followed by the Pierce County. And then comprehensive life resources in Lehi had 12 people at our second summit, which puts them next in the list and Catholic community services, and then interesting to come up parks had nine people present for our second summit, putting them high on the list and then ch II Franciscan. We heard them on the, on the commitment list, along with multi care. And then, and then it's smaller groups, but, but those were kind of our, I kind of interesting, some people we haven't seen before, like the city of Fife had three people at the event. And it's kind of fun to see some organizations that haven't had a huge hand in homelessness, get involved, and the, the event went smoothly from the technical side I'll just cover that so we can get it out. We, we had another crew of five people so big thanks to everyone that helped with that which is Rob and Laurie and Casey, and Theresa, making it safe and keeping stuff flowing in the chat. And I just, just today, you signed an email from environmental services



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they're expanding their Purple Bag project. And that's, I think, a product of their, you know, enthusiasm for this work but I can't help but think that the US being vocal and supportive that didn't have some impact so I think we'll see things that happened at the summit, but a lot of things are going to be following just like that. So, so I'm going to take respond. I think the coalition can can get an assist on that. Marie, do you want to jump in.

Maureen Howard

Sure. Thank you. So a couple of things as we head into these smaller breakout rooms and an opportunity to to weigh in one is said I want to make sure everybody knows that the mayor did call me and she just was tremendously excited about the summit was apologetic for having to leave the second one, early. And just can't thank the coalition enough. And I thought the fact that the county exec stayed on through the end was really something good and that he had those explicit commitments. And I know everybody gets frustrated with government, but those are the folks that we have to work with, we have to help them be what we believe they can be and want to be. And so, that's just really important. The. I want to call out Carlos continue on. I don't know if he's on the call, but I thought he was an elegant facilitator. In that he kept the summit's going both of them, but they were not about him, he never made himself. The central figure and that is a real skill, and someone who is moderating a group of people with whom they are not even familiar. So I really think that it was Garrett who first invited him into that role and so thanks for Garrett for a really excellent suggestion for Carlos and like I say if he's not here. Oh yes here. Okay. So anyway, I just, I think that's really very special. That's a gift that Carlos brought to the summit's moving forward. So I laid out some of that in my closing remarks and. So here's what we have right now as a framework to think about. One is that the steering committees for the winter shelter the oversight of Kevin, and the summit's themselves are one committee now meeting at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoons, and they are. That's an open committee, and you'll get reminders about, you know, joining us. That's one thing. The other thing is that the work isn't done. I one of the things we learned is that a lot of what we were requesting was going to take a lot more time. And we, and even some of the things that were commitments, were not able to come forward publicly, because of the systems within which they were made those systems required. They had a chain of command that required sign offs on up to the heavens as near as I can tell, on some of them. But, so part of it, we're just learning. And the fact that John Beck was able to get ch I Franciscan Virginia Mason and multi care that the to work with the people within those systems so that they could bring forward that commitment that morning is really astounding. And so one of the things that this process, I think has really brought to the forefront is that within the coalition we have a number of people who are hopefully looking for a niche where they can use their professional experience their personal commitment to help us do what we want to do breaking into homelessness. Taking these commitments forward, and the requests that are not yet filled and the new requests that are continually emerging is, in my mind, it's like a. It really is a flat kind of system, that if you have the passion or you have the opportunity and the interest in a specific piece of this. It's not a hierarchical system. It's. Are you willing to work with a group of like minded and diverse people to add to seek out the diversity in for your group. If that's required to move these commitments forward to help the parts of the community that that we need to respond to our request to be able to do that. And so, for some of you maybe your job allows it. Some of you. Maybe you're seeking a meeting to get up in the morning, in retirement. Some of you may know



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somebody who would be the perfect person. And so I just I think that the summit for me this summit brought us energy, and it brought us into players. Certainly we see that from the numbers. If only 82 of us, attended those summits, and there were 331, total people. So, no we're not doing this in February. There's no decision about what we do another summit, but I just think that, as, as you're in those small groups. Don't think about somebody else's going to do something, think about what am I going to do. And, and how am I going to do that. and what do I need to do it. So, I want to thank everybody again, who came along and agreed that this was a good idea. It was a huge ask on my part for all of you, and it was an amazing experience both professionally and personally for me, that we were able to do this and do it so well and somebody said, Oh, I think maybe it was the mayor and she said you know I don't know what happened behind the scenes and I know it was really hard, but to the public. It was seamless and smooth. And so I think that's pretty good. So, anyway, thank you, everybody.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Maureen and to Garrett as well for all the hard work on this. The. So I know Garrett has

Maureen Howard

late but I'm sorry, Garrett, it's a Wednesday. Steering Committee meeting.

Quality Control.

Rob Huff

Well I see that while we're meeting Garrett has been busy sending information out to the coalition mailing list with the links to the video from the presentation on Monday, the lists of commitments which I actually put the link to on the PC homeless website in the chat. And so, you know, I don't know that it would be that effective for one of us to share the list of commitments on the screen that document is currently eight pages. But if you get an opportunity as we move into small groups to bring that up on screen so that you can see it. That might help inform some of the conversation that we're going to have in these breakout groups. The purpose of breakout groups this morning. I'm going to break us into groups of four or five people. We want to hear from those who attended. And those who didn't attend the summits, too, if you did attend. What were your impressions what went well what could be done better, that kind of thing. If you didn't attend. What made made it hard for you to be able to attend for that hour. And it could be anything from timing to just, you know whatever other reason that you couldn't participate in either of the two first two summits. The second thing that we want to address in the small groups, is how can we best move this work forward. So, what we're hoping you can do is, at the end of the small groups will break up into small groups for about 20 minutes for conversation. At the end of the small groups that everyone comes back and puts into the chat. Where, where they want to work which commitments they want to work on, so that we can start connecting the dots and start moving the work forward. We want to make sure that these commitments don't just sit there. So, I will post those two questions in the groups, as we break into small groups, and I'm going to assign everybody randomly, um, Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis



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I just want to check to be sure people know that if they have something that will contribute to this work, but isn't specifically on the list. We still want to have that in the chat correct. Yeah, yeah,

Rob Huff

yeah what we're trying to do is just get the most good as possible out of, out of this whole experience. The two hours that have been shared with that large group of community members as well as the focused work of the coalition. So if there are no other questions I will start working on breakout groups there is no reason to have to assign anybody in your group as a, as a scribe I just put it on each person to go ahead and put your information in the chat. When we return. Oh, let me create some rooms.

20 Minute Small Group Breakout

Rob Huff

Welcome back everyone. So as a reminder, hopefully that was good conversation in the breakout rooms and useful, please, if you did have additional ideas that came up during the conversation or you're, you want to make a commitment to move items forward. Please include that in paste that into the chat so that we have a record of it and we can start connecting people to projects. That's the hope, out of all of this. Does anybody from those conversations want to highlight anything here in the open room. Yeah.

Can you hear me,

Rob Huff

I can.

Keith Helmka

Alright, I get to redeem myself from not being able to speak on Monday, we were, we were in a small group and and you know there were just some general comments I wanted to share that there was that people were generally really impressed with the organization of the meeting and the commitment of the coalition staff. And I'm really impressed at the weekly report outs, you know, you know, I'll share with you that you know, when I first started coming to this two hours every Friday seemed like a big ask and I'm not entirely sure that I'm going to be able to commit to that but you know everybody has really great report out stuff and and almost not coming leaves you vulnerable to missing out on, on some good information. And that we just really appreciate it. Everyone's willingness to come together and to be solution based and engage in the relationship building this form provides.

Rob Huff



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Thank you, Keith, and it's good to hear. Not only that the summit was useful but that these you find these meetings, useful so that's great. Thank you. Does anyone else have something they'd like to share that came up during their small groups.

Maureen Howard

So, when they came up in our group was. I'm calling it a new request. But, how to better serve clients when there are multiple case managers from multiple organizations involved. Especially if those clients, move from one housing reality to another, or. And then the other part of that is how, if, if there need to be more than one case manager involved with the client and the case managers have different methodologies, how to, how to help the case managers, work together for the client. And it gets more complicated if there are funding stream requirements and all that sort of thing. And so I just thought, couple of us have been talking for a while about, like, you know, some professional development opportunities for people and having, you know, different ones of those and maybe this fits into that umbrella. And maybe that's a way to, you know, we get, especially as new programs come online. Sometimes there are some sharp edges that maybe we could skip and get on to serving the client. Right.

Rob Huff

Other ideas that came up in the small groups. Say, Rob. Yeah. Um, I think the downside of random assignment was the fact that it no there was, there were nobody, nobody in our group had attended. Okay. And that left us with a with a number of questions were unable to answer we did learn about each other's services and that sort of thing in the group and things along those lines but unfortunately they had no point of context for the, for the meetings, right yeah sorry about that Richard Do you know in your conversations, was there any conversation in, even in your group about what may or may have made attending the summit, more feasible or possible for you. seems as though it was a very diverse number of reasons. Yeah, yeah, yeah it's difficult when you schedule a one hour very short meeting, even though there were two of them to be able to pull everyone in who has an actual interest. The desire was there, that's for sure. Thanks, Richard. One of maybe one yeah go ahead

CC Mendoza

and see see one of the things that came up in our group was at the next summit having a property owner who already went to some of our clients to to be there to talk about the positives the negatives and what they would like to see in the future. And owl brought up a good point that perhaps they could be part of marketing. The other property owners. and then also in the next summit having someone who's experiencing homelessness. Present, because really that's what we're all about right. Yeah, we left the bride, out of the event or the groom.

Rob Huff

Thank you, cc.

Al Ratcliffe



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I suggested that we encourage the various organizations and politicians that make commitments to come back once in a while, on their own and just report what they're doing to meet the commitment that they're proud of.

Rob Huff

That's a great idea. And we can work on reaching out to those who made commitments and see if we can get them back on the agenda for these Friday meetings to report back. Yeah, great.

Al Ratcliffe

Well I put that in the chat but then somehow it got connected or linked from an article about welfare and yesterday. And I just want the group to know that as a former Joint Commission surveyor after I saw that article I reported it to the Joint Commission. So I don't know whether the joint will come back and looked at well found again or not but at least they're aware.

Rob Huff

Thanks. So,

Janne Hutchins

one of the suggestions that I had but that perhaps some of the first of all it was pretty flawless. And you don't want to increase the length of the meeting. But if you had some surveys that happened during the meeting. It might be able, it might enable you to gather some information that's going to be helpful for the future.

Rob Huff

Thank you. Yeah, that's a great idea. In any of the small groups, it was there a conversation about holding additional summits in the future.

Robb Huff

Sorry Maureen,

Al Ratcliffe

was that there was an assumption that there will be some.

Rob Huff

Yeah, there had been conversation among the folks who organized the summit, whether we should do, you know, a couple of times a year or quarterly summits, as long as there's enough substance there and work to be done which there's obviously always enough work to be done. But I was just curious if the larger audience thought that was a good idea.

Gerrit Nyland

I was gonna jump in, I think it would be neat to have large events but maybe not a summit event. So, I keep thinking about sort of a, an award ceremony, like the city of destiny awards, but something where



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we can nominate agencies and individuals, doing really good work and recognize them, but create that as a platform also to kind of advance the coalition's mission, you know, kind of like how the, you know, the Academy Awards or to get you to go to movies, right, like there's, there's nothing else except that kind of driving force behind it so I would love to think about all of us to think about what could we have as a few anchor events each year, like maybe every year we do you know the homeless, like we did in December the shortest day of the year the homeless Memorial Day maybe we anchor that with a bit somber message right and summer maybe we do something where we celebrate the people doing the work like think about how we could bring people together for different things that continues our, our kind of core mission.

Rob Huff

I definitely see some support for that in the chat. So, that's great idea.

And I think that would be a good opportunity to honor, one of the property owners that regularly accepts clients that we place, because there are there are certain properties that, you know, have devoted quite a few units to people from coordinated entry.

Mike Yoder

Yeah, the landlord liaison team, gives the fairly regular awards to property partners that go above and beyond and making a way lowering barriers and opening up units to people from Rapid Rehousing and from the homeless system so they're, they're quite aware of who all the best actors are in the property management company and landlords in the community, but they could that that could be lit. That information of who's doing that. Good work, could be lifted up even higher.

Theresa Power-Drutis

And it would be great if we know about when those events are so that we, some of us at least could show up to support.

Mike Yoder

Yeah, we used to do. We used to, we used to do an award in the office of the property partner every month we gave the community pillar of the month award and we've actually even had executive Dan Meyer show up a couple of times to some of the bigger ones but then try to make a little bit of PR about it but of course that's all been challenging this last year so that's an opportunity to re establish some energy there.

Rob Huff

Great, you know,

Mike Yoder

in speaking of that, lifting up. good behavior I mean this is just part of leadership. If you want people to do it there's certain things that you'd like that people do. And you want them to do more of that good



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stuff you need to lift it up and celebrate it. That's how you get more people to do more things that you want them to do. Right. And I'm telling you, every time, and I've gone out to every one of these community pillar awards that we've given to landlords. Almost every time after we go out we take the time to go out and give them a little slip certificate a piece of paper, almost invariably the very next month, they have many more units that they make available to the landlord liaison project because they tell us. I didn't know what I was doing made a difference. And, and you guys came over here, and gave me this award and I've never been thanked you know for my part in helping the community before and I'm going to bend over backwards to try to be a better partner and to help out more and open up more of my units that has invariably happened every time we have recognized the landlord for the good work. So if we can create a groundswell of of lifting up, you know, the good work that anybody is doing it any level, and just creating an atmosphere where everybody wants in, to be a part of those who are seen as the heroes the solution providers that's one thing we can do.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Michael. Maureen.

Maureen Howard

Following these suggestions. One of the things that I learned when I was in the State Department of Public Diplomacy officer. So as a New South Africa, and every cabinet officer from the US was coming, and so we would focus with, we would literally do a program around that particular person, their interests and our interests and the South African government's interests, and we could adapt some of that to what you know another piece of this is are there particular leaders and sectors in the community that we want to help understand the either what they're doing like the the landlord liaison that Michael was just talking about or something that's of high interest to us and then really focus, the pieces that we put forward for them that it's sort of less arbitrary or, and more focused and just as another way to approach I can't believe I'm using things I learned there but anyway. But it really a lot of it just is relationships you know things that we don't talk about that many of us do we just do it. And so maybe if we do some of it in a more thoughtful manner. We can get where we want to go faster. Great,

Rob Huff

well thank you everyone. I see rosemarys hands up.

Rosemary Powers

Just a short thing in our group we were talking about the breakdown around garbage, so it's a little more specific small thing. But in terms of celebrating what people are doing well. I'm thinking it might be important to think about where in the county in the people who are in is tentative time living in encampments because the Purple Bag project is a great commitment but if it doesn't have pickup related to it, then it's, it's just a celebration of the Purple Bag project so I just started thinking about how do we how do we get more positive, and consistent behavior from the agencies that are responsible for cleanup and that sort of thing. So we don't lose the energy that people are bringing because it doesn't work out in the end. Right. Oh,



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Al Ratcliffe

I'm sure Justin a high priority for this group to invite whoever is involved with the Purple Bag program to come and explain what did what they've learned from the pilot and what they're going to be doing in the future. has a pretty high priority because it's one of those stinking issues.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thank you. we'll follow up. I know that an email went out to the list today related to that and so they're open to communicating with us so I appreciate that. So I want to thank everybody for the participation and good thoughts and brainstorming this morning. I'm going to move us along in our agenda. Our next item is we have Heather moss who's the Director of Pierce County Human Services. We asked Heather to come and share with us a condensed version of a presentation she made before the Pierce County Council. I believe at a committee meeting. A couple of weeks ago. And so, Heather I think I've given you permission to go ahead and share materials from your screen and I'll give you the floor.

Heather Moss

Oh, let me do my shirt pull up my shared screen here for you all. Wide open so it's going to take me a minute here. Hold on.

Rob Huff

No problem.

Heather Moss

See. Okay, do you see the slide deck there.

Rob Huff

Yep. Awesome. All right, so

Heather Moss

I hi everybody I'm the Director of Human Services for Pierce County, I, it's fun to scroll through all of the pages of participants I see a lot of familiar faces and names so great to be here with all of you today, and I this slide deck is about 15 slides, I'm not going to share all of them with you because I don't have all that time but I will send this on to rob and he can get it out to folks if you want to peruse in more detail some of the some of the material in here that I'm just going to skip over real quick. The also the other thing that I would say at the outset of this as you'll note that this was created on January 20 nine days ago doesn't seem like that long ago but a lot has happened since then. This was the day of the inauguration so actually a few of the Obama, or I'm sorry Biden administration executive orders have influenced some of the work or some of the thinking that we're doing so I'll get to that in a minute but just wanted to point out this is nine days old already. So, this was a presentation that I gave to the Human Services Committee of the Pierce County Council, as you know, four of the seven members of the council are new. So there's a lot of just one on one about human services that and those are the parts that I'll probably skip over again you can look at these slides at your leisure at another time. I do



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want to pause on this slide for just a minute so for those of you who haven't seen it. This is a copy of our org chart at a pretty high level on the, the group that you're most interacting most used to interacting with is that purple box right in the bottom, middle, under John Barbi the Community Services Division John is responsible for our affordable housing response, homelessness, of course, and and community development. So, Valerie who you see on the call with you, most every week, reports to John in within that box. And then you also see the turquoise box, sort of towards the left the right there, of the screen, Sean center lines veterans Assistance Program Shawn also is on the call today I see and is working closely with a lot of our humans or our homelessness providers. So that's just to point out where everybody sits within the org chart, but also just to indicate to you. We've got a pretty wide span of a responsibility for all things, social service related in Pierce County, from Aging and Disability Resources to our small but growing as you all know Behavioral Health Division community action which is the county version of the cap program so MBC is our sister program in that area. And then of course some of our back office functions of finance administration and our partnership with WSU crop extension. This slide is one that I'm not going to talk a lot about but you can look at it later it gives you a pretty high level overview of all of the divisions of our department and who does what. And then this slide just lays out and again, many of you already know this but human services is largely guided by, I would say over 100 different volunteers that serve on various advisory boards particular to different bodies of work in our department. The newest one on here is the birth to twat birth to 25 advisory board, the county council just recently extended for another year. We're hoping that we make enough of an impact in that advisory board to convince them to make that a long term advisory board I believe there is so much work that we could do as a county in really supporting our education continuum birth to 25 in in Pierce County, so there's that the 10th one that will be added to this group, probably sometime later this year is the Behavioral Health Advisory Board again that is part of the ordinance that the council just passed along with the approval to pursue the one 10th of 1%. The one 10th of 1% just so you all know is conditional upon a Medicaid transformation project approval from HCA so there's a little bit of negotiating happening with that we expect that to actually take place sometime this spring or early summer. What that means then is that would trigger us alerting the state, and then a few other things have to happen before we start collecting that tax. I don't at this time expect that we're going to see any substantive revenue coming from that tax until at the earliest. The first part of 2022. So, we have this year to do a lot of planning, we will be reaching out to many of you to do that but I just wanted to give you a heads up of general timing on that tax revenue. This is also just a quick overview that I'm not going to spend a lot of time on our strategic plan for the department was created a couple of maybe a year before I got there so frankly I don't have a whole lot of ownership over it. But what I really appreciate about it is that you can see in those boxes there is that it's really focused on community impact and working with our partners and working with the community, and I am here is a testament to that, and our staff from our department so my colleagues are here. I heard Maureen say at the beginning of the meeting that sometimes you will get frustrated working with government, and I get that I've been on the other side of the table too, and it's probably frustrating all around and, but it's it's what we have to do and I think it's also the way that we make this work so effective. So this is where I want to spend a little bit of time with you because I want to, I realize that we have not done a good enough job as the Human Services Department talking about what we fund. And that struck me, mostly in the second summit because when a lot of the partners were making commitments about things that they



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have done or will do. I realized that the county has actually been involved in many of those either as a funder or a convener or a collaborator in some way. So I think we have a responsibility to do more to talk about what our role is and what we've done over the past year and continuing into the future to address homelessness in our communities. So this slide in the next three two slides after it give you a quick overview of the cares Act funding, this has what has consumed a good number of our staff over the last year, obviously the pandemic has, has had a significant impact on everything we do across our community and across our country. But thankfully we had a sizable chunk of dollars come to Pierce County about \$158 million that we use to distribute to various needs across the county economic development, public health and safety, the frontline COVID response around delivering pp. And then here community response and resiliency. This is where we dedicated \$33 million of that 158 to social services across the county. It fell into a few categories. First you see here food and nutrition. Oh and by the way you can see all of this information and click on these actual boxes on the open Pierce County website so it's open Pierce County. That la.gov I'm gonna guess. Anyway, you can find it on the Pierce County webpage. So Food and Nutrition we spent almost \$3 million there. A lot of support to food banks a lot of support to home delivered meals for senior citizens. The big category that you all will be most interested in is our housing stability and homelessness bucket. And here you can see we almost spent \$17 million, just in the course of around eight months, nine months last year, those dollars went to sheltering to help our current shelter providers expand their footprint and at the same time, allow for socially distanced physically distance services in their, in their facilities and to expand their facilities. We also put a bulk of those dollars into rental assistance. Remember to that. Well we use \$9 million of cares funding for rental assistance we also received another 10.7, I believe it was of rental assistance support through the State Department of Commerce, so we put out almost \$20 million in rental assistance last year. Keep that number in mind because I'll come back to rental assistance shortly. And also we put some funding in to help people stay in into their home homeowners stay in their homes as well so we had just over a couple of million dollars in mortgage assistance. Many of our partners who are on this call, helped us by receiving some of these funds and putting putting services out into the community. Like I said, whether that was expanded shelters, or outreach, or hygiene stations. So we really appreciate your partnership and we're glad to be able to get those dollars out to help people. We're working on a report now to talk about the overall impact of cares and what I just learned is that we with these \$33 million. We've reached over 50,000 people, and then the food donations or the food program alone reached over almost 450,000 families in Pierce County, so huge need we didn't even touch the full need but we're really proud of the work that we did do second slide here about cares Act funding, you can see the other buckets of of services that we provided in Veterans Services, Shawn and his team did an amazing job getting over \$2 million out to our veteran population who needed help with rental assistance utility payments. Car support gas groceries, those kinds of things. So we're really proud of the work that they did. We partnered with elevate health to get \$1.5 million out to our behavioral health community providers. So that was to help them, adapt their services so that they can continue the really important work that they were doing to serve clients who were in urgent needs of behavioral health services. So that could have included money to adapt their facilities for socially distance servicing or they did a lot of telemedicine. So that was a great partnership there. And then Child and Family Services is one that I'm particularly proud of, I have a background in early learning and know that there's just an ongoing need and, and a gap in how our, not only low income but really



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our even our moderate income families have a struggle to afford childcare. So we use this as an opportunity to help families pay for childcare who might not qualify for the state childcare subsidy program, so we partnered with childcare aware of Washington, and they, I'm sorry, that's not true childcare resources out of Seattle King County. They helped us put together a childcare subsidy program that was a big chunk of the dollars here. This is also where we paid for first responder childcare camps, and then some of our partner agencies Parks and Rec did some messaging and we also had supported employment. And then finally we ran a small program to provide additional support to our domestic and family violence prevention partners, knowing that there was a there was intended, or not intended there was a suspected increase in domestic violence. We're seeing that play out now as people are going back to work and victims are more free to report those incidents. So we're seeing an uptick now in our domestic violence family needs that we were able to support. And then finally, the the final category here just \$2.6 million for transportation and other services for disabled populations. A lot of this went to special needs transportation, we helped our senior centers rethink their footprints and how they deliver services. We actually provided funding to, it was either 18 or 21 senior centers across the county, little grants here and there but it was, dollars that were pretty unrestricted and able to help them think through how, when they do reopen how they can do that in a safe way for their senior population. So that was our cares dollars it was fast and furious, a lot of money going out a lot of new programs, a lot of new party partners that we've never worked with before so we of course learned a lot of lessons. One of the things and you'll probably be familiar with this concept of the number one there is really you got to go slow to go fast and I think some in some instances we went too fast and stood up programs that then we had to make a lot of changes to, and some of you on this call were victims of that when we sent out a lot of edits to how we were running different programs and I apologize for that but lesson learned and we're thinking more carefully now about how to implement programs going forward. That being said, none of us have ever been through a pandemic before so you know we did a pretty good job I would have to say, so I'm not going to go through all of these lessons learned, but the other one that I'll point out is number seven, I think, for all that we try to get messages out through our engagement with staff with groups like this or our website or public news releases, there's more that we can do to share what we've been doing and how people can access, access services. It's not easy to work through government and we need to find a way to make it easier, that's that's totally incumbent upon us. So, a lot of other lessons we learned, but those are two that I really, I really think are strong takeaways for us. This is one area that I wanted to spend a little bit of time on with you all today, because for a couple of reasons. One is that the cares dollars are gone. So that 150 \$8 million. We pushed really hard as a county. We got a lot of services out, and we spent those dollars in a lot of good ways. Now we're in 2021, there's a little bit of funding coming in much different ways to us through the from the federal government. One example is the rental assistance program that's starting up again soon. But it's not we're not going to get another cares allocation. At least I'm not hearing any plans around that the dollars now are much more prescriptive to different specific focus areas and have much more requirement around them so we'll be working within those requirements to think about how to get these dollars out. So let me see if I can. And this is kind of hiding the top of my slide but I think it's the number up there's like 25 \$26 million that we've received from other sources in addition to the cares dollars of those about all of them but about eight and a half million dollars we've spent or allocated so far. A couple of that I want to draw your attention to are towards the bottom you can see the state \$4.7



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million for shelter expansion. I believe Valerie and others have talked to you about this before. This was the partnership that we had with four other jurisdictions people have been sensitive to come up being two of them I think it was Lakewood and maybe gig harbor were the others. No, that's not right, Lakewood and somebody else. Valerie saying it, she said. Thank you, Valerie University place. This was really cool because it allowed us to come together as regional government and think about how to provide shelter in a different way. So one of the things that we just talked about in the small group I was on this call is that some of our jurisdictions have historically been more reluctant to take on some acknowledgement about their role in responding to homelessness and it's largely fallen to Tacoma, and and county. We have seen through this pandemic other jurisdictions, stepping up and thinking about what their role could be in fact part of that \$4.7 million is funding a small shelter project in Puyallup. For those of you who know piola, that's kind of a big deal. It's also helping to pay for the tiny homes that the city of Tacoma is putting up at sixth and orchard again kind of a big deal because it's really moving shelter out of that the urban core. So we're really pleased with the partnership and just the creativity that some of the jurisdictions are using to think about those about those dollars. You can also see in this list going up a couple bullets there. The \$10.7 million that I referenced earlier about about rental emergency rental assistance, and then ESG Valerie just told you about that today those that five. Five plus million dollars is out in a NOFA. I want to urge all of you who are providers to take a close look at that. Notice of Funding availability. We are putting those dollars out there with not a lot of expectation in terms of what we want as priorities because we know that you are closer to the work and you can see what the needs are and you can see how our world has changed in response to COVID, so I'm really hopeful to hear good ideas about how to use those dollars to respond to homelessness in 2021 and 2022. So again I'm just gonna underscore Valerie's request that you take a look at that and I saw that she posted it in the chat message. We also have other dollars that we anticipate coming to us. CDBG and Energy Assistance again very prescriptive to specific responses. So we are working hard to get those dollars out into the community. And I know we have to do more to share how the where those dollars are going and to what end. Just real quickly, and then I'll be done rental assistance. We have like I said new dollars coming from the federal government to run a 2.0 rental assistance, and 2021, actually the NOFA for that is out as well we are hoping to get a handful of providers to continue the good work that many of them did with us and for us in 2020. The big news here is that, although we know we've received \$20 million directly from the federal government or we're about to the city of Tacoma is also directly being awarded \$6 million. We have heard that there are additional dollars as much as \$25 million, potentially coming to us again through the state so federal dollars to the state and then to the county. That's a big chunk of dollars to put out. We've done some projections we know the need is there for rental assistance, particularly as this pandemic stretches on. But it's a heavy lift for us and for our provider community so we are hopeful about getting some partners into that work. I know Lori's on the call she was in my small group we're also working with Tacoma pro bono and the Center for dispute resolution along with Pierce County Superior Court, thinking about how do we build on and expand the eviction prevention or eviction mitigation mitigation program that they've stood up as a pilot program. So lots of great work happening around rental assistance we hope to have that program up and running by early March, well in advance of when the governor's moratorium on evictions ends at the end of the month, or expires at the end of the month. And then oh I'm sorry I lied one more thing, FEMA funds. So again I want to remind you, I built this slide deck in preparation for a presentation on



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January 20, the inauguration day at that point in time knowing what we knew the county had a pretty had and continues to have a pretty conservative conservative approach to how we use FEMA dollars. That is still true. But given a couple of the new directions that are happening under the Biden administration. We are going to take another look at FEMA funding as a potential source of revenue for expanding shelter for the next few months. I'm not going to promise anything and you know for all of the comments that I see on social media, and in emails and with with your group and with others. FEMA is not a slam dunk there, it's no small feat, to get FEMA dollars and to do all of the things that you need to have in place to get FEMA dollars. So, I have a list of, you know, a couple pages long of all of the things we need to do to make this happen, and see if it's feasible. And we're going to do that work. And, and we'll go from there. I'll give you an update once we make that determination, but I just wanted you to know that that we are considering FEMA as a source for serving the at risk population and that's different than what we've traditionally done in Pierce County and that's why you see some other jurisdictions, using FEMA dollars or anticipating to use FEMA dollars for housing their homeless population. So, more to come on that. I'm not going to share that with you now, but I think that's all I have for you at this point, I'm going to stop sharing and if there's time Rob I am available for questions and I'll send you this slide deck shortly.

Rob Huff

Yeah, that'd be fantastic and I will open the floor if folks have questions, any questions feel free to raise your hand or just speak up in the group. Thanks, Jan. Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

I just have a, it's not a question it's a comment, I, I just appreciate. Heather, that you brought this out and made such clarity about how your operation works. I've never seen this is done as clearly, so I'm getting a lot of feedback I wonder if somebody has their mute off or something. Anyway, so I just I do want to say good presentation. It's nice to see somebody that's so fresh and so complete about this and even though we're not always happy with the decisions that get made about funding. We do recognize that there's a lot that goes into making those decisions and we do appreciate all of you who work on that.

Carolyn Reed

Thanks Teresa and I really do want to underscore I see the need for us to be sharing more information like this on a regular basis with our partners and providers and stakeholders.

Rob Huff

Carolyn.

Carolyn Reed

I don't see the little hand, you know, down in the bottom, so sorry. Heather I just, you know, we can, I'd like to talk to you or somebody on your staff offline. Because at the summit you know we committed to continuing to ask the county to approve the revenue for housing tax. But I'd like to get a little more background, see what we're up against because we're not getting a lot of warm and fuzzies. Is there a



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way I can email you or somebody on your staff. Sure, I'll put my email in the chat box so you can pick that up there Carolyn and I would just say that you know that we have a very, like I said, new council, mostly four out of the seven. It's democratic lead now four of the seven are Democrats, that probably leads a little more opportunity but you need five votes to do that and they just passed the mental health tax, it took them 15 years to pass the mental health tax for a lot of valid reasons, and we got we finally got there, and there's a lot of work to do to push that through. I just said, I would just say, do what you need to do but expect that it's going to be a long road.

Well I was hoping for 15 days instead of 15 years. All right, I will. I'll I got your email I asked for it already and I'll send you a note.

Rob Huff

Other Any other questions, yeah. Heather.

Al Ratcliffe

Back to the Accountable Care Organization model. I know you said there's negotiations, how receptive is the state and the feds appearing to be at this point.

Heather Moss

I am not a part of those conversations what I'm hearing is that there is still a lot of interest in our county by a lot of our mental health and behavioral health providers to do something different. The Health Care Authority is not super receptive, but also know that they have to listen to their provider community in Pierce County so that's why I think there's negotiations going on I'm not a part of them we're just sitting back and waiting patiently but I hear that we will come to an agreement there everybody that I've talked to thinks that we're close to an agreement.

Rob Huff

All right. Any last questions I see Maureen's Hands up.

Maureen Howard

Heather thanks that was really a wonderfully clear readable understandable presentation for somebody who's not in government. So thank you. But one of the things that I realized when I was looking at the org chart. The number of different boxes, if you will, and I'm one of the things that's happened with the city recently is that it's not just NCS which handles homelessness, with whom we interact, but environmental services now and planning because that's where a lot of the housing actions going. And I'm, I'm looking at your boxes and wondering if we're missing opportunities as a coalition, where there might be relationships. At a minimum, resources at the maximum or ways in which we can enhance the work that these different boxes they're trying to do and be supportive or whatever but I'm thinking, especially if the cap agency part, but also you got a ton of people in aging and I want to say long term care but that's not right but in that box and, you know, if we look at the community of people



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experiencing homelessness and the high levels of people with disabilities. Anyway, that's another request on the request list.

Heather Moss

Yeah, my first response of course marine is you're killing me seriously you want to be more in my business. But, you make a good point that our Community Action Program is where we have a lot of services to provide our provide services to our most vulnerable families. Those probably at risk of homelessness so while they might not be out on the streets per se. They are unstable Lee housed and so I think there's some a strong connection there. Also I know that our planning and Public Works office has, you know, is really taking the lead on the abatement program and encampment response, along with our sheriff's department we work closely with them, that's all on hold for at this point in time but at some point that's a that's a group that we engage more actively with in the last. In recent years, last couple years. So yeah, there's, there's tendrils out into county government that we can certainly help facilitate reluctantly

Maureen Howard

happily

Al Ratcliffe

for comment about. You're killing me led to my last question. Are you getting enough sleep.

Heather Moss

I have the most of me. I work with the most amazing team of people. Valerie is the one that you need to worry about she should take on yeoman's work in the last year Valerie and Shawn both who are on this call. I just sit back and watch them do amazing things. So, yeah, I sleep pretty good thanks.

Rob Huff

Well thank you very much Heather for taking the time to talk with the coalition this morning and and pointing out ways that we can coordinate our work and be supportive for the county as well. So, thank you.

Heather Moss

Happy to join you. Thanks for the opportunity.

Rob Huff

All right. So, the next item on our agenda is a change, we were going to talk about the temporary care center with Greg Bickford who is the director of that temporary Care Center. Greg, let Garrett and I know late, late yesterday afternoon that he had another meeting come up, it was in conflict so he couldn't join us today. But we had a particular. We've had a number of situations and we've talked about the temporary Care Center, a number of times. On the coalition calls. And I know between Garrett and Maureen and I, we thought it might be a worthwhile exercise to spend some time this morning talking about kind of walking through a scenario if we had a situation where someone who



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someone tests positive. And we need to get them, we being the shelter providers or members of the coalition needed to coordinate getting them to a safe place to quarantine. What would be the best way to do that. So, Maureen Garrett. Do you want to start get us started.

Maureen Howard

Well I'll start Garrett, um, so it's, again, I'm outside of the provider system. So, what providers are experiencing I only know secondhand, but I know firsthand from trying to get a woman who, on a Sunday, who couldn't said she couldn't get into shelter, because she was running a fever she had a child. And it took about 45 minutes, starting with a number Garrett gave me to make my way to multi cares access for the treatment of Care Center, and only to the ended at that point because it needed to be a conversation between the woman and the multi care person which was totally appropriate and I did not follow that up to see if the woman got in or not but it was incredibly frustrating, just to do the part that I did. And then the other night. I think Irene is still on the call. Food Not Bombs, I got a text from them about 730, they had a COVID positive person they had taken personally taken to the ER at St. Joe's person was COVID positive. The hospital wanted to release the person back to the streets what could they do. And I just that was kind of like, I was done, and I just, we need a better process we need you know not only the individuals who test positive who have no place to live. cannot go back to the streets that is not acceptable. They will not be allowed into a congregate shelter, they put the shelter at risk. And they have to have a place to go. And then there's a whole on the encampment side there's the whole issue of if somebody is positive test positive and an encampment, then my assumption is, we probably have more positive test results in that encampment, not just among the people who are there now. But who have been there who may have relocated into a congregate shelter within the timeframe that's used. The people who may be doing outreach whether they are volunteers self help groups like Food Not Bombs, and then mutual self help people or if they are the professional staff from cllr or TRMM or anywhere else. And we're 10 months into this. And, you know, we've got no vaccination plan yet for getting everybody who is living unsheltered vaccinated. And how are we going, I mean this is just wrong.

Rob Huff

I see Jan has her hand up

Janet Runbeck

to address the vaccination plan. Then, health department has been in touch with some of our direct service providers, and I gave the health department. Everybody's contact information. I gave a quick lecture on the definition of homelessness sheltered versus unsheltered where the sheltered our, you know shelter now now is in congregate setting, and in hotel in hotels, with a voucher system unsheltered would be encampment car campers and individual folks living under porches, and in an analysis. So, that being said, the further away, a person is from a congregate setting or a shelter setting the harder they are to reach. So, I gave the health department, a team who's in charge of reaching folks with a plan every agency that I know about that does you know see the path teams. This their direct number. She also shows up at the shelter management meeting which is Tuesday afternoon. So if anybody has, has any questions about how to be included on the planning you are included on the



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planning, but if you want to know directly from the health department you know get an answer, email me or call me. And then I'll, I'll take somebody from from the inside. Um,

Janet Runbeck

The thing that happened yesterday the good news. By the end of the day is that I was given permission from the head social worker at CJO emergency rooms. Okay so, so hospital systems are also another very sophisticated setting. You go to the emergency room, which means you're in the emergency room you're not admitted to the floor. There, there are, you know, realistically, we provide care in these different settings. The staff with the emergency room clients is not the same. Staff once they're admitted to the floor. The in the emergency room, you can have perhaps a doctor, that doesn't know about the services that are available yet the client isn't sick enough to be admitted to the floor. They could be treated and then released. So there's there's unless there's an advocate for that person. And it's hard to be an advocate in this day because the hospitals don't want any more bodies in their environments. Because of COVID pandemic and the fear spread. So unless that person could speak for themselves about the situation that they're going back to, or there is an advocate there, and the case manager in the ER isn't necessarily aware of what's going on. And this, nobody else in the staff would be necessarily aware. So we did have a case of advocacy. Yesterday was Food Not Bombs. It ended up working. I've got the phone number, that I can share with professionals who will be guarded and how they use this phone number but that's not the answer either right i mean it's, it is you contacting me contacting this, this one person. So, we are working on these systems and I get give Keith, a ton. Keith Helga who's here today, a ton of credit for being in the middle of a lot of folks, after the fact, but this to me this is a symptom of COVID, a poverty meeting pandemic. We have one incident where all of a sudden there's a lot of attention, lots and lots and lots of us get excited. We could have prevented that, right. So, my big takeaway from yesterday is hopefully we're working together now. And I know, Keith has done a good job of not bringing multi care, we can work together to not have to call everybody up and down every single chain to get one person taken care of.

So with that does anybody want to add a comment about yesterday, or an improved system of getting folks to the TCC I know that TCC has been highly frustrating and I don't think that Mike moisture is here from the Eastside community center but that that was a horrifically sad Christmas week story. So, um,

Robb Huff

anybody else,

Rob Huff

jump in, I see I see, I see Irene, Irene and Nathan with their hands up. And then I, I'm pretty sure that Garrett is going to want to weigh in, I do want to add just as. Just as background that we have reached out to try to get the folks who currently run the temporary Care Center to come speak with the coalition at a future meeting that date has not been set yet, but I'm hoping that is sooner rather than later so that we can work on a better system. But with that being said, Why don't I go to Irene had her hand up first. Thanks.



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Irene Morrison

just wanted to say, like, I really appreciate Maureen's assistance and anyone else who was involved that I don't know, and advocating for this person. It's, it's definitely not the first time that we've taken someone to the hospital and we're volunteers who have jobs like it's really draining us to try to keep, keep maintaining this. I'm skipping a work meeting right now to be here so it's a.

I really appreciate all your help, but that camp is still being swept, and we thought it was going to be swept today turns out they're waiting until Tuesday for some reason. I mean, I think some of you might know why but Erica is way that doesn't really like to answer emails from Food Not Bombs so I'm not really seeing a good solution here that doesn't involve the people who are at those camps who are a lot of them are going to deny services. Because of the problems with shelter that you all know, and they're going to go to other bridge camps nearby, and they're going to spread COVID and. And it's just I mean this is already been happening but this is just going to make it worse. Oh, and also I want to add that generally the way this person was treated at the hospital is is par for the course in terms of he wasn't even allowed to take a shower and he needs surgery on his hand, like, it's a, it's, it's really disheartening to see the way that these people are treated.

Rob Huff

Thanks Irene, Nathan. Yeah,

Nate Blackmer

I mean, I think everyone had all the right points their experience of going into a hospital for a homeless person is really deeply shitty. And I think that the the the temporary care facility or whatever they whatever they call the COVID Hotel right like, I don't know if you've ever tried to get anyone in there, but it took the totality of my leadership maybe 12 hours of continuous contact with the health department to try to get openings there when we had a similar situation. And when our folks got there. The level of treatment they received would be subpar for like, pretty much anywhere I'd ever put anyone in my experience doing direct service like I mean they, they were basically threatened by the staff as a collective, that if one of them acted up that they would all be removed right i mean you're dealing with people that are chronically homeless like there are serious issues at play. So if the one resource that we have right won't fit people that are dealing with mental health issues won't deal with people that are dealing with substance abuse issues, then we don't have a resource. Right, so like, it's, it's tough not to be upset about all this right and i think that like, like this is obviously happening it's obviously happening right now and it is emerging. And we do need, we do need the city to step up and the county to step up to respond to it a little bit more. And I don't want this to get missed and I know it's a bit of a sidetrack but this conversation about information not passing cleanly from the city to service providers to community advocates to everyone involved with providing service to people in places that are getting swept like it's consistent. And it's obviously like i don't know i don't believe that there are broken systems I think systems exist and they function in a way that benefits someone right so if we can't get clear communication about what's happening like what what are we going to realistically be able to do. That's it.



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Rob Huff

Thanks Nathan and Valerie I know you had your hand up.

Valeri Knight

So as of yesterday, I have been tasked with coming up with a solution, and figuring out a non TCC alternative to folks experiencing homelessness. I started with the health department figuring out where their gaps are what are their concerns what's some funding availability. I sent an email out to all of the shelter providers. And so I just need the data so how the health department works is if I have the data I can create a solution right so there's a lot of fun sources involved a lot of things so if your shelter provider if you didn't get my email, let me know. But that was added to my list at 4pm. Yesterday, so we've made some improvements just since then so just I need, but here's the situation I can't go to the health department into the Department of Emergency Management and say it's a problem, I have to say, this person, this person, this person experienced the issue, here's the issue whether whether they were declined entry or forced to leave early. So that's the Excel I sent out. I know it's tedious I know it's a pain in the ass, I still need everybody to do it, because then we can create a solution. The next step is going to be for me to go to the service providers and say, What would the ideal situation look like, where should it be located and who's going to provide the services, then from there we start looking at funding so, just so you know it's all being talked about. It's very well aware I was in six meetings about it just yesterday, and as of 4pm, that is my job now, along with all the other things so give me those lists if your outreach and you've had that experience send me a list. I'll shoot you the Excel I created it's not beautiful but it works. And if anybody else isn't wants to be involved, let me know but we actually have to have this specific name so please, and I will do my very best to work with y'all to create a solution.

Maureen Howard

Perfect, thanks

Robb Huff

Valerie,

Maureen Howard

just a point of clarification Valerie, the four COVID positive people who are homeless,

Valeri Knight

have a positive expose needing to isolate and quarantine can't go into like we're gonna, I'm going to ask for the world. Okay and then we will get Texas, right, like, but we're gonna start with the world.

Maureen Howard

So so that picks up the encampments. Yes. Absolutely. Thank you. Yay,

Valeri Knight



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but there's a qualifier there and that's what we've run into yes all COVID positive who, who are either asymptomatic or low symptoms and don't need hospitalization qualify and have no other safe place to be qualified to go into the PCC. However, if there is a history of behavioral mental health, that has sent out of the door, at least at least two if not three people that have stories that I know so so qualifications to get in. Yes, Kobe either exposed to a known case of COVID positive or COVID positive themselves asymptomatic and not needing hospitalization, the one of our problems with this group is the behavioral health issues which then denies them access

right which I need to know those because that's the system will create based on what the homeless shelter providers, the layo did one downtown Tacoma already at the beginning of COVID, it really feels like Groundhog Day March 2020 doesn't it right like we've already had these conversations, we actually set up the system twice. What do we need to do to replicate those systems and what happened in the meeting yesterday was we set up two sites and almost no one used them. So I need to have then the data the backup yes you set up those two sites the need has since changed the limitations have now grown. And this is the system we need today, moving forward permanently. So, this system, the one we're talking about creating won't have the substance use issues won't have the barriers for behavioral health won't have any of those things. And I'm in a constant email with Louise from Tacoma rescue mission because he is a big advocate for what this looks like and how it works and that he was visiting his folks they were providing case management so we have to create the system and then we can stick them in where we need it. And that versus the other way around so then our folks, your folks won't go to the TCC unless they choose to everyone has the option to, but then they will have an option that is directly and designed for them to meet their needs.

Maureen Howard

Thank you.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thank you. Valerie I think this will hopefully we can recreate the wheel again. So, again, we do hope to get the folks from the current temporary Care Center to come join us. I will, you'll see that on an agenda if it comes forward. Just know that Garrett and I have been working on that. And I do know we're running short on time for today's meeting I don't want to cut this conversation short by any means. So, if there is another critical item we need to talk about on this before we move on, on the agenda, please say so now yeah Garrett,

Gerrit Nyland

I just wanted to say we are writing a letter requesting apparently exactly what Valerie's doing. And so that's in draft stage, and we're still gonna submit it so that we can get hopefully a formal response, and that, and Valerie, you know, let's make sure people experiencing homelessness are part of that conversation, and let's make sure it's easy to go to the emergency room right easy is to go to this temporary Care Center as it is to go to the emergency room right. Do you know how I get to the emergency room, nine different ways right I call 911 I get driven there I stumble in there, right, and I get



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there right away. And so that should really be our, our objective right is right, stupid easy to get in. So, thanks. And if you guys have any interest and I'm gonna get that letter out today, anyone that wants anything and it's really just bringing together all of the stories that then everybody that was a provider was afraid to say because they were worried about retaliation from different agencies we work with, they weren't really worried about that I'm putting words in their mouth but I was worried about that. And so, and so the coalition was taking that on, so I'm glad to see that all of those concerns can come out in the open, without having to worry so much about it being taken as a, being a bad partner by publicly identifying areas we can improve. Thanks.

Rob Huff

Thanks girl I saw your hand up,

Al Ratcliffe

write this letter you might want to ask the organization. What specific behaviors by people who happen to have a behavioral health diagnosis render them ineligible for admission that diagnosis per se, should not or it's discrimination. So try to pinpoint them on behaviors.

Gerrit Nyland

Yeah, it's kind of a nasty letter, I definitely identify that I believe they're breaking the law.

Rob Huff

I can attest to it. All right. So we, as I mentioned, we are rapidly running out of time. I do know. I did want to give an opportunity for the representatives from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to offer any updates that would be critical to the coalition today.

Brianna Betancourt

Hi everybody. Yeah, sure. My name is Brianna Betancourt, and I'm on the community engagement team for Vaccine Education. So, trying to ensure equitable access to Vaccine Education. I just wanted to say that I appreciate this conversation, and that when we when Michael plutonia gets on the call as well he's my, he's a team member, and we attended here on the 15th when all this discussion around the TCC was happening and identified some of the health equity issues around people not being able to get into the TCC and us, not knowing at time that that we were not in charge of the TCC anymore that it was well take care. So, I, we took those and sent sent those issues up the chain so hopefully that helped any conversations that were already happening or maybe prompted some new ones.

So,

Brianna Betancourt

just really quick. Are Michael and I's role is to help ensure equitable access to Vaccine Education so that could come in the form of a virtual presentation around the vaccine flyers virtual or physical to be distributed in multiple languages or other resources and updates around, around the vaccine. So if you



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are interested in any of that education you can reach out to Michael or I we've been reaching out to different housing organizations, offering this also. We. Sorry I'm looking at my notes. Um, we know that Valerie is working with our one of our vaccine team members Jenny, Shelby, she will be talking vaccines at the February 2 emergency shelter weekly meeting so if you are interested in hearing about and giving input on on how on the how of the planning around your clients and things like that, please attend that meeting. And I don't think that I have any other updates. I'll share my contact info in the chat box. If anybody has any questions.

Gerrit Nyland

I'm Brianna that shelter meeting is a good place to talk to shelter providers, but not a good place to talk to outreach workers so I think, creating a opportunity for the outreach workers, whether it's here, or at a separate meeting that you host the trade by those folks would really be I think it'd really be beneficial. Yeah. Except maybe trm they don't really know as much about the

Valeri Knight

meeting yesterday.

Brianna Betancourt

Yeah Jenny's gonna be connecting with the coalition and setting up a presentation in the near future.

Rob Huff

Thank you Rianna. So we have a grand total of two minutes left in our allotted time for today. Today's meeting. I do know that Colin deforest is in another meeting and was not able to provide a quick update on safe parking. The other item that we had on the agenda for today was an advocacy update, Maureen Do you want to. Is there anything quick you need to share or do you want to send out an email.

Maureen Howard

I've sent an email about the state basically but. So here's the important thing, the economic impact payments the stimulus checks are out if your clients, did not have a bank account where there was a direct deposit mine came as a credit, debit card as a pre loaded debit card. Number one, do not let them throw the envelope away. It looks like a fake government envelope, it is not fake. It's. And so do not let them throw it away. Number two, that card has to be activated then there's a phone number, where you will probably have to call more than once because the line will not be available. Number three, they need to be able to read the card number, and it's difficult to read if you've got any visual impairment at all. And number four, here's the goody, they've got to have the last six digits of their social security number. I didn't even know mine. All right. I think the whole thing or in for the last four right Nope, it's the last six. So the first time I entered seven so they wouldn't take it so I had to start all over from scratch. All right, so that's one thing you got to save the envelope. Activate the card following the directions. Turn the piece of paper over to see where you can use the card for free. And if you don't use it within the money net system, the fees for every single use. And the next time because it's very likely there will be another stimulus check coming. Yet them and account, Teresa is still ready and



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willing to help people get online accounts through Seattle credit union, as long as they don't have bank fraud or wire fraud. Okay. And I'll repost The, the, you know, FAQs on the credit union accounts but that's it. Don't throw away the envelope, even though it looks like trash, it isn't, write down those numbers so that you can enter them when you need to they've got to have a phone or they've got to have a computer they've got to have something electronic, and then make sure they've got the last six of their social security number, make sure they understand the fee structure for using the card. Everything else I'll just send my email so thanks everybody.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Maureen, and I want to respect everybody's time. I know that we are now at 1101. So, if you need to go. We definitely understand there will be a group of us hanging out to schedule the agenda for next week's meeting. After this, so you're free to hang on and otherwise I wish everybody a happy weekend and stay safe.