



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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Coalition to End Homelessness Provider Meeting - Friday, February 19th, 2021

Fri, 2/19 9:00AM • 2:01:22

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

shelter, coalition, homelessness, meeting, question, county, community, plan, updates, talk, rob, put, program, people, folks, garrett, homeless, move, funding, good

SPEAKERS

Irene Morrison, James Pogue, Don Pritchard, Tina McLeod, Kenny Coble, Gerrit Nyland, Larry Seaquist, Kevin Glackin-Coley, Benjamin, Rob Huff, Carolyn Reed, Sean Dennerlein, Rob Huff, Theresa Power-Drutis, Brianna Betancourt, Rosemary Powers, Mike Boisture, Valeri Knight, Colin DeForrest, Sherri Jensen, Megan Capes, Al Ratcliffe, Reverend Boyce, Tiegan Tidball, Janet Runbeck, Alan Brown, Maureen Howard, Jenny Lorton

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Rob Huff

Well good morning everybody I see we're at the top of the hour, and we've got a fair number of folks in the meeting, as well as a lot of folks joining Rosemary Do you want to kick us off this morning.

Rosemary Powers

I will be happy to I want to welcome everybody here to our weekly Open Table discussion where we are united by the commitment to end homelessness which we haven't pulled off yet but it's a lot closer when we're all together working on it. One of the things I used to that I've missed and I think everyone probably missed about our in person interactions is that we, we had time at the end of the meetings to hang around and give each other information about what we're up to and what we need and we don't have as easy a way to do that and in this format, at least if we're new. So, we were just discussing the chat and it's, it's, some of the problems with it if you put things in too early, then people won't be able to see you, or what you've put in, but one of the things we do it to meet getting of meetings is to welcome



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anyone who's new here for the first time, or who is coming back after being away for a while, to let us know who you are. And so this is not a long time it's meant to just identify you and if you're representing a group that you're working with on issues to let us know what that is. And then you could put other information in the chat and the kinds of things that you are would like to be working on with other folks. So we have a lot to do today but I'd like to invite anyone who's new, or who may be speaking today, who've been invited to speak to identify yourself. And there's no order to this. So, go ahead. Hello, my

Benjamin

name is Benjamin. I'm new here at layover. And I'm just calling now just chime in to meet, meet new, new people to establish relationships with as we work toward ending homelessness, homelessness and meeting people where they're at.

Rosemary Powers

Welcome, Ben, Benjamin Do you go by Benjamin or Ben,

Benjamin

which was fine.

Rosemary Powers

All right. Thank welcome. Thank you. Okay, well one last thing about today I learned that it is caregivers National Day. Now, that could mean a whole lot of things, and care can also be making good trouble so today's a good day to remind yourselves and remind ourselves of the people in our lives who provide care whether they're outreach workers or people with folks are very vulnerable who are being with them and to thank folks and also to thank ourselves for our commitments, so I'll give it back to you, Rob.

Rob Huff

Thank you, rosemary. So, at this point in the meeting, we always turn to everyone to get some feel for what's happening this week on the streets, I don't. Didn't see or hear from Nathan to see if he was going to be able to join us today so I think this will just be an open conversation. A lot has happened in the last week, since we got together. we had snowstorm it disappeared quickly. But I'd be interested in hearing updates from, from folks who are doing outreach, I see Mark Mike with his hand up. Just to kind of get a feel for what's been changing this week on the streets and where we are going into the weekend. When you kick us off Mike.

Mike Boisture

I think you touch bases on a snowstorm. It worked out, extremely well. We did have the approval from the city to go to 10 more beds. And then, Sunday was the last night we house them. And we spent most of Monday relocating everybody in which we were able to do. And thank you to the Salvation Army



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which took I think nine people. And we're able to coordinate and work back and forth get everybody transported down there. And it worked out great.

Rob Huff

Very good. Irene I see you have your hand up. We're still not hearing you for some reason you are. Sorry. There you go. Yeah, good.

Irene Morrison

I mean more than to come housing now and Food Not Bombs Tacoma funa bonds Tacoma was really active, the last week, more so in hilltop than we have been in the past. But also, it appears that the Tacoma police celebrated the melting of the snow by showing up to one of our camps. And it sounds like they might be facing an eviction under the 509 bridge so we're really worried about that. The weather is not magically going to get better anytime soon. Any information you all have about that would be appreciated.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Irene. Jeffrey.

Reverend Boyce

Yeah, a couple of visits to 38th and G encampment. Some couple have moved out some tents in need of replacement. Overall, they went through it pretty well they've had some difficulties. Yeah, or in the overnight hours with somebody shooting pellet guns at them and driving by yelling and throwing rocks. That's been consistent, and they of course are not anxious to call the police for any reason. There is no trust between them and the police right now.

Rob Huff

Out of curiosity, Jeff, Jeffrey have are their advocates for that group that are in the community right there that might be willing to do like a neighborhood type watch or something like that.

Reverend Boyce

There have been people supplying, some food. And I will try and tight touch base with them and see if maybe we can do something more to provide some kind of security.

Rob Huff

Yeah, sounds like we don't, that the tough thing is if people are feeling emboldened to do things like shoot at them with air pellets, then we wouldn't want them to escalate that.

Reverend Boyce



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Exactly, Exactly. So, yeah, I'll put a little more effort into trying to gather some local neighbors who are friendly.

Rob Huff

Of course, the challenge is is if local neighbors are gonna call the police and then you might have the same

Reverend Boyce

issue the same same stuff.

Rob Huff

Yeah, exactly. Anyone else with news from what's going on on the streets this week. And I may not see your hand so just feel free to speak up. Alan I don't want to put you on the spot but do you want to mention the change in venue and that sort of thing so folks are aware.

Alan Brown

Sure. So, the CCS family housing network data center drop in Bay center for families is temporarily relocated due to we're doing some remodeling in our facility to make the day center, bigger better and brighter. But we are temporarily located for the next two or three months at the former MDC health care for the homeless on Tacoma Avenue. The address is. Help me out Rob

Rob Huff

2342 20 Km avenue to Tacoma Avenue.

Alan Brown

So, just up the street from goodwill.

Rob Huff

Yep. Great. Thank you, Alan. And anybody else with thoughts from what happened on the street I. I'm curious as anybody, did anybody hear anything anecdotally about people who had severe health issues because of the cold. That's good news. Great. So, I don't want to belabor the point but if you do have other updates and want to put them in the chat, feel free to do that. And we will move our conversation along. I do want to provide a quick update to our agenda. Robert Taylor from Seattle YMCA reached out to me this morning to say that he had a work issue you needed to deal with, so he can't be with us this morning we'll reschedule him to talk to talk about the Arlington drive project on the east side. In a coming Friday meeting. So we will skip ahead and have Garrett, talk a little bit about formalizing the coalition's role and ending homelessness.



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Gerrit Nyland

Thank you Rob. So this is a follow up to last week's presentation of our expanded role in the community. And I'm just going to go through. I don't know, eight minutes of kind of what we're doing why we're doing, and what what decision. We would like the coalition to make today, and then we'll have a little bit of time for discussion, and hopefully end with a vote. So I'm just gonna jump in and we'll have again time for questions and discussion at the end here. And so, hopefully you're seeing my screen alright. Awesome. This is a PowerPoint sorry. Not only that, it's a PowerPoint with animations which I should be embarrassed about but I'm just rolling with it. leadership role in the community. So, it's hard to phrase this without sounding critical and that's not really the goal. There's just a bit of a leadership vacuum, and we've been largely reactive in how we do homelessness in Pierce County not completely we do. We do lots of good things but we've been taking advantage of funding when it's available and going after it right we react when funding is available, we, we take proactive roles in in making our programs best practices but but we've not really had any group in Pierce County taking the initiative to build a system to end homelessness. And so that's really the role, we're talking about the coalition taking is understanding the full need and trying to build out to it. And so, if my little circle here in this diagram is the current homeless system, we see that our homeless system need is much larger. Right, probably twice as big. Hopefully not. But substantial. And we have not as a community, ever sat down to plan how to meet that need. And so that's kind of a role that the coalition needs to take we've done something right it's not like we haven't done anything so my little orange circle in there. Right, that's you know the strategic planning the CLC is doing right they have a strategic plan to end homelessness, but it's it's really how do we react to additional funding coming in and how do we make our programs work better, which is really important work, but it's it's a part of the whole that we need to be doing as a community which is figuring out how to meet the whole need, and we do some pieces of the pie, if you will, I got a little piece of pie here which is the veterans, and we do a good job with veterans of understanding the need and working hard to bring the resources in there should have been some stuff launching this time last year but COVID-19 threw a monkey wrench into pretty much everything. But that efforts underway and we do the same thing with unaccompanied youth and young adults who Yeah, like that that work is really pretty mature like good work to understand the need good work to find resources, and that's, again somewhat proactive but somewhat reactive right the the state's been pushing that agenda and so we've responded and taken up the work and same with the veterans, right, the Veterans Administration, right, federal government kind of requires us to do that so we're reacting to requirements of our funders, and it's not to say those things aren't really good it's just we need to do it for everyone right so the rest of the pie. We've got to have a plan on how to win that. And so, the first of the motions that I'm going to bring to us today that the steering committee that we all are bringing to ourselves, that sounds weird today is that we need to lead on the plan so lead on creating and implementing a plan, a regional Pierce County plan to end homelessness. And, and that leading right doesn't mean we do it and everybody else follows along that's not the kind of leadership we're talking about the kind of leadership we're talking about has all of the stakeholders involved. Right. And the first group are the people experiencing homelessness, because when we talk about meeting



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everybody's need. we really really have to be listening to what that need actually is right when you put a shelter out that helps you know, 80 people, and a community of 1500 that need shelter, you can fill up those beds. Right, with almost any kind of program. But when you need to. when you need to build a program to house the last ad. Right. There's, there's a little bit more need to make sure we're, we're absolutely able to handle everybody, and a coalition members, obviously we're going to be a huge part of doing this work, government partners, right, if the city of Tacoma and Pierce County Human Services don't buy in and have a huge hand in this right we're gonna really be behind the eight ball on this, or whatever that phrase is nonprofits, obviously other nonprofits, so we have a lot in the coalition but we're talking about multi care we're talking about folks that do you know domestic violence work right, all of the people that work on the periphery is the wrong term but a lot of our partner agencies substance use, right. People coming out of prison there's great work that happens in all these areas that homelessness is tied to and businesses. They're impacted by homelessness and they can have a role in mitigating who said the wrong word and in serving those folks so that the issues that we're seeing are in present, and pretty much everyone neighbors like on the steering committee we have someone that's just really concerned, and, and they belong here, and everybody and their dog. And, and I put a put a pitbull here because we've got pitbulls to serve, and, and, and our shelter system struggles to handle the pitbulls with people and that I'm just circling back up to the. It's all about making sure we're meeting the needs that we're identifying and that people experiencing homelessness are articulating and being part of the process, part of the writers of the plan. So our setup. So, our second task our second thing we need to do is figure out how we're going to organize our coalition to do that work. Right, being a largely non structured somewhat structured grassroots organization is amazing, but I think we need a little bit more structure in order to pull some of this off. And so we need to get together to plan that out so we have a steering committee which is again, open to everybody. And they're gonna we're gonna charge them to propose a governance structure and a staffing model. And what that's gonna look like. Who knows, I think that's really just going to be driven by what that set of needs identified so you know we talked a little bit about 501 c three, we can operate under the, you know, Fiscal Sponsorship of associated minutes like any structures, that's going to meet the need is where we're going to go. Our third thing that we're talking about doing which seems strangely tossed into this mix but I think is really important is ending street homelessness by November 1 of this year that date was picked because that's when the cold weather starts, and the objective behind this is. It's a change in how we as a community have addressed shelter and homelessness. When I first came on I was convinced that spending money on homelessness in shelters, was a bad move we should really be spending money on permanent housing, and there's a beauty in that way of thinking. But after five years of working around homelessness it's clear to me that that shelter is really important, and I love the states that are ready to shelter cities that are right to shelter. So this objective is that, and I think our community needs this, I think everybody needs this people experiencing homelessness need it right because encampments. I think they destroy things right i think they are very damaging in our community they destroy the health of the people living in the encampments, not having access to hygiene not having temperature control, not just the mental health of not having a door you can lock or



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a place where you belong, or a place where you're safe. It's just I think it does so much damage. I put agency in here and I don't know if that's the right word but when you're struggling with safety and, and all the things around. Living where you don't belong. I mean, Jeffrey was just talking about people being shot at by pellet guns, right, you can't possibly be working on the things that that you probably need to do right in order to get yourself out of homelessness. And so, and then our public spaces are getting damaged and our sidewalks and our parks are there for a particular purpose and it shouldn't be where people are living right it's not good for them and it's not good for our neighborhoods. And the last thing I think is trust tonight. I don't know that I can articulate this well but I think our government and our community and our people experiencing homelessness and our service providers, there's some lack of trust in there and some of it has to do with just the continued knowledge people have, of the, the need in the community that's not being served and. And I think we can build trust by making sure that we're serving. Everybody and that people have a place they belong I think that'll build trust with our neighbors with our businesses with our government, and I'm hoping significantly with the people experiencing homelessness, that we're, we're seeing their needs and we're able to help them meet them and get them right. The security and the safety they deserve. And again, this is a bit of a change this is a painting I from the Hermitage I think which is a mess of horses and people. And this is, I think this is a description of my brain when I try to explain why, why, and this is the you know the conversion of Paul right like sort of when his changed from prosecuting Christians to to sort of embracing Christianity and and so this is my, my drawing of. I think it changed our community needs to make or the change I've made from being sort of anti spending money on shelter to this is really important thing for us to do, and to spend money on permanent housing, let's just spend lots of money we don't have, right, that's my plan. I just want to say a little bit about what we what we ain't going to be and what we're not going to be is we're not going to be just house people putting plans together for people that are homeless, we're not going to be just white people, and putting together plans for the whole world of people that are experiencing homelessness. We're not going to be funders right we're not going to try to get money and sort of be kingmakers or, or, or control, you know, control contracts and things like that. I think the city of Tacoma and Pierce County, do beautiful with that and that's not that's not where we're trying to occupy, and we're not going to operate program right we're not going to be competing with other agencies to run shelter or to run permanent housing programs are our role is leading the collaboration and leading the plan and helping all of us in the community put the plan together. So, just to reiterate what we're talking about is us voting today for the coalition to take a leadership role in the creation and implementation of a Pierce County Regional plan to end homelessness. We've bolded that because we like that phrasing charging the steering committee to propose a governance structure and staffing model and ending street homelessness by November 1 and against street homelessness is a weird term to me, but we're talking about, people will be in shelters they'll be permanently housed. They'll be in encampments that are safe and sanctioned, they'll be in safe parking there'll be in tiny houses, right, they'll be somewhere they belong with access to restroom facilities, and I'm now going to hand it off to the closer marine Howard This is me, dreaming I was in that good of shape to be looking good sprinting like that. Marine Howard.



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Maureen Howard

I don't have a power plane. And I probably could never have run track. But thanks. I think what we're trying to do is, we're simply saying that. One of the things that we have talked about for a long time is leadership, and who should lead, and sometimes it seems like it's really petty, it's like not being able to get a full list of shelters because the county can give you the shelters they fund in the city can give you the shelters, they fund, but nobody's responsible to give you all have the shelters that exist. And it's, that's pretty petty, except that it isn't, because everybody in the community, everybody in the community wants a solution. We might not agree on the solutions. And we see the rhetoric, when we try and and put something new in place in a new place. So, if the summit's were anything, they seem an opportunity to engage more people. We've got the Open Table already. And we've only got two rules around it, you're committed to ending homelessness, and to working, respectfully, we, we will never all agree on how shelters should operate. We will never all agree on the best way to do case management, we will never all agree on the best allocation of money for permanent housing, but we will all agree. And do agree. I think that as Garrett said, Every human being a it's a safe and decent place to be. And every human being needs to know that within a reasonable amount of time. That place is going to be permanent and appropriate for them that they're not going to spend their lives, going from shelter to shelter or encampment to shelter and back to encampment or whatever the sequence is that we're gonna see that people are housed. We may not have a literal legal right to shelter or a literal right to housing legal right to housing but we will act as though we do. And we will begin by listening to people. Tell us what it is they want, whether we want to hear it or not. And this is, I mean, we have the experience. We know how to do this. We need more housing developers, we need more housing operators and managers, but we've got some, and some of them will grow, and we've got others. I don't know if you caught the news Lehigh just bought a brand new unused 76 unit apartment building in Capitol Hill 300 square foot units. They just bought that, and the first people moving in, are people experiencing homelessness, and they want to work in this county bridge housing is a sophisticated housing developer, and operator, they want to work in this county, there are others out there. We all may not know them. But we know how to find them, and who the people are who can link us to them. So, I think, you know, this is the best thinking, we have to offer right now, which is. Hopefully, that everybody. Pretty much agrees that this is our opportunity to take the leadership to develop this plan this overarching strategy, into which everybody who wants to end homelessness in this county is welcome. And to begin to end street homelessness by November 1 That sounds pretty outrageous doesn't it. But how many organizers are in this group and what is it we're told, be bold. So let's be bold. So, Garrett I don't know if you want to take any questions or comments or Rob says yes.

Rob Huff

Yeah, why don't we just open the floor up for folks I know there have been a number of comments in the chat. But I think it's this is a great time to hear from people about concerns and thoughts around these proposals.



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Rob Huff

Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

I was trying to give other people who don't usually talk a chance but I thought maybe we need to prime the pump a little bit, I just, I what I love about this is that we have partners working within county and city and other municipalities, we have partners who are working within those systems who really care about this and they're struggling as hard as they can to make these things that we're talking about happen, but we keep trying to get up to the upper levels of all of these places to say, you need to listen to the people doing this work. And I always have felt like a supplicant in those ways. This, this initiative is saying, instead of us continuing to beg people to listen to the ideas that we keep hearing from the people who are actually doing the work. Why not just say, acknowledge this group as having some weight in these things having something important to offer being your own free. Think Tank. So that's, I very much appreciate the way that Garrett described it, so that we are committed to not competing with the people who are providing the services that you know that it's not a what he called a king making thing. That's the clearest most clear message I've heard about this and I really appreciate all the time that it took to wordsmith that into a way that says what we really want to do. So thank you.

Tina McLeod

Hi this is Tina, with the landlord liaison program at associated ministries, and I'm going to start off by saying I am supportive of some type of centralized coordination and leadership in regards to addressing homelessness here in Pierce County. And at this time I'm not supportive of the current proposal, I have grave concerns that groups of community including the continuum of care, their racial equity committee and haven't been engaged in a discussion, and that when I look at the current proposal, and there's no reference to racial equity. And I really think the proposal itself needs an assessment of racial equity to use a racial equity impact assessment, where we're looking at intense or really great, I'm all for the intent but really being able to dive into exploring the unintended impacts that this current proposal in its current form may have, and that it may perpetuate institutionalized racism versus addressing it, and I did, you know, I know there was mentioned last week and in the proposal of built zero. and I did see that they convened in October of 2020 to ensure that their center centering racial equity and all their work. And so if we're really looking at a build zero model. They already, they are working on the racial equity aspects. And so, my concerns is that there's no mention of racial equity in the current proposal. And, and racial equity starts before proposal. It starts with engaging communities of color those most impacted. And so, I'm not going to be in supportive of the current proposal. I am in support of doing the work on coordination and leadership and what a proposal would look like to do that though

Maureen Howard



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point of clarification, Tina are you speaking. For years I presume you're speaking for yourself, because we do have Mike yoders, comments. Yes. Yeah. Okay. Thanks.

Rob Huff

Larry I see your hand up.

Larry Seaquist

Oh, thanks, just briefly speaking to garretts specific objective. I think that's really valuable to tackle a concrete hard problem like that. It will help focus the overall planning energies, and to the point that was just made, as I was watching garrets wonderfully well thought through proposal. I was also thinking about racial equity which we know every place you look including being frozen in Texas. Is that black and communities of color, gets shafted first. So my suggestion is that we consider a two part hard startup requirement that by one November, if that's the date. The winter date, we not only have solved the chronic homeless on the street problem, but done that in a racially equitable way. And I believe that that's not just idealism if you actually tackle the problems needed to redress the racial disparities, you will be solving the core problems. So that would be my suggestion is to broaden the one November, hard requirement to include genuine racial equity.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Larry. Other comments on the initial proposal and any concerns or. I see Al's hand up first and then Jeffrey

Don Pritchard

pitch was added up to.

Rob Huff

Gotcha, Donald.

Don Pritchard

Thank you.

Al Ratcliffe

proposal. There are a couple of things that come to mind as I as I read that one is we really need to actively partner with some of the other Coalition's such as the black community Coalition's of various sorts. And yet, and and get a genuine partnership going between Coalition's here. The other thing that I see as missing from the proposal and from our own mindsets in some ways is. I just posted a thing that I got from the frameworks institute that talks about how to change public mindsets. And it's the research that they've done indicates that if you want to change the public mindset you first of all have to start



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with the public and have a strategy for trying to influence public opinion and informed public about what you're trying to accomplish and how they can, how they can assist. We don't really have a public relations arm in this plan. But I think we probably really need one.

Rob Huff

Thank you. Oh, and then I knew, Jeffrey was next and then Donald.

Reverend Boyce

Five years ago, I was involved in the community, quarterly meetings with associated ministries, under a steering committee. And one of the things that was really apparent to me was the. Everything was in silos churches were in silos city and government services were in silos and virtually nobody, talking to each other. Each one doing their own thing. One of the things that I see as a blessing is in this coalition. Everybody has a voice, and everybody can hear it. Now, is that mean that this is the ultimate model for how we should do it. Unknown. But I do believe that these open forums, especially in this format of the zoom meetings where everybody can be seen and heard is especially helpful, and I've really appreciated being a part of this. The. Yes, we need to have a structure in some form. We have to have a way to be leaders in this. Many are here are working directly with the homeless and those voices need to be heard. To those who make the decisions. And, and I hope we can take the lead. With the city and county in a regional approach rather than just a street by street approach,

Rob Huff

titled. Maybe Donald stepped away for a moment Donald when you have a chance, we can hear from you, um, Sean had a comment he wanted to make as well.

Sean Dennerlein

Yeah. Thanks Rob. Um, I think, one of the questions and, maybe, Garrett you can you can help clarify this because I know you have experience in the background and again. So I'm asking on behalf of myself as an IT, you know, a citizen of Pierce County. Not in my role with the county but, Gary. So, in our experience working with the ending veterans homelessness Task Force. We know there's a lot of different questions around how, what how do we define ending homelessness. And are we talking about a functional zero as the as the task force set out to be, could you elaborate more on like what what do you practically speaking, what is that, how are we as a coalition defining defining that.

Gerrit Nyland

Sure. So, the proposal is basically the build for zero model which uses functional zero. So the idea behind functional zero is you. Sadly, never eliminate homelessness, but what functional zero means is when somebody does become homeless, they have immediate access to shelter. That's the one piece. And the second piece is they have immediate access to an appropriate permanent housing intervention. And that can be as light as diversion one time assistance to get transported somewhere



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where they've got permanent housing or move into apartment or as deep as permanent supportive house right so that's the goal is, you become homeless. You have shelter that's appropriate. Right, appropriate with choice, right. If you're a heroin addict with, with the, you know, with the Pitbull, there's there's, there are places you can go and and where you belong. And, you know, maybe not all the choices right right there will certainly be places that don't accept sex offenders and things like that but there will be places, and again and appropriate intervention that's the least you need in order to become permanently housed right that model of people need to people or people need to be doing as much for themselves as they can, right, it just stretches your dollar and actually is much healthier for people. Research shows that answer the question.

Yeah, and then so I guess the next follow up I have is you said this is somewhere in the presentation I don't remember it quite off the top of my head but you've mentioned funding and how this is your, you're not seeking to be a funder, you're, you see the county and the city as, those are the their roles. However, you know like, again, based off the work from our task force. We know that these types of initiatives are expensive, like we were really like weighed down by the fact that this just costs a lot of money. And there's a lot of resources that go into ending homelessness and like, we looked at models we looked at Portland we looked at Austin and they just, they pour resources into it. And so, you know, with, with the coalition not. What do you mean when you're like talking about not being a funder and what what, how does funding bear into this what what are you trying to do then to get those resources, knowing that this is the, we've got it. We can't do it on our current budget.

Gerrit Nyland

Absolutely, so not being a funder means that we're not going to try to go out and get money for ourselves, but we are going to go out and try to get money for this system. And so our funding approach is going to attempt to unify a voice. With the request of what we need. So that when we lobby. The federal government which will be a ridiculously slow process, and maybe not truthful when we lobby the state. When we look at businesses, we can say how that funding we're asking for fits into our plan to end homelessness and we asked for it in one voice. Right. The Coalition, the agencies that make up the coalition the lobbyists for the, for the, you know, low income housing authority or, you know, for the Tacoma Housing Authority the lobbyists for the city of Tacoma for Pierce County, we all speak with the common voice to increase the resources. Yeah, and it's twofold probably right. It's, it said least right and so it's a massive lift that we've never tried. Right, so you don't, you know you don't get what you don't ask for, but you also don't get what you asked for. Right. But, but having everybody trying to gather with a with a, a sense that the. With that money it'll be transformational, I'm hoping will kind of get us all lined up and make us more effective at getting resources. That's. So, again, not taking a role in bringing the funding to us but taking a very active role and bringing the funding into the community. However, that is its direct grants from, you know, the Veterans Administration for more



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resources for veterans right to a provider, great, right, is it more ESG money to run shelter that goes through the county and the city. Great. All right, I'm

Rob Huff

gonna see if Donald can unmute and ask provide his comments.

Don Pritchard

I'm sorry that I'm just all over the place this morning, my guys my guys you know they're hustling right you know, trying to find other jobs because they've been laid off the other jobs and. So, just working together trying to keep them, you know where they need to be. But my question goes all the way back to where they were talking about helping the black community. And this is something that I've, I've dealt with, for the last five years, US writing our own grants, not getting them being promised. Different things from the coalition to help us, and they get us halfway through it. Give the shopping lists, you know do this and then all of a sudden you know hear from him. And some of the members on the coalition know what I'm talking about, because I've talked to them about it, but five years we've been coming out of our pocket. Because no one will help us. So we had two houses. 12 rooms, a homeless facility downstairs in Lakewood, a five bedroom. And I've been asking for help to house, my man for at least two three years. And they've had all this help for us but we don't get it. And so we we come out of our pocket my church, my pastor is in a hole, because our passion is to help the homeless, the youth program, the gang program, which I wrote for the Gang Task Force. I mean, and we're doing this on our own, because it is our passion, but I'm on a homeless committee, and, and, and help everybody that needs help. From me. No matter what, and those that know me. They know I do without saying anything. When you're brought this up this morning. This is what we're dealing with. We don't they get funding. We asked they say okay, and then we never hear from you. And for me, to me. That's putting us to the side. But it doesn't stop me. My passion is to do what just what I do. Coming up the gangs in Cali in LA out of Compton. You know, the institutions here until I found myself. But, just like we felt like we would get the help from, from everybody that that I dealt with in a homeschooling. I mean, with a coalition. But it's hurt me. Just to see, you know, money going here, they're there. And when we asked you he's told yes but nothing ever happened. So, that's my concern and when the gentleman start talking about that. I mean, we wanted to top five houses intercom. But we don't get help at all.

So that's what I do.

Don Pritchard

And I have a bunch of ideas. So, for the homeless and being hands on, because we are, you know, we've read over 500 families, a month. And then we supply for food banks. And so, and we're doing all this out of pocket. So, I'm just. We got a wraparound program, but we're not being helped with it and we're going into read. Thank you for hearing.



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Rob Huff

Yeah, thanks for that input Donald and one thing I would say is, you know, if you have an interest in the time, it might be, it would be good to have you join us with the steering committee as well as we work do this work. Yes. Thank you, Donald. I see, I see Carolyn with her hand up.

Carolyn Reed

I, Donald that was very heart wrenching, and hopefully if I support the coalition organizing. And I think, you know, once they do, it seems that they could help facilitate things like that. Much better than we are. Right now, I am not experienced in providing this service. I've only jumped into this in the last two and a half, three years. And so I had to ask a lot of questions I asked many of you that are on this coalition. And some of my observations is, you know, a naive person in this is that a lot of people if given housing actually succeed. I didn't realize that the public doesn't realize that. The other thing I observed is that there were 30 to 90 day waitlist for shelters and women are sleeping out on the street, you know vulnerable I couldn't believe it when I realized that we couldn't even have enough space to allow someone to choose to be safe and dry. The other thing I noticed is people couldn't tell me, how much does it cost to have someone housed versus not housed. We have no data like that for our area. Some people, you know, gave me some general numbers that were in some national studies, but there is no hardcore data that we can measure and hold our government accountable to, we need to understand what we're trying to tackle before we can tackle it, and track it and see if we're doing well. The other thing that I observed is that, that, that it is hard to pin down who's doing what you know how it was really hard for me to get my head around how someone gets into the system and how they get tracked for success. And there were like these really awkward stories that they would get bummed out for some reason and have to start all over again. So, the system. And in fact, I also I saw somebody trying to get some help on the street you know over a target of all places in the rain, with blood literally coming out of their swollen legs. And I call 211, and nobody answered the phone. So I just, I just see a lot of good hearted people with super experience wanting to do well. And my sense is that if we did have a more organized structure, we'd be able to fill in the gaps that are not being filled in. Now, both in leadership. And in coordination and painting a picture for the public about how this is actually a win win situation. So I, I really applaud us, I think, yeah, it may not look perfect, at first, but that's why you, you, you build in ways to process improve and self evaluate and make adjustments you know you don't set it all in stone right away. So I think, you know, rather than - make sure it's perfect. Let's go forward with what we know and what we can do, and build in a process for improvement and accountability and tracking and getting some of this data and helping the narrative and the public because I believe that if you were able to educate people like me that it actually does help both, you know society and those that are in house to get housed. And here's the data, but we don't have anything to show them. So anyway, I, I'm a yes vote. All the way

Rob Huff



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All right. Other comments and questions I see Colin. Then Theresa.

Oh yeah,

Colin DeForest

I appreciate what everyone's saying, you know, listening to everyone talk it's definitely yeah there's a lot out there I think Carolyn to your points I mean yeah that's, I think what you're talking about is kind of as you are educated in homelessness you find out like what's really going on out there and how truly tragic it is. And I think, you know, Tina's points are heard loud and clear and I think that's extremely important, and I appreciate everything that was touched on around that. I would say that I'm, I'm supportive of the plan I think that this is a great thing. I have no doubt that Garrett and marine are right on the same page, not to speak for Tina, but I'm guessing that that's all stuff that's on their mind when this is being talked about and I'm confident, kind of to Carolyn's point that those are adjustments that can be made. Even in real time like right now and I think tapping into everything that Tina had said is extremely important to this, along with the other things that we heard for the exact reason why, you know, it's amazing to hear the stuff going on in Lakewood and I mean I'll be honest I'm unaware of a lot of that and it's, it's awesome. I applaud it, and we do need to find ways to support smaller programs like that, especially when they're coming from people of color, doing amazing things like that. Um, I was just gonna say. Also, as far as Shawn from the county, I think those are valid points. I would, I would push back and say that what this would do is, in I think it was kind of touched on really opened us up to. There's a lot of alternative forms of funding and we talked about looking around to other areas of the country. There's a lot of untapped funding, we have a lot of great funding that's outside of government but there's a lot of untapped so I think that's some of the stuff that the coalition can do, is it can really pursue and bring new funding sources to the table that county government simply cannot do. Right. And then I would also say, we do, we do a good job across the board, but I'd say we do a good job we also miss a lot of gaps. And I think one one perfect example of that is safe parking. Right. That's not something, if we did not have other funding sources, no government entity was willing to do that, and I would definitely argue that it's a successful program, but even right now with the NOFA that's out today with the county or other county application or funding sources as I know of right now and I know it's not anyone's fault, it's just the reality safe parking still isn't something, you know, so when we look to try to continue that program, that's a great example. You know, there's gaps in our current funding system so money is always going to be an issue, um, the last thing that I would say is the only concern I have with the plan is that I love the functional zero I love November 1. But my I don't want to lose energy or sight, or on some of the immediacy of the things that we know also need to happen, you know, when we're talking about doing some of these. So that's my concern. I don't want i i would be fearful of the coalition lots of lost some sight or some energy on some of these immediate things that we know need to happen hygiene centers you know areas for people to safely be like, not, not in November and I don't



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think the plan saying that but like now, like Next, we need to we need to keep pushing so that's my only concern is that we might lose sight of that stuff but I'm definitely supportive of the plan.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So, I want to just add to this that, yes, if we're going to get to this November we can't stop start working on it November and we are already working on it calling and I think that's the, the entity that is trying to be tapped into is that going forward and adding to. And I want to just offer a friendly amendment to the proposal that and I don't know that we can sit here with as many people as we have in this room and wordsmith it today, but I think we could say that we could perhaps approve it conditionally that there be language added there. We have several. We have several, several over represented groups within homelessness, and no one more than people of color because they're also over represented in the group of people who've been incarcerated and incarcerated people or people who have been incarcerated 10 times more likely than your average person to be homeless so we could. I think it's and also people who with disabilities of one kind or another and people with. We have, of course, people who have mental health issues or substance use disorders, those sorts of things so maybe we could say, we're gonna make it more clear that we're going to look at equity within all that we do. And we could make it more clear that we're going to work with every existing agency out there because I saw some stuff from Cynthia and others about making sure that we hear from the people already engaged in the work. I think it's clear that we're going to work with the county and city I don't think anyone would question that we're saying that, but maybe it's not clear enough that it's not just the people who are currently in the coalition it's also trying to find those other resources. So, and I also, I want to say, I, I love that Valerie is is always on the important ball of getting people out. and there are a lot of people in this coalition who feel that too. So, I hope it's also clear that we are not talking about this as a solution that this is something that we need to do immediately to keep people from dying on the street. At the same time we need to work on all of the things that we know have worked in other places, and keep our eye on that ball. That was long sorry.

Rob Huff

Thanks Teresa, I see Alan has his hand up.

Alan Brown

Yeah, I just wanted some discussion, and there's been dialogue in the chat about the CRC and how this relates to the CRC, and I guess I'd like to hear more about that. and, you know, it's this proposal kind of a, an alternate CLC and, and I'm remembering back in the day, those of you who have been around a long time. When the coalition meeting, and a CRC meeting we're actually in the same meeting. So I'm trying to distinguish. I guess the, the difference in purpose between this proposal, and what the CRC is or what the CRC should be

James Pogue



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jump on that one, if you don't mind. Hopefully, many people know me But if you don't, besides being the executive director of homeless services at comp I'm also the chair of the CRC and have been for the last two and a half years. And I'm also a big part of the coalition. And there's been a goal to sort of do that at a macro level for a long time to merge. Some at least the efforts of the two organizations, if not the full operations, the CSC did a huge push about the five year plan in 2019, and what the original goal was like to address the stuff that is being proposed now like to be the leadership voice that was out there to be the all encompassing model for all the plans to recommend all funding options to go through the CFC. And really what happened was that was too big of a task for that organization at the time to take on any of the structure that we were in as well as to really make sure we kept our eyes on the funding that the CFC had as well as expanding funding they were eligible for. So our five year plan went from the five year plan to end homelessness, the five year plan, sort of like a process improvement plan to increase our funding to be a more functional CLC to be more expansive to be top of mind when, for example, a group of mayors come together and decided they want to run a task force to end homelessness. But where the CFC is now and where we want to be really aligns with this effort, it's not parallel we hope to have totally overlapping to the point where I hope that these two efforts become one. The main thing that I would say is that the, the amount of energy and ability of the coalition, having its free structure as well as having it's just like they're really staunch advocates who are bought into being here every week has really made a better platform and a runway than we have been with the CSC to do the macro level work. Most of our work is internal to make the funding from HUD better, more efficient. We have an awesome five year plan to basically double the resources available through that portion, as well as to make sure everyone who receives an intervention through CFC funded services remain stable the house in two years like we want to make ourselves better and more efficient but it's to double what the CFC funds would still only be about 30% or so of the need, and it won't address things like everyone's Shelter by November and things like that so I don't know if I answered it but it's it's a grim. We're in concert we're aligned and we're seeing kind of a path that hopefully it's coming to emerge versus straight parallel tracks that I really really hope there's a like my big goal has always been like how do we get these two communities to be one large community and I think this is a big step in that direction.

Rob Huff

Right I see Maureen Yeah,

Maureen Howard

just to kind of remind people. We're not asking folks to endorse a draft document that document has draft all over it. It's simply a beginning place, and all of today's conversation informs, what eventually happens and there'll be many more conversations informing it, what we're proposing is at the coalition, take a leadership role to create this regional plan this countywide plan on which we can agree at a future time, the exact nature, description, all the wordsmithing, everything that needs to be in it. But what we're asking for right now is will we take this leadership role. That's that's one question. The next



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question is will we spend some energy, looking at some kind of governance structure, whatever that is. Our thought was enough of a structure to carry forward and agreed upon, final plan. And then lastly, will we agree to end street homelessness by the first of November. Would we take on that audacious goal. Thanks.

Rob Huff

And I see your hand Donald, I'm just the one way that I'm thinking about this as I'm hearing this conversation just to interject is that if we can all agree that that audacious goal is something that we all would like to move in that direction. how the details of how we get there are really going to be important. But I don't know that those details. Need to preclude saying that it's the goal. So just thinking off the top of my head I wanted to add that. I'll go back to you, Donald and then I know Shawn had an additional question I see Kevin's hand as well.

Don Pritchard

Yeah, I want to go back to when you was talking about man coming out the institution, men coming out the institution. Most of them choose not to take the programs that they have for them before they get out. We partnership up with DLC. And they inform us before that their guys get out. And we set up a program that they have housing for a year, that comes from the institution. And so, guys. The guys from the institution sends us letters, so that we can start working on them, housing, jobs, which which we do, and our partners, know that coming out the institution. And they'll get there giving them jobs, and our guys are, you know, performing, you know some of my, my guys has been in a house for four years, and they can stay as long as they want to, you know, and they're, you know, we have some guys that have graduated with a families now their kids gotten their records expunged so that they have time, you know from the Justice Society. I was, I was in the same boat 25 years ago. So, and this coming out, made me see what other men went through when they got out, I beat my case but still, I was able to see on hands guys going to prison being set up the whole nine yards. And whoever has men that are in the institution have come out and they haven't problems getting jobs. You can get in touch with me I partners tape, you know if they have a sexual beef, then that's a problem but anybody else I don't care if they're a burglar, or whatever we got a guy that's a burglar, and they have him, making all the alarms and stuff for the banks. So, our partners give our guys a second chance. So, if anybody has that type of problem, get in touch with me or anybody have any clients in Lakewood, we have just purchased a house. So, thank you,

Rob Huff

thank you, Donald. Shaw Shawn, I know you had something to add and then Kevin.

Sean Dennerlein

Yeah Thanks Rob, you know and I know we're, this is just a start up I'm just trying to under, I want to make sure I'm, I know where we like the y's about, we're moving in this direction and I'm not opposed



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to, and again this is me as personal Shawn not as Christian so you know Alan brought up continuing care, it's been talked over and stuff like that. I know you kind of touched on it Garrett and marine and three so I don't know if you have more insight like the why, what would this organization do better, like where are those gaps definitively that you're seeing that you just are really like that we could do this better if we take control of this and I'm, I'm curious if you, if you have those in mind, one of the my big concerns is. And again I you know I work primarily in the veterans world, and we know the veterans well we know, VA, oh my gosh, the biggest bureaucracy on Earth. It's hard to get them at the table right and so I, I'm worried if, you know, if we have this entity that they may not be able to pull in some of the stakeholders that are like hey, well, what authority, do you have so you know I don't know, that's kind of one of the things I'm curious about.

Maureen Howard

Let me take that one because others may have a similar concern. We are not proposing changing, what's out there. We're, we're proposing that we're going to build on what is good, that is out there. And, but what we're saying is that there's a gap. And that if we're really going to end homelessness, which we believe we can then we got to fill that gap that leadership gap. And so, I mean, I, I think a lot of what is happening, will continue to happen the way it is. Except that will work better together on what's already good programming. Good structures that are out there, but where there are gaps. There's this overarching plan this overarching strategy that says, For the next Carolyn Reed who tries to figure out what's going on there actually is a way to do that for the next time that the city neglects to tell us that yes they are using FEMA money for congregate shelter right now. We've got them at the table in a proactive way so we're not wasting energy saying Why aren't you using FEMA, that when somebody sees something on the street. One of the mutual self help groups. One of the Collective's Food Not Bombs whoever it is, who says, Look, why can't you do something about this. We actually have a way to address that together. Now, right now, we've got two big, big for us working groups. one the group that stays on every Friday morning to plan the next providers meetings, always open. Understand that it doesn't work for everybody. They can figure out a different time if there are other people who want to be involved who can do it then it got us from one Garrett left his position at CCS through now. And we've got this steering committee meeting Wednesday afternoons. That's the combination of the folks who agreed to be an oversight committee to Kevin, because we've never had a staff person before, and the folks who were part of the summit, working groups. We just combined them. And instead of meeting every day and then every other day, now it's once. None of that, that kind of structure is cast in stone. When I take people want to take on just literally on the street homelessness. We set up a working group that does that anybody's welcome if everybody looks like me we do what we do with the other groups, and we go out looking for people who represent the diversity of the community of need, and the community of providers and anybody else. And if somebody just wants to work on, you know, just like we took the summit requests apart and Janet grabbed healthcare and Food Not Bombs came in, and the needle exchange. And now we got ch Al Franciscan and we got multi care in a whole new conversation. I mean, it then CMR and so we're. What we're



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saying is, you know, can we put a roof over this. And can we put enough structure under it, to support whatever this turns out looking like so that when any of us who hold the institutional memories and are putting our time in whether we're volunteers, or we're paid in a specific position, move on, that the work continues the way we've committed to having it continue. Things like support for small nonprofits support for nonprofits that are by and Ford led by communities of color, trying to get wages, up for nonprofit frontline providers and benefits, so that these are jobs you can afford to raise your family on which is not an issue for the government folks, and it's not an issue, if you've got it. Another income in your household but if you're the single income, you ought to be able to do this work and live on it. I mean these are all pieces of what's out there that we've never had a way to just say look, this is what we're gonna do, we're gonna do this work. Remember when I said this before. We'll do it as well as we can, for as long as we must. And what we want to do is go forward. So we can do other work. So our work can be keeping people housed. So they don't end up becoming homeless, either at the front end, because now we've got aggressive prevention programs in place, or at the back end, because we've got the continuing kind of appropriate support that people tell us they need or that we realize that they need. So I don't know if that helps or makes it more complicated but

no I appreciate it and I you know I just to give some more context and Garrett's been a part of the task force we formed. It's just so hard. Getting, especially the federal stakeholders at the table and getting those conversations rolling and I think you guys have done it, especially with the summit's have done incredible work there and I just, I think my biggest fear is that you know that there will be too many boys, not necessarily there's too many organizations that the you know when I'm trying to cope, you know get these meetings with the VA. I'm also trying to help the CLC get the meetings and help that coalition get the meetings and then you know they are just burnt out trying to just figure out what our infrastructure is like for for ending Veterans Home ending homelessness in, in particular, so I yeah I appreciate it Marine, thanks for the thanks for the answer.

Gerrit Nyland

And to chime in and I were filling a void. Yeah, could this USC do this work. Yep, are they, nope. Could the county be doing this work. Yep, are they. Nope. Could the city be doing this work. Yep, are they. No. Are we going to set this work down when one of those groups wants to stand up and do this work. Yep. Right. This isn't this isn't empire building, this is filling a void, and we're filling the void because no one else is. And, you know, and we're gonna do it well because I heard a lot of feedback today about equity, and that that was lacking. And so we're going to make that change right not to not to meet your needs. But to meet the needs you're identifying in the community, right that's that is our commitment. And if the CSC wants to take this on as a joint effort, or as a major stakeholder in it. I'm all in. Right. We do things until. Right, a more formal group can do it or we become that formal group long term. There's gonna be a three year effort, and we get to stand down because other perhaps better organizations are able to take it on, but until then I, I've been asking, I've been hoping, I've been encouraging as have



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many of us. And here we sit with no plan to end homelessness. And I think it's unconscionable. And so as I went through my, you know, my contacts and talk to people across the span. It was obvious that this was important to a huge number of people, and if we didn't take it on. Then who would. And that's where I said, if we don't take this on who will. It'd be great if our Emma Doris with the new Gupta come took this work on and I've asked and his, you know, his, his you know his plate is full, right there, you know, there is no one in the community that I've seen that wants to take this on the way that the coalition wants to. And so that's myself, if not us who, and this North matters and Valerie put, you put everybody in shelter and then what happens, I don't know. Right, but I know they're in shelter and someplace they belong. And, is that a good use of our money well I guess we'll find out like we've not tried to shelter everybody, how does that impact permanent housing, I don't know. But even if you put that money into Rapid Rehousing, are we going to get them into apartments that don't exist. Right. I mean, those are interesting questions, but I just put it out, if not us then who could the cool continuum of care take this work on, could we be a body simply supporting the continuum. Great in my book. Right. This is about getting the work done. And it gets done because we say it gets done. And we bring everybody else along someone else wants to start taking the lead. I am following in step behind them. And by me, I'm talking a little arrogant there, we will write like we're not trying to create something that is better somewhere else, and could happen, but we'll hand it off when we need to. I'd like to call the vote, we had a call the question I don't really want to go there right i'd love to vote and if we vote no, that's fine. We can rehash it and try to build up the strengths. I think we'll do that no matter what. And so I would like us to have, I would like to have a vote, we go through this and you can have a last word in there as well. The way we'll be voting is through the reactions, there's the yes and no. And reactions you'll see at the bottom of your zoom screen right this sort of place where you can raise your hand to do a thumbs up there should be a yes and no option for you there. And, and so we would like to use that. So

Al Ratcliffe

to say that when I was in China our tour guide commented, working with Americans is like trying to herd cats. And we've had much discussion but i don't i don't hear I hear many concerns but no opposition. Significant no major opposition, and I was going to move to call for a vote. So I move I second gear it's notion, let's get on with it.

Kevin Glackin-Coley

And I would say that on on my options for reactions I have a thumbs up, but I don't have a thumbs down or no option I don't know that's true for others.

Rob Huff

Do you have a checkmark and a red, red, check.

Kevin Glackin-Coley



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I have a thumbs up a clap of tears, a heart open.

Megan Capes

If you're on a computer we do this, pretty frequently, click participants, and you'll see it under the list of names you'll see yes no raise hands. Thank you, phone, which I am just click the dot dot dot and then you'll see it's combined in the reactions.

Kevin Glackin-Coley

Thanks that's helpful Megan,

Tina McLeod

of course, did you put the actual question that we're voting for in the chat.

Carolyn Reed

And note that some people did vote yes but had to leave the meeting, they're in, it's in the tray

Rob Huff

and Garrett The intention is to kind of vote on all three with one book one yes, or one No.

Gerrit Nyland

Correct. All three with one yes or one No.

Maureen Howard

Okay, there's a question about who votes. You are not unless you are designated to represent your organization you're voting, just as a person at this Open Table. Your, your position in your organization is irrelevant, unless you have been charged to bring their vote forward.

Gerrit Nyland

Dan longer than that short amount of time.

Rob Huff

I know,

Gerrit Nyland

really should have put like an actual poll and for this.

Rob Huff



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And we still could if you want to do that real quick. The challenge is the poll questions probably can't. It might not be long enough to let us do all three.

Gerrit Nyland

We can just do voting yes or no,

yes right the poll is yes or no.

Gerrit Nyland

Yeah.

Jenny Lorton

Do you vote yes do you vote no.

Let's see.

You're gonna jump in and do that Rob

Rob Huff

yeah I'm doing it. No,

Carolyn Reed

I noticed that goes away after a little while.

Rob Huff

Yeah, well, that's why we'll fix this. Let's see if this works

Maureen Howard

herding cats might been a simplification.

Jenny Lorton

Otherwise we just keep clicking our reaction just keep doing it.

Rob Huff

Just a hammer on that. Yeah,



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Maureen Howard

like getting an appointment for COVID shot.

Rob Huff

I'm getting close to getting there. Yeah,

good should we also add, add an extension option, like if folks want abstain.

Rob Huff

I can do that.

Yeah, that's always helpful.

Gerrit Nyland

Always building the plane while we fly it.

Theresa Power-Drutis

I'm guessing that someone who wanted to abstain would just not vote. Right, because you don't have, it's not forcing us to vote.

Rob Huff

Sorry that took so long.

Kevin Glackin-Coley

But I think the abstention model lets us know that they weighed in and we're not waiting for them to respond. So that would be my

Maureen Howard

good thing that earlier group couldn't come today.

Gerrit Nyland

I really want you to reach out to us if you voted no and talk to us about those concerns. Some of you have. And, and let's see if we can work to mitigate those concerns.

Rosemary Powers



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While we're waiting I just one of the things I wanted to just note and then didn't have time to was something that makes me realize how much we do feel fill a void is seeing that the list of shelter openings was listed on the county's page that's from our website telling people to go to our website to find out what's available as well as the Tacoma News Tribune did the same thing. So, there's something that we've been recognized for bringing that we need to do more of, and I think this commitment is, if we pass it is a sign that we recognize our continuing and important relevance to the community.

Rob Huff

So do we want to wrap up the poll at this point. Garrett.

Gerrit Nyland

Yes, we do. Okay.

Rob Huff

And I want to thank everybody for participating. I think this is a, it could feel a little bit like we were herding cats as Maureen put it, but, but it's really important, and I'll hit the share results thing really important that everybody's voices heard and that everybody's concerns inform how we move forward so appreciate it. All right,

Maureen Howard

people on the phone Rob Do you want to read it for anybody. Oh,

Rob Huff

and I just turned it off here let's see if I can get back to it. So the results were 43 yeses. That's 83% of those who voted 52 people voted overall. We had three people who voted no, and six people who abstained. So thank you again everybody.

Maureen Howard

Yes, thank you.

Rob Huff

And clearly we have a lot more work to do and. Yes, a lot more energy to expend and hopefully address a lot of those concerns all of those concerns that we heard during our conversation. So, if we're good. I will move on to the next item on the agenda we all good to go. Okay. So Teagan. I will cue you up to talk about the upcoming study session at City Council on February 23.

Rosemary Powers



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Hi all,

Tiegan Tidball

it's good to see everyone this morning. So excited. Any you. So, February 23 is going to be the study session for the update on homelessness. I know that we know it, but it's coming. So be ready. So I'm just gonna give you a real high level I know we're running a little low on time. So we're going to be discussing I'm just going to high level what it's going to discuss. So, wait, you know what, I'm gonna pause that before I jump into that and I want to thank everyone for the amazing feedback I got on campus last week it was spectacular. I've been compiling it and looking at into some other documents and I just really really grateful for that. So thank you all again. Now back to the now back to the presentation. So, 23rd, we're gonna discuss the emergency declaration and the response to date. We're also going to talk about our COVID response. Um, there's going to be some high level discussion about the investments in homelessness. We're also going to be talking about shelter inventory beds exits utilization, things of that sort. And we're also going to additionally talk about our winter shelters and the things that have happened for inclement weather and the warming centers, you'll see quite a bit of information on that as well. And I think those are the major things we're gonna be talking about the draft homeless strategy is also going to be mentioned in there as you know we're still it's still a process we're still working through it. I was talking with Bob earlier that we're going to meet next week to get that schedule so you will know when we're going through the next steps to frame it a little better. And I know again I'm still catching up on all the information that you guys have given me so I'm still working through it, as we're addressing other things so I'm really looking forward to it. So, on the 23rd after the meeting I will make sure to send a link out to the Homeless Coalition. So if anyone doesn't get to watch it that day they can watch it later. If you have any questions please send them to us. And hopefully it'll go, Well, I'm always the optimist.

Kevin Glackin-Coley

To get a basic question what time on the 23rd.

Tiegan Tidball

It starts at noon.

Kevin Glackin-Coley

That's what I thought. Okay, Thank you. Yeah,

Carolyn Reed

they're an opportunity for public comment.

Tiegan Tidball



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Not and study session no anything else. I see something about the pit Yes, I know we pull the data straight from the county, so hopefully that will be in there accurately.

Well the reason, the reason why I say that because during the last study session, there were some errors in the slide with how the pit was used. So, yeah, I recommend reaching out to Garrett or me around that. All right,

Tiegan Tidball

thanks Megan I appreciate that feedback

and Teagan you're welcome to Ask me as well as the lead staff for the pit, feel free.

Kenny Coble

Hey Keegan I have just a follow up to, I think, Carolyn Was that your question about public comment. While there isn't comment at study session at City Council that evening. It is virtual forum, so you can speak on any topic and you would be welcome to discuss what you heard at the presentation at noon so Tina is right. And there's an opportunity if you would like.

Tiegan Tidball

Thanks Kenny.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thanks Kenny. Well thank you Teagan will look forward to hearing the presentation on the 23rd.

Absolutely. Thanks. Yep.

Rob Huff

So let's move on to our other government updates, and let's queue up, Valerie Do you have a moment to talk about what's up with the county.

Valeri Knight

Sure. Yeah. Um, so, since we're on the Pitt talk we'll be having our point in time Count 2021 results here very soon next couple of weeks, as everyone remembers we did a sheltered count only so the data comes out of HDMI as we are already queuing up our 2022 homeless point in time count which will include shelter and unsheltered. So I started working with the outreach teams today to determine



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locations planning, we have to figure out PBE like the whole nine yards. So it's gonna look a little different, but we know we will have to do one so that will be the last February, the last Friday in January 2022 which is the 28th of January so just so everybody kind of pre plans for 2022, for rental assistance the US Department of the Treasury has still not released their FA Q's. It is so extremely frustrating and I understand they're very busy, I'm sure. I don't know what they do but they're very busy and so as soon as we have that information, we will be able to push forward, we have selected eight providers for rental assistance and they, they haven't gotten official award letters, but they know they're selected because we don't know the dollar amount yet so they know they're working, they know they're all selected to do this program. We have approximately just under 16 million. That's our ballpark figure. And so that's what we're working on as far as our plan goes so the program. What we are doing starting next week is we're actually are going to send out emails and letters to all of the landlords that we served last year all the landlords we were collected from different agencies so if you have a list of landlords that you can share please send me names and addresses, because we are going to invite them to pre register for the rental assistance program that's going to speed up the process for them and for their household so it's going to be fantastic. And then we will open the portal right around March 1 for clients to apply. And so all of that is just continuing to move as fast as we can on our NOFA notice of funding availability for ESG CB closes today at 430. That is not 431, that is not 432 it is 430, if it is after 430, it is not eligible. So please get your applications in on time. and other than that I'm happy to answer questions if you have any.

Rob Huff

I see Carolyn with her hand up. Yeah.

Carolyn Reed

My question Valerie is, again you know I'm kind of not an expert in this but when I asked for data. And I look at pit numbers, it looks like you know the county has, like, 2000 homeless or less. And then you ask for data on those that are in in the system as homeless and it's like 6000, is there in a way that when we're having these discussions with these decision makers that we give them both numbers, so that they're making decisions based on reality rather than a HUD requirement for federal funding.

Valeri Knight

Yeah, so the data you should always quote is the data out of HMS right so the point in time count is a phenomenal tool for community education, it is a phenomenal tool for community engagement and getting folks who have never heard or experienced or thought of homelessness actually out in the field doing surveys and and for those folks, it can be life changing. That is a really good point of point in time count. Gary and I are fully aligned and it is not a good data point right like it is what people want to quote, but it is a snapshot, it is a moment in time for someone if they're willing to do the survey if we can even find them on that night. A couple years ago it was like 40 degrees and it was which was really warm for January, we couldn't find anybody. We drove around for 12 hours and it was, it was just rob



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you were there. We were just boots on the ground trying to figure it out so point in time count data is good for some regional approach like we know we have really good data for point in time count with the key Peninsula, because they have a super strong team that goes out for that night, but overall your data for HMS is where you're going to want to use your quotes.

Rob Huff

Maureen,

Maureen Howard

Valerie thanks as always. It's so when one of the things in my head lately has been this whole, do we have a county wide kind of eviction defense strategy. Now we know we've got what did you say 60 million, give or take, for rental assistance, we know we've got to come up pro bono that the resolution program. We don't know what the state is finally going to do, but it's it's somebody convening all the players around a county wide basis.

Valeri Knight

Not that I have heard, I did hear yesterday that there is a new limited landlord program that is expected to come from the state for those landlords who tenants either aren't eligible or refuse to participate in a program, which we found actually quite a bit of last year and they'll be able to apply for support and services directly to the state. I know that we are going to work, we have a mandate by the state to work with our sort of diversion. But, to come up pro bono and other areas like that to prevent evictions and so we'll have a mandated percentage that have to work with those programs, and then we are going to also have a Notice of Funding availability very very soon for eviction prevention for not just rental assistance, but that actual mitigation. And so all of those are still in the pipeline, lots of moving parts but I'm sure there is still more to come and I'm sure there's a gap so if there's still a gap, and that you kind of see send it to me in an email, you know how to get in touch with me morning, and then we can work on who would the best point of contact me for that.

Maureen Howard

Everybody said that to Valerie,

Rob Huff

every water email

Valeri Knight

just google it I mean it's there. I see Shawn fan.



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Yeah to that point Marine, I, I would reiterate what Val just said if you have advice on different stakeholders in different groups that you'd like us to engage with the department. The Human Services Department right now is coming up with a department wide strategy because broader than just rental assistance there's all kinds of programs aging and disability veterans stuff that's coming through this, this federal package so there's a communication strategy and works, including potentially virtual town halls, working with stakeholders and stuff that we're working on as a larger department entity and one of the questions going forward is, if this next stimulus package is coming through we may want to get some more information on that and we're working on that right now to know what then, what other programs because what we're trying to avoid doing is standing up town halls, where we get we do a lot of like outreach and try to pull in people. And then we find out, we have more dollars or more expensive programs we can stand up and then having to try to re inform and re educate everyone so we're working on that now and trying to skirt that line of we're expecting and I know you know because you're married, you were expecting additional dollars and additional programs. And so what we don't want to do is say hey, rental assistance is for these people are Aging and Disability Assistance is for, you know, let's say, 50% ami and 70 or older and then we actually have funds that can get 60, year olds and 100% ami, so we're like in this weird nebulous right now that we're hoping we're working on the strategy, but we're hoping to get more clarification before we start telling the public, this definitively what's going to happen, if that helps explain where we're.

Maureen Howard

That does help my suggestion would be before everything is cast in stone. Take advantage of a coalition meeting for some figure out the right question, or maybe we give you the question, and use asked for small group breakout like we did with the encampments for Teagan. And just, you know, we know some of the gaps from the last experience. And some of the communication issues stuff like that might be an easy way to fill. Part of what you're trying to do. And please somebody figure out how to deal with all of the individual jurisdictions, if they each end up with \$400,000 again that they only want to use on rental systems for the people of, you know, Milton or something.

And to that point Marine, send me put that in writing send it to me in an email, so I can, that those conversations were telling them, you know, it just helps us to hear from you all and you're right, maybe Rob, we could talk about next week or the following, we can get on the agenda to talk about it, it's just there's so much happening literally as we speak, I just got an email from Heather, and our finance department, they're like, it was different than what I heard on Wednesday. So we're we're just kind of we're worried about putting out wrong information. And then that's circulating, and we're, you know, you know the the stuff it's just out of our control right now so hoping to have more and I think, you know, Rob if we can get on the agenda for next week of the following week to talk about feedback from you all. That may be may be valuable before we even start pumping out the definitive information.



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Rob Huff

Yeah, we can do that Shawn if anything to that can be helpful if doing a 15 minute breakout group session can help inform. We're happy to do that. I just need help framing what those questions are before we get in the meeting but yeah why don't we be in contact.

Yeah, I'll reach out, Rob.

Rob Huff

Perfect. All right, so I'm going to move on. Rianna Do you have any updates from this come up Pierce County Health Department.

Brianna Betancourt

I do have a couple updates Hi everybody. First I want to apologize to the group. I was here last week in the beginning and left abruptly without saying anything. And so, if I was here but I wasn't here, and so I apologize, I will let people know in the chat box next time. Thank you, Janet. Um, so my role is to help ensure equitable access to Vaccine Education. I'm not on the vaccine planning team. But we do talk and coordinate. So, I'll put. We have community presentations that are already set up, we have distributable flyers for people are friends, and upset their organizations. If you're interested in any of that, let me know and I'll put my contact info in the chat box. After I'm done. I do have an update from Jenny. She's on our health care coordination team, and let me just make sure I get this right. Jenny says that the local health jurisdictions are asking dl h for more specific guidance on phase one B tears two through four to help prioritize groups. We aren't sure when we'll move to tier two and beyond, but we're wanting guidance to help with our rollout, as far as vaccine planning. And as soon as we know more about guidance and timelines, we will share that info. And so that is Jenny's update. I also have in my regular role I work in the healthy homes program with the department and. Last month I shared that we were in the process of hiring a housing policy coordinator. Within the health department and so we have hired that person and that person will be starting around March 22, so looking forward to that person, joining the table here. I won't make any commitments for that person at this time but the hill. They'll be here. So those are all of my updates and I'm going to put some stuff in the chat box right now and so that's it, unless anybody has any questions.

Rob Huff

Maureen,

Maureen Howard

I've got one, I'm just looking across, not many of us are in my age group but I've had my second Madonna shot, and it bit back badly and I can't imagine being homeless in a shelter or unsheltered and have the kind of response, three day response I had. So, I don't know who has the answers, but that's



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my question. What is the health department doing to ensure that one as people experiencing homelessness, whether they're sheltered or unsheltered begin to have demonstrate these responses which are really awful. How are you going to handle that you'd have to answer right now, but you

Brianna Betancourt

can't I don't have an answer right now but

Rosemary Powers

thanks for

Brianna Betancourt

the good question and people are happy, you've

Maureen Howard

got a fever that you can't stop as that sucker is escalating, and I can't imagine being in a congregate shelter or where you're going to get Tylenol, in a congregate shelter where you're going to get an aspirin, you know. Yeah, thank you for like sleep. 24 hours straight,

Brianna Betancourt

you know, Mari marine when do you send that in an email so I can sure,

Maureen Howard

move it along. I certainly your question.

Rob Huff

Great question.

Jenny Lorton

Thanks Marina I get my second vaccine today. So, I know what to look forward to. Thanks marine.

Rob Huff

Thanks a lot.

Maureen Howard

Hey, my brother sailed through, I got the family response apparently.

Rob Huff



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All right. Thank you, Rana. And we'll look forward to that information in the chat you're gonna put there. Kenny I know you said you had some additional updates for the city of Tacoma.

Hi everybody, sorry my camera's not on please just imagine the most attractive person you know and help my ego today. Just a quick follow up to what Teagan was saying, another plug for the study session on February 23 at noon. shaquita elder will also be giving an update on the tenants Rights Code. So if you're interested in that, there'll be a lot of information, and we are going to Chicago is going to come back on I believe March 5 is currently the plan Rob. And to get follow up and actually help. That'll be an opportunity for folks here to help. wordsmith and write the code with Chiquita if you've worked with her before she really values feedback and really incorporates as much as she can. So I don't know if we'll do breakout groups or something but we'll try to get as much feedback on updates that you need to see some important updates, we'll be discussing, I think that this group will care about his shared housing. That's going to be interesting and there'll be other surprises too so please listen on the 23rd and then give us your best thoughts on March 5. Thanks, everybody.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Kenny. All right, and I don't believe I see anybody from the Pierce County Emergency Management Office on the call If so, and you have updates let us know real quick. I'm paying attention to the clock and it keeps running down and our time gets shorter so let's shift over. Jan Do you have any updates for the safe parking network.

Janet Runbeck

I do things are moving along.

Thank you.

Janet Runbeck

I'm calling sent me the update South Hill Baptist is full and successful they have successfully moved folks into housing from South Hill Baptist. Our second site on the east side has space available for for people sleeping in their car so please contact Colin. If you know of anybody who is sleeping in their car. Um, Salvation Army up ul has applied and so that may be a new site. Exciting. We're, we're working through the application now. And we're working with one of the local colleges to add a site on campus. So things are moving along, we'd like to see anybody at noon on Monday, who wants to join this conversation. Thank you.

Rob Huff



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Thank you, Jan. Next in our agenda we have any critical advocacy updates from Maureen,

Maureen Howard

just a couple of one is that we still don't. One is that the Biden relief package which is what Valerie was alluding to earlier. So that should be voted out of the house by the end of next week this is at the national level, then it goes to the Senate. They work it out under budget reconciliation. We think the end result will be something like \$19 billion in brandless systems that is following the rental assistance that's already out there plus about 5 billion for a special homelessness assistance grant and other assorted monies. The other thing is that the stimulus check so \$600 checks. They're all out. So if you have people who didn't get them. They, you need to direct them or help them@irs.gov, and what they're going to have to do is they're going to have to file 2020 IRS federal taxes, even if they don't owe any don't normally file, because that's what's going to trigger their ability to get the stimulus check, they weren't in the system. They're 9 million across the US likely a few here. So, and if they don't have some kind of direct deposit with the IRS. Now's the time to set it up before the Biden package passes, because the 14 \$100 right now in the stimulus checks in that package. So we've got Seattle credit union, Al has reached out he's got BCU. We already had sound Al's gonna finesse that and harbor stone and anybody else. Right now, the only online application is Seattle Credit Union. The others are in person. There's also a letter that has been sent by several senators to Treasury, trying to get Treasury to agree to make this next round of stimulus checks user friendly for people experiencing homelessness. To get rid of some of the requirements about addresses that sort of thing. So we'll see if Treasury does guidance that's more user, user friendly, some cases they'd have to override state law. Again, an exemption to a federal statutes so it's not quite so simple. I will send out. Following this meeting, the Washington Low Income Housing alliances invitation to a 224 5pm webinar on plan to prevent evictions and homelessness. And so that's it for right now. Thank you. Well, first, but it's it for for today.

Rob Huff

You can flood our email boxes after this.

Maureen Howard

Oh, okay. Thank you. Good to know.

Rob Huff

Okay. Next on the agenda. Kevin Are there any updates on commitments from the safe shelter summit.

Kevin Glackin-Coley

Yeah. Worried references, earlier we had a productive meeting with somebody from Tacoma family medicine, looking at ways that that health system might be open to working with us on a variety of issues and that's moving forward. There's a group of us meeting next week from CCS to Columbus



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ministerial Alliance associated ministry is looking at developing an outreach plan to work with churches on offering shelter for a family or an individual kind of developing a protocol for that. The hotel voucher program and Ellen mentioned this last week, from CCS is up and running for inclement weather. And I've been working with some other local providers on on trying to identify ways they can get some funding for some outreach efforts, they want to do or shelter efforts, they want to do. The other thing is I eat. I didn't email all the mayors, and the police chief in the county, about our requests for no sweets. During this time, and I heard silence which I from everyone which I assumed that they were all in favor of that proposal, but I have not followed up with them individually yet.

Rob Huff

I'm sure that's a safe assumption. Yeah,

Kevin Glackin-Coley

I thought so.

Rob Huff

Thanks, Kevin. So we've only got about eight minutes left. I don't know, Garrett if you wanted to highlight highlight anything from the PC homelessness, or PC homeless.org website, or if we should just move into other items for the good order, I see you sharing so that answers the question I'm

Gerrit Nyland

highlighting Yeah, I'll do our one minute highlight, so perfect. This is our website hopefully you're all familiar with this and if you click on the link on the green bar that says overnight shelter, you pop into our overnight shelter page, and I just kind of want to show a few things on here, it can it lists all the shelters, basically that take walk in or phone call or, or that sort so filled shelters that are basically available for clients that you might be working with. And, and it gives you information so this is one of the advancements to zoom in a little bit like you can see on Roosevelt barracks which is a third of veterans that are homeless it talks a little bit about how to connect with them. And it also shows their current Bed Availability over here, which is super handy Thank you Roosevelt barracks for keeping that updated. So again this is sort of an evolving page, and I add features as I can. But it's good to know so if you're looking for shelter for somebody. Some of our shelters are not tracking availability here, but they have a way for you to get a hold of them. So, and if you know there's only one or two beds available, probably good to call right shelters get busy and updating this is more a daily task than an hourly task, but you can see that information if you want more information like you can click on the link and it doesn't take you to their website but it does take you through a little bit of a page that has everything I know about the shelter and things like what gender is served and the types of households so here we have singles and couples without children. Oh, no sex offenders. Well that's a bummer, not because they don't want to but because of the location, doesn't allow that on site that the Veterans Home so it just gives you. Oh, they've got showers on site, what type of mental health supports well



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coordinated that way so it's just a handy tool to find out a little bit about a shelter. And the yeah and basically it's not all shelters. But, but I do have a list of all shelters I know about. It's right here on this link, it's kind of hidden but a list of all known shelter sites, and that dumps you into my list of everybody that's out there, these are these are ones that want to be listed on the website or not, it's everybody. And, and you can look at things that are in development like we talked about a couple sites that are hopefully coming online Bethlehem Baptist is coming soon in Shiloh, so a good place to walk around and look at things if you're looking for what's out there. As always, let me know things that are wrong or shelters I somehow haven't heard of. Thanks.

Al Ratcliffe

You have some link with one one on this question was do you have, have you established a link between 211 and this information.

Gerrit Nyland

They know about it. So, yeah, they it's something they reference when they're looking for shelter. That's your question.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Garrett that's an awesome resource. So we've got just a few minutes left before will shift to the planning for next week's meeting. Anybody have any items for the good order.

Benjamin

Rob This is Julian. Hello, good morning, good to see everyone here I just put in the chat box everyone, our regular announcement for the next meeting in Pierce County, accessible communities Advisory Committee. We can help fund accessibility projects so wherever there's overlap in these subject matter areas. You know, it's quite possible we can help out and we do have actually a deadline. Now, which is kind of twice a year. April 15, or mid April, which is the direction we got from the accessible committee subcommittee of the Governance Committee on disability issues and appointment. So there's that kind of deadline going around but the ACA see in Pierce County, its next meeting is March 9 So I invite all of you to attend you can express your interest to attend by emailing me. Thank you very much.

Rob Huff

Sherry I see you have your hand up.

Sherri Jensen

No, I was still polite, less than I can use all these functions. So, as everybody knows our two inclement weather shelters are set to close on the 28th. We have about 20 really wonderful solid nonprofit workers we provided training. James has lent one of his staff members to put together some curriculum for training and just as we are meeting with all of our residents to create transition plans we want to



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ensure that our 20 nonprofit workers go into employment so if anybody is in need of workers, please let me know we're happy to direct refer trainings we're providing de escalation trauma informed care. These have been some really solid people and I would hate to see them unemployed so if you have any need for homeless outreach workers or shelter workers or any frontline staff, please email me directly.

Rob Huff

Thanks, Sherry. Carolyn I see your hand up.

Carolyn Reed

Um, yeah, we first of all I want to apologize we had our training for volunteers last Tuesday and I didn't put out the right link and time. Except, like 20 minutes before Theresa was able to do that. So anybody that had people sign up for that or Next one is March 16 it'll be homelessness 101 will be offered again, and also substance use disorders and motivational interviewing. So I'll send out you know little prompter on the general email at that time. The other thing is we're trying to keep this one 10th of 1% in front of the county. I'm super happy to hear that Tacoma is considering it, and the county needs to continue to consider it too, because we, if we're going to house people we need revenue. And we're trying to put a little brochure together and I need a picture of someone that's been housed in a one or two sentence quote of how useful that was for them to be housed so if someone could send me a picture and a quote, they'll get in our brochure, and I'm happy to share the brochure if they have any reservations about that. And we're also keeping a list of those that are willing to give a three minute talk to the county council on supporting dealing with the housing and getting revenue for housing, and if anybody's interested in supporting that vigil, we'd appreciate your name, and we can even tell you what to say if you'd like, but you can also, you know, come up with your own support for for getting revenue for housing.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Carolyn. Anybody else with anything for the good of the order before we close up the regular part of the meeting. Okay, Well thank you everybody for your time and attention and energy this morning and wishing you a happy weekend. Those of us who want to work on planning for next week's meeting. We'll take about a five minute break and then come back to talk through the agenda. Thanks a lot, everybody. Have a good weekend.