



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

Chat from the February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Coalition to End Homelessness Meeting

00:24:24 Janet Runbeck: Ms Zacher is quoted.

00:29:33 Gerrit Nyland: I'm going to attach a couple documents describing The Coalition's initiative to take a formal leadership role in the community. One describes the initiatives in detail, and the other is a letter to the Tacoma City Council and the Pierce County Council asking for support.

00:31:00 Gerrit Nyland: There have been a few small changes, but they are largely the documents sent out to the Coalition Sunday night.

00:32:26 Maureen Howard: Anyone near with security cameras...? 38th and G

00:34:11 Jeffrey Boyce: to the best of my knowledge, no cameras

00:34:27 Maureen Howard: Back to 38th and G - would better lighting help? Would residents let Jeffrey go to TPD for drive bys?

00:36:52 Laurie Davenport: There's only one residential property on that block of G Street —

00:37:12 Cynthia Stewart: The Continuum of Care Committee is supposed to develop the system. How would this proposal interact with or affect them?

00:38:45 Alan Brown: FHN Day Center temporary location: 2342 Tacoma Ave. South.

00:39:00 Maureen Howard: I meant the unsheltered residents

00:39:01 Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): More robust plans have been created in areas where funding has provided a real focus.

00:39:12 Cynthia Stewart: The plan is definitely needed.

00:40:23 Al Ratcliffe: State partners also?

00:40:43 Irene Morrison: WRT to medical conditions: FNB medics are reporting that in winter folks are less likely to report or seek medical care because

- 1) they are sleeping more, and less likely to be awake during medical rounds
- 2) due to the cold, people are less likely to want to deal with medical care and come out of their shelters/tents into the cold or open their shelters to letting cold in
- 3) less likely to go to the hospital because if they have to walk home they have to walk in the cold
- 4) as camps are being raided and swept, street medics are less able to establish the personal relationships needed to do follow ups for on going medical care

00:41:19 Janet Runbeck: The intersectionality of targeted populations working together.

00:41:48 Maureen Howard: Yes - State partners, feds as well

00:42:37 Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): We do the first two things because the third thing requires it.

00:46:04 Sally Perkins: Having watched the opposition to the warming center at Norpoint, I would say that neighbors, especially those who are fearful and critical of unsheltered people, are stakeholders who need to be engaged. Their loud opposition influences elected officials, and often not in a positive way. Which then complicates getting to actual solutions.



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00:46:33 Gail Misner: Thank you Gerrit!

00:46:48 Maureen Howard: The Coalition's Open Table remains open and we reach out to people not normally around it.

00:47:46 Laurie Davenport: Great presentation Gerrit!

00:48:16 Gerrit Nyland: What we are voting to take on today:

I. Lead the Creation and Implementation of a Pierce County Regional Plan to End Homelessness

II. Charge the Steering Committee to propose a governance structure and staffing model

III. End street homelessness by November 1st, 2021.

00:48:18 CC Mendoza: I like it lots!

00:58:08 Janet Runbeck: What if the Mission statement included language addressing racial equity?

00:58:46 Cynthia Stewart: The relationship to the CoC has still not been addressed

00:59:33 Gerrit Nyland: The attached documents do mention Race and Equity, although it feels a bit more like a footnote than the driving narrative: The design of the plan will continue to be open to all who wish to participate – from people experiencing homelessness to direct service providers to community members to government and nonprofit leaders. Always, the plan will be driven by best-practices, and by the collected expertise of City of Tacoma and Pierce County staff. However, people with histories of homelessness or currently experiencing homelessness are key to every decision. We must ensure the unique needs of traditionally underserved populations – especially people of color, the LGBTQ community, and people with disabilities – are appropriately represented in the planning and decision-making processes.

01:02:01 Gerrit Nyland: Again, these are the documents describing The Coalition's initiative to take a formal leadership role in the community. One describes the initiatives in detail, and the other is a letter to the Tacoma City Council and the Pierce County Council asking for support.

01:02:20 Valeri Knight: What about the Continuum of Care?

01:05:51 Maureen Howard: About the Continuum of Care - we assumed that the CoC 5 Year Strategic Plan would be part of the baseline of the plan - and that the CoC would be engaged either as an entity or as individuals in whatever way they want. We're proposing a leadership role....we don't know what the eventual plan itself looks like.

01:09:13 Cynthia Stewart: The CoC has an official, mandated role. I agree totally with the need for a plan and for a goal such as has been suggested; but some provision needs to be made for the CoC not being ignored in the process. Just inviting them is not enough. They in some ways should be help accountable. Perhaps ask them to co-sponsor this effort?

01:09:52 Cynthia Stewart: I have to leave this meeting in order to make a presentation related to legislative issues. So sorry to not be able to participate to the conclusion.

01:10:06 Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): Thank you Cynthia

01:10:13 Theresa Power-Drutis: Several of are on the Coc homelessness team



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01:10:21 Valeri Knight: I agree Cynthia. And the CoC has a Council approved plan that was state approved and must be reported to the state with a direct impact on state funding and potential additional funding.

01:10:53 Valeri Knight: The CoC would need to vote as they are an official committee and all 24 members have a voice. James needs to bring this to the CoC with a plan

01:10:56 Larry Seaquist: And to follow on Cynthia's excellent point: The "plan" submitted by the County with a CoC label was a disgrace — a non-plan that is completely unusable.

01:10:56 Tina McLeod: Please note, (and please correct if I am missing it): the Coalition Role Expansion document shared does not use "race" or "equity" at all in the document. With known racial disparities and other inequities in the housing systems, especially homelessness, proposing any new work and structures without truly working and embedding a racial equity will lead us to furthering whiteness and institutional racism.

01:13:13 Sally Perkins: If the Coalition intends to center racial equity, then racial equity needs to be prominent and insistent in the documents and the work. And it needs to be actionable, not just aspirational. Mr Pitchford is speaking truth. One challenge is to figure out how to maximize his experience and wisdom in ways that accommodate his schedule and his workload.

01:14:07 Verna Lilly: I agree!

01:14:52 Larry Seaquist: Carolyn is making a key point. Planning is not possible without vastly better, real-time data and data analytics. We do not have that kind of data now.

01:15:23 Sheila Miraflor: To add to Carolyn's remark of women sleeping on the streets, I'm receiving phone calls from single women and Moms with small children sleeping in their vehicles.

01:16:32 Irene Torres: Would 211 have data, as a starting point?

01:18:08 Carolyn Read: AS an aside.... There is a bill in the legislature, HB 1220, which - if it passes - will require the county and its cities to address housing more explicitly in the comprehensive plans. It will require the long-standing Housing Element to include "housing affordable to all economic segments of the population ..., promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock."

If this bill is passed, it would mandate planning for units of moderate, low, very low, and extremely low-income households; and emergency housing, emergency shelters, and permanent supportive housing.

Given how long-standing the need for affordable housing and the homelessness crisis have been going on, this is something that should have been happening already - certainly at the county level. But since it has not, we could begin this planning process now. Even if HB 1220 does not pass, the need for this level of planning is essential.

01:18:19 Valeri Knight: Lets say street homelessness is ended 11/01. Then what? There is not enough housing in Pierce County and you wont build more by 11/01. so what is the overall plan for exiting those folks to stable housing



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- 01:18:39 Lisa LARSON: I was told I "stumped" 211 with the client I tried to help because of her needs and unwillingness to leave the kp.
- 01:19:41 Sherri Jensen: That's a great point Valeri. Our county is significantly under stock and new build is required. The Chamber is putting together a plan to address new build/stock, with a goal of positively influencing legislation. Shelter for all is necessary, for all people/color/groups/household members (including pets) and new stock is also needed for permanent housing.
- 01:20:45 RoxAnne Simon: Not to be rude, but being on someone's mind and being in the document is very different. I too believe it is on their mind, but what if they are gone. Will the next people follow through with the same?
- 01:20:45 Gail Misner: There is no real system from my point of view. people I work with believe their housing is coming as soon as they are told they are on a list. Even the priority pool list. And ks, months, later if one is lucky enough to talk to a person, they're told to be patient, when funding is available they'll receive help. Be patient? How long does one have to be patient? I would love to see results....people need housing, they don't need housing plans that result in their having to "be patient".
- 01:22:21 Laurie Davenport: I have to leave at 10 to participate in a job interview, I am a yes vote on the proposal, not wanting to lose momentum on this!
- 01:22:23 Gail Misner: My heart hurts every time I here hope in their voices and I know I can't make it happen.
- 01:25:22 Janet Runbeck: CoC meets monthly. The Coalition meets weekly, adding extra meetings to address emerging needs. Can the CoC change to be an immediate responder?
- 01:25:42 Gerrit Nyland: What we are voting to take on today:
- I. Lead the Creation and Implementation of a Pierce County Regional Plan to End Homelessness
  - II. Charge the Steering Committee to propose a governance structure and staffing model
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- 01:25:53 Valeri Knight: Janet that's what subcommittee work is for. not whole committee work
- 01:28:38 Janet Runbeck: I move to call the question.
- 01:30:08 Theresa Power-Drutis: Please join the steering committee if you can make this better
- 01:31:34 Duane Parker: Can we get your contact please Donald?
- 01:32:53 Janet Runbeck: CoC did not provide Safe Parking, for example.
- 01:33:32 Theresa Power-Drutis: Sean - we would count on you to bring that perspective to this group
- 01:34:44 Irene Morrison: I have to get back to work. THN and FNBT want to end homelessness ASAP and will work with anyone where appropriate to do so. I'm not aware of any entity with such an ambitious goal and that's something that really makes me want to support this. In the meantime our FNB street medics are on the street 4-5 days a week-- let us know if you need us. 253-229-8119
- 01:36:55 Sherri Jensen: I vote yes. There have been countless plans put in place, and homelessness continues to grow. We need something new, and the energy in this group is inspiring and action-producing. Nov 2021 is a lofty goal. And it is necessary.



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- 01:40:32 Theresa Power-Drutis: Lets attempt to share some of the meetings with important stakeholders
- 01:41:28 Megan Capes: I agree with Sherri. My vote is yes. This proposal would fill the necessary void to develop strategy to end homelessness. It gives the Coalition an organizational structure to make that possible.
- 01:43:07 Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): A major advantage that I see with the Coalition is how we can be so responsive. We have to make sure the steering committee doesn't have a bunch of folks who look like me. We need people who are currently homeless, direct outreach folks, and others to ensure that equity is front and center in any directions we take.
- 01:44:25 Theresa Power-Drutis: I don't see a yes no box
- 01:44:45 Megan Capes: if you're on your phone, then click the ... to find the yes no options.
- 01:44:45 Sherri Jensen: No
- 01:45:14 Sherri Jensen: Thanks Megan! :)
- 01:45:25 Gerrit Nyland: What we are voting to take on today:
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- 01:45:28 Reanna Bettencourt: I honestly am not sure I am allowed to vote or not within my work role.
- 01:45:57 Peter Mayer: The draft proposal - subject to further refinements and focus- provides a solid plan for a plan- leveraging skill sets and competencies of the Coalition and its partners.
- 01:46:05 Serena Thomson: saying yes. not sure where to put this.
- 01:46:18 Sherri Jensen: Why didn't we do a poll?!
- 01:46:21 Sheila Mirafior: Yes to the proposal
- 01:47:20 Irene Torres: I clicked the green checkmark, but don't see my vote.
- 01:48:38 Janet Runbeck: Meanwhile, Mr. Pitchford, what is the name of your agency?
- 01:51:07 Larry Seaquist: Thank you Gerrit for an exceptionally thoughtful proposal
- 01:51:53 Sean Dennerlein: Thanks for all your work and dedication to this mission.
- 01:51:57 Sherri Jensen: Tiegán can you put the link in the chat box for the study session?
- 01:52:40 Kevin Glackin-Coley: What time is the City meeting on the 23rd?
- 01:53:16 Sally Perkins: Study Session is at noon Tues Feb 23
- 01:53:39 Megan Capes: Hey Tiegán. Can the City please make sure to use PIT count accurately in the report, at the very least? What about incorporating other counting measure?
- 01:54:44 Maureen Howard: Tiegán - will the hygiene stations be part of the Study Session
- 01:55:26 TIEGAN TIDBALL: Hi Maureen, hygiene stations are not going to be on the update, as I understand it now.
- 01:58:42 Theresa Power-Drutis: Valerie - thank you so much for bringing current information to us
- 01:59:32 RoxAnne Simon: Thanks Valeri! We try!
- 02:03:02 Jeffrey Boyce: I use PIT for the demographics



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- 02:04:30 Gerrit Nyland: I agree, Jeffrey - the PIT is super interesting. I pour over the data every year.
- 02:04:35 Kevin Glackin-Coley: I have cases of various sizes of hand sanitizer on my front porch. Email me if you would like to come and get some and I will give you my address.  
[kglackincoley@pchomeless.org](mailto:kglackincoley@pchomeless.org)
- 02:04:37 Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): The ground is moving
- 02:05:34 Sean Dennerlein: I've got to get to another meeting. Thanks all.
- 02:06:26 Valeri Knight: I need landlord names and addresses. please share with me  
[valeri.knight@piercecountywa.gov](mailto:valeri.knight@piercecountywa.gov) excel format would be GREAT
- 02:06:30 Janet Runbeck: Thank you Reanna
- 02:09:33 Theresa Power-Drutis: When there are 2 data sources and one is more accurate (according to virtually everyone engaged in data gathering in Pierce County) why wouldn't the City of Tacoma – and every other decision making agency use the more accurate data?
- 02:09:57 Tina McLeod: Thanks for sharing Maureen - I have heard similar outcomes from family from 40 years old and older
- 02:10:05 Lisa LARSON: people have experienced anaphalactic shock .. 40000 negative reactions so far
- 02:11:16 Maureen Howard: If you operate housing that is shared - providing individual rooms - please be here for ChiQuata's presentation
- 02:12:18 Reanna Bettencourt: , I recommend joining a couple of listservs at  
<https://www.tpchd.org/i-want-to/about-the-health-department/sign-up-for-notifications> to get the most up-to-date info on vaccine and health equity efforts:  
1) "COVID-19 Community Vaccine Events" under "news"  
2) "Equity Action Network" under "news"

To register for one of our community vaccine presentations, click the date links on this flyer:

<https://www.tpchd.org/home/showpublisheddocument?id=8365>

02:12:32 Reanna Bettencourt: [rbettencourt@tpchd.org](mailto:rbettencourt@tpchd.org)

02:12:46 Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): More info about Safe Parking:

<http://pchomeless.org/Home/SafeParking3>

02:15:11 Kenny Coble (City of Tacoma): If it hasn't been posted already, here's how to access Tacoma City Council's Study Session each week:

<https://cityoftacoma.legistar.com/DepartmentDetail.aspx?ID=22635&GUID=58DDFCD5-5FA2-4415-8921-5B6F51A0A80B>

Join us February 23 at noon.

02:15:29 Lisa LARSON: Rep. Derek Kilmer is presenting to the KPBA at noon today and he is planning to answer questions...

02:19:22 Kenny Coble (City of Tacoma): Wow, this is an amazing resource.

02:20:31 JulianF Wheeler,PC-ACACchair(he/his): All are invited to our next regular session of the Pierce County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (PC-ACAC) that is on-line on





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Tuesday, March 9th, at 9 am. Email your interest to attend to [Julianfwheeler@aol.com](mailto:Julianfwheeler@aol.com).

We operate under the Accessible Communities Act of 2010, and can help fund accessibility projects. We have an intake process, but such projects have been successfully funded around the state. If you can characterize one as such, get to know us!

We're looking for new members, new ideas, and speakers from the community or even from agencies and departmental staff for our upcoming meetings (2nd Tues/odd-numbered months).

We are staffed by PC Human Services.

Thank you all for your work.

In service,

Julian F. Wheeler (He/Him/His), Chair,

Pierce County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (PC-ACAC). Email your interest to attend to [Julianfwheeler@aol.com](mailto:Julianfwheeler@aol.com).

02:20:31 Richard Berghammer: use of NSAIDS is contraindicated, especially pre-treatment, with progression to anaphylaxis averaging 5 min. to cardiac/respiratory collapse, needs EpiPen on site- also prophylactic use of h1 h2 antagonists for those in risk population

02:20:34 Theresa Power-Drutis: Great work Gerrit!

02:20:51 Irene Torres: can you share that link in chat?

02:21:14 Sally Perkins: Resource page is awesome, thank you, Gerrit.

02:21:15 Gerrit Nyland: The Coalition Website: <https://pchomeless.org/>

02:21:29 Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): <http://pchomeless.org/Facilities/Shelters> is the direct link to that page

02:21:59 Tina McLeod: Exiting today's meeting - Landlord Liaison Program hosts Renters Readiness at 11am. [www.landlordliaisonprogram.com](http://www.landlordliaisonprogram.com)

02:22:47 Irene Torres: Thanks, Rob

02:25:00 Verna Lilly: How do I find a link for the noon talk with Derek Kilmer?

02:25:17 Sally Perkins: thanks, everyone.

02:25:19 Lisa LARSON: [keypencouncil@gmail.com](mailto:keypencouncil@gmail.com)

02:25:26 Lisa LARSON: Council

02:25:30 Rosalind Wallace Brown: Thank you! Very informative!

02:25:34 Lisa LARSON: yes

02:25:41 Lisa LARSON: send me an email

02:25:52 Lisa LARSON: I'll send the link

02:26:09 Lisa LARSON: thank you roxanne