



Coalition to End Homelessness Provider Meeting - Friday, March 5th, 2021

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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SPEAKERS

Julian Wheeler, Brandon, colin, Kenny Coble, Gerrit Nyland, Kevin Glackin-Coley, Abril, Sara Irish, Carolyn Reed, Rob Huff, Theresa Power-Drutis, Sarah Rumbaugh, Michelle, Reanna Bettencourt, ChiQuata Elder, Rosemary Powers, Maureen Howard, Colin DeForest, Carmen Gilmore, Al Ratcliffe, Reverend Boyce, Tiegan Tidball, Janet Runbeck, Courtney Chandler, Jeff Rogers, Linda Stewart

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Rosemary Powers

good morning everyone. I was thinking about our work and the work ahead. And the word that came to me this morning was persistence, and I want to put it in a brief very brief context. This is National Women's History Month where we find out all kinds of wonderful things women have done over the years, but I'm harkening back to the only thing I was taught about women's history in school was that women worked hard to get the vote. And so, last year. 2020 was 100 year anniversary of when the 19th amendment was passed by the Congress. but the context and why I use it for this word persistence is that in 1848, the women's Seneca Falls convention, there was a movement to try to get women to vote and 72, years later, it was achieved at least for white women. It didn't really happen for women of color it's a little later on. And now we're in the context where we're again having to fight for the right to vote for everybody. So, persistence. In the face of continuing odds isn't really important. I don't know what you call it, commitment, goal, active action. I mean, our heads and our hearts, keep on going even when we're thinking I don't know if I can send one more message to my legislator. Anyway, so that's my message this morning to Senator us and for anyone who's new, one of the things we do at this point in the meeting is to let you all know that this is an open table, we have, I think about 600 people on the mailing list, and between 40 and 60 or 80 people who come on Fridays. It's been a lot of folks who are providers of social services but also increasingly numbers of people who are joining us in that work of persistence. So I'd like to invite if anyone is new today or returning after being away for a while, to just let us know you're here, unmute yourself and say your name and if you're related to an organization



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mentioned that it's not a time for hearing a lot about you but we do want to network with you for the issues that you are being persistent about so anyone may start.

Courtney Chandler

Um, can you hear me. Yes. Okay, cool. My name is Courtney Chandler I am the new coordinate entry Program Manager at associated ministries, so I just started last week I'm super excited to be here. Glad to join you guys today and I'm hoping to get to know a lot of you, pretty soon.

Rosemary Powers

Great Courtney Lee wonderful to have you.

Carmen Gilmore

Hello, I can go next. My name is Carmen Gilmore, and I'm from Tacoma public libraries have to come and branch.

Rosemary Powers

Herman wonderful we really need your work to.

Michelle

Good morning, my name is Michelle and I am from the Swayze branch of Tacoma Public Library.

Rosemary Powers

Excellent. welcome librarians.

Michelle

Thanks,

Rosemary Powers

Michelle. Well welcome, everyone, and if you're new and didn't get in on this part of it and you'd like to network with us just put your name in the chat, and what you're interested in, and we'll have that information as we watch that throughout the meeting. So, Back to you, Rob.

Rob Huff

Thank you, rosemary. So our next item on the agenda is our regular standing item of this week on the streets. I don't have anybody specifically assigned to offer any updates this week but I did want to just open it up to the floor, to see if any of the outreach workers are those who are doing direct contact with with folks who are currently on the street had any updates of what's changed this week.

Reverend Boyce

Well I guess I'll jump in there. The 38 in G encampment has grown a little bit. For the most part, they've all said, and when the city comes with a piece paper will move. And the city hasn't done that yet. It is anticipated. For the most part, they're probably going to head down to 34th and Pacific encampment



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and move in there. There is a lot of room down there. That particular site does have a garbage pile that is taller than I am. So that's another problem. So we'll see what happens and hoping to make a trip down to 34th and Pacific sight today to kind of look it over. That's about it.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jeffrey. Yeah, Maureen,

Maureen Howard

I, this is the social media Street. And I'm not sure how many of you follow different homeless related social media sites, but I think that's something that we need to look at a little bit, and have some helpful messages, ready to post. And so if anybody wants to spend some time on that, let me know. I've seen a couple of troubling I don't follow a whole lot but on the ones I do like just a huge amount of energy going into someone who's got a 60 day notice which is illegal the seller is the owner is selling it's probably illegal. Notice to, you know, terminate the tenancy, although that's a call for, for the lawyers, but just a huge amount of energy but not a lot of really helpful advice. And so this particular person is like planning to move to their car with their children, I mean that's that's all they can see kind of stuff. And then another one were people who had recently been homeless for giving advice about for people who were homeless to move to the campus, walk into a park, you know, so I just think that that's a street we maybe haven't thought of as a street. So, and it seems to have a lot of paths.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Maureen especially as the at least the current deadline for the eviction moratorium comes at us quickly here at the end of March, I know there's talk about that extending and I'm sure you're going to talk more about that later today Maureen but there is going to be a lot of concern in that arena. Does anybody else have any updates from what's happening on the street. All right, I am not hearing that. So, if there, if anybody else does have anything, please feel free to put things into the chat. As a reminder, we do retain the chat. Each week, and we kind of use that as a repository of information that we can pass along later so if you have anything that you want to share with the larger group, that's a great place to do it, if there's not an opportunity to do it during the meeting itself. So with that in mind, I think we'll move on to the first presentation in our agenda. And I'd like to invite chikwawa elder from the city of Tacoma, to talk about the rental housing code updates that have been proposed and were presented to the city council in late February so cioccolato, are you ready to do that.

ChiQuata Elder

I am. Thank you. Can you guys hear me.

Rob Huff

We sure can. And chipolata I do have that, that PDF document to share. So, whenever you're ready. I can do that.

ChiQuata Elder



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I apologize I was having some computer issues so I'm doing this on my phone so I don't know, probably not really know how to do this. Again, thank you guys for allowing me to have time on your agenda, I'm chipata elder, and I'm the landlord tenant coordinator for the city of Tacoma. And today I'm here to present some proposals. As you guys may know that the city of Tacoma has our own rental housing code which is in addition to the city, the state of Washington's residential landlord tenant act. So, our rental housing code went into effect in February, 2019. And so, as it's come along whatever we're doing some assessments of the, the rental housing code in addition to keeping up with the trends and things that are happening with the housing market. The homelessness in Tacoma. And so we've made some proposed changes to, to our rental housing code that would have some additional protections, particularly for tenants that would help. Hopefully alleviate some of the homelessness issue that we're having. So, right, we can put the form up if you want to know. Sure. So these were just proposed changes that we can do to council there's nothing set in stone. We will be doing some outreach, getting input and everything on the proposed changes and then going back to Council and get direction from them on which one of these proposed changes that they want to see in the rental housing code, and make to make a priority. So the first one, you would see is that you see is like just cause eviction so to come up with implement our own just cause eviction. We do know that 1236 is going through the state right now, which would be a statewide. Just cause eviction. And then also 5160, will that will put restrictions on certain types of evictions through the end of the emergency state of emergency, that the governor has. So right now we're just waiting, pretty much to see what happens with that before we decide to move forward with implementing a just cause eviction. Another thing that we're looking for looking to do. And this one may be particularly interested. This group might be particularly interested in is shared housing. As you guys know, shared housing is a very essential part, and has become the only option for a lot of vulnerable populations, for a number of reasons. But what we're seeing is that there's not really any structure around it. So, we find people living in uninhabitable spaces, we find people being evicted not following the proper steps. We find where there is over occupancy so the neighborhood, the integrity of the neighborhoods are affected. So we're looking to put some kind of structures around those. And then the next thing is late fees. What we tend to find is, since the state law change with the 14 day pay or vacate notice. Back in 2020, a lot of landlords that weren't that was given grace periods stopped giving grace periods and then a lot of them were going to be unable to give late fees on the second day, and then per day charges. But they don't seem to go after the tenants for that money until it's time for a tenant to move. And so what we're finding is a lot of people have surprises like they owe these ladies their current on their rent they go to move out. And then they can't find another place to live because the landlord springs a four or \$5,000 late fee charge on them, that has stemmed back like two or three years. Some other jurisdictions have put restrictions on how much late fees, a landlord could charge. We're not looking to do anything like that we're just trying to figure out some ways to make it so that landlords are able to do their own business have their late fees and everything but at the same time, make it to where it's not a barrier at the end when someone is trying to move out and look for new housing. And then the next one I can't even see what. Okay. Oh, notice that I'm sorry, it's so small. Notice of Proposed notice of intent to sell for low income housing, as you guys are all aware. The Tiki apartment incident happened a lot of those tenants weren't aware that the units were was selling so that put them in a situation that a lot of people had to react in a lot of a very short period of time, but then also when you, when the city of Tacoma did our rental housing code because of



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the way things are set up selling other property is not under the rental housing code as a reason for change your views or anything like that. So what we're wanting to do is. Nope. Excuse me, make it mandatory that if somebody is going to sell a property that has like five units or more, that is housing low income people that they have to notify the city and then they have to notify the tenants that they're planning to sell and my thought around this, is that it will give us the opportunity to be able to work with these tenants to help them figure out what resources are out there for them, help them understand the state law and the city's rental housing code, as far as it comes to the installment payments so that they can have a way to know that they can, they're able to get into another unit without having to come up with all the money up front, and those things so it's just a win win situation for everyone. If we know when these low income housing houses are going to be sold. And what we're finding is that investors are coming into Tacoma, because the market is hot, and they are purchasing properties that have traditionally housed low income people so this could be an issue. And then the last one is restricting evictions for landlords who don't have the proper business license. So a number of jurisdictions do this in the state of Washington. But then, like under some of their codes, but then it's very common across the country and my thought behind this is, if you're running a business in the city of Tacoma we required a business license. If you have those tools. If you have a business license, then we know you have all the tools and you're doing everything that you're supposed to because it requires you to have information on occupancy and all of this stuff so if you don't have it. If you don't have a business license, it may be that you're not operating the way that you should, and it's just another incentive for people to get their business license. It wouldn't necessarily stop them from getting a, an eviction, but the judge could hold off on it until they get their business license, which is what they do in other jurisdictions. So that's what I have. As far as the proposed changes. We will be doing some outreach. And as you guys can see on the form that Robert sliding up those were the arguments that I made to counsel as to why these things, these protections may be needed the updates to the code, what we will be doing is, we'll have a stakeholders group, and we'll be working with our stakeholders, stakeholders group like we did with our rental housing code when we created that. And then we'll also be having community events for people to be able to get comments and and tell stories and things like that. So, we do plan to have two people from the housing, excuse me the Homeless Coalition on our stakeholders team so they will be giving you guys updates and things like that but there's also going to implore you guys to talk about different situations they can bring them back to us, but then we also have a website that will be set up for people to send in comments and questions and things like that. So that's pretty much all I have right now so I'm open to questions.

Rob Huff

Okay. And let me stop sharing this so we can all see each other. And I'm sure. Thank you to quad I'm sure there will be questions and I see some hands being raised now So Sarah I see your hand up.

Sara Irish

I want to know at that event, it also is gonna be facilitated in other languages and if your website and materials are already translated to.

ChiQuata Elder



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You said well the the events be translated into other languages.

Sara Irish

Yeah, so people also want to speak English can participate and tell their stories and issues that they're having with the landlords.

ChiQuata Elder

Yeah we in the. We can do that and we, we are still working on our events and in the past when we did the rental housing code one we did have one that was dedicated to people that spoke Spanish when we did it we went to, we had Pacific Islanders where we had translators and stuff, when we had individualized meaning so we haven't set up individualized ones we're going to have big group ones but yes we can have translation available.

Sara Irish

And just as another question are you planning to advertise those in the other languages because I. There is a lot of people that have been asking a lot of questions. And I don't know what to refer them, I know that they call couple times to your office, and because there is no language accessibility, they just hang up and go deal with their problems, the worst that they can.

ChiQuata Elder

And we, the city is in the process of we have update it. Like, if you go onto our website, there's a way to translate the, the city's website into other languages, we are working on like all of our printed materials being in other languages especially are written into coma package. But when they call the city, we do have a translation line so if they're calling 311. They should be able to get them on with a language line person and if they're not, they need to be sending in a complaint that that's not happening because we do have language services through the city of Tacoma. Through our 311 service.

Rob Huff

Thank you. Thank you, that helps Sarah. Okay,

Sara Irish

good. I didn't know I didn't know any of that and I think also needs to be advertised because, you know, the 311 i, this is the first time I hear that they have X language access to other people. But thank you for the information.

ChiQuata Elder

And if you still have problems with that, you can contact me and I can put you in touch with someone that might be able to help you, but 311 should be able to use language services when people call.

Kenny Coble

Okay, can you. Sorry to jump in on just one more thing to add, Sarah thanks for bringing that up. um, the events that we host in April, to get feedback from people will be bilingual. So there'll be an English



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and Spanish in real time, so people can both listen to the meeting in Spanish, and if they would like to provide feedback. We can have it translated for the English speakers who would like to understand or listen in to the Spanish speakers. So, we have some work to do for languages other than Spanish and English. But we can start with there.

ChiQuata Elder

Thank you, Kenny, that's the I have an amazing team like so Kenny is the bomb and he helps keep me on track and Moreno to answer your question, we don't have an April event but we will keep you guys updated and our website will be updated with those events. So it's the city of tacoma.org, forward slash rental housing code and Kenny can put that in the chat for us. And so we'll have all of those dates and events coming up really soon once we've solidified those dates,

Kenny Coble

and I'll be here to announce it at this group the second we have them.

Rob Huff

Perfect. So I see Teresa's hand up and then now.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Hi Takata, and Kenny it's great to have you both here. Good to see you. I heard what you said about the shared housing and I have a question in terms of affordability. One of the problems we have especially when we're trying to find people who will develop some sorrows, which is one of the main keys I think to getting us out of homelessness is affordable single room occupancy. The Washington unrelated occupancy limits to come is not that great, there are some many cities in Washington state who say whoever lives in a house that's a family, we have this limit of six. So I hope the city's idea isn't just to make it more restrictive and how we can run those, and maybe consider opening that up so that we can have more people who are unrelated living under the same roof.

ChiQuata Elder

I'm sorry, what was your name again.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Teresa power tortoise.

ChiQuata Elder

Oh, I know you buy everything else I just now putting a face to it I've known you for years. Teresa, no we're not trying to be more restrictive but also you have to understand that. We're also trying to preserve the integrity of neighborhoods because we get a lot of complaints with, like when they have too many people in a single family home or that's occupied a single family zone that single family home sometimes like the parking and the traffic and stuff like that so I understand what you're saying but then you get when you relax that sometimes like I had a landlord. Call me not too long ago. And she had a three bedroom house and she had 15 people in it. So, that's like, and they're living in spaces that are



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uninhabitable, things like that. So those are the things that we're trying to avoid when we're putting a little bit of structure around it so we're not trying to make it to where people can't do it or become too restrictive, but we're not

Theresa Power-Drutis

against that and just think there's a big distance between six people period and 15 people in a three bedroom home. So, I'm saying, we could do better on that, and the fact that I don't believe the city or county or state or federal government are here to preserve people's home values. I think we need to focus on shelter and people. So sometimes that's going to make people uncomfortable just like having a bunch of tents in my on my street is uncomfortable. I think we need to get over some of this and I don't want to see our city, make it harder for people who are trying to shelter people. So there's a balance there and I guess you're struggling with it but I'm trying to make you struggle with it a little harder. Thank you.

Al Ratcliffe

Well, good morning Chicago. There's an old issue that isn't quite what we're talking about, but it will launch in rental code. And that is the mandating that landlords accept a universal background check, rather than requiring repeated repeated repeated background checks as people seek out. Is there any chance of trying to include that in the city's rent rental code mandating it not just permitted, because nobody's using it since it's not required.

ChiQuata Elder

Yeah, no, that's not that mean Was that something that we could look at or whatever but that hasn't been something that we have thought about because that's not the way we look at it is the kind of complaints and the kind of concerns that we get and we see. And I can tell you that that's not something that has come across my desk, a lot. I've probably heard it once or twice, once or twice when the state implemented it a couple of years ago, years ago, but it doesn't come across my desk and so like as we're looking at the things that is affecting housing and making people homeless and stuff. We kind of are going by what we're hearing but if that's something that you're hearing, and it's a concern for you, you can always put it out there and we can look into that because that's not something that I hear a lot of.

Al Ratcliffe

I just put it out there Chicana.

ChiQuata Elder

Okay. Yeah, we can look into that.

Rob Huff

Sarah. Do you have your hand up.

Sarah Rumbaugh



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Um yeah I, um, I've been working on the home in Tacoma project and so we're looking at trying to find ways to provide more housing and single family zones and the, what you're talking about kind of talks a lot about racial equity and multi generational families, a lot of times live in one house and I'm concerned as we're trying to look at trying to add racial equity to our, our city that that I think your proposal in some way is very. I'm concerned about how it looks. So I think like it would be great to have more information on how you're looking at, who's being asked to maybe, who's getting a complaint, and what part of the city it is and things like that.

ChiQuata Elder

So, believe me, we're looking at this through a racial lens, when we're talking about when we're looking at shared housing, we know that people that are using the shared housing, are the vulnerable population. It is the mostly like black people are more affected by it because of the criminal justice systems and how they're set up so when they're coming out of prison they're having to use this type of housing. So we're not looking to restrict it what I want us to do is make it so that these people aren't forced into homelessness because a lot of the landlord or housing providers who are doing this type of work, think that they don't have to follow the eviction laws, they think that they can overcrowd, they think that they can put a person in an attic that does not have proper egress, they can put someone under the stairs, that doesn't have like, you know, is not a safe habitable place but then also. Those are the types of things that we're looking at, or if you're a housing provider and you have a master lease, and you suddenly lead to all these other people, and you're not doing what you're supposed to do with the, with the owner of the property but these people are meeting their obligations with you, and you're being evicted. Sometimes these people don't even know that they're in danger of losing their house, because there's no structure for a housing provider to tell the people that they're subletting to that they're in an eviction process so those are the types of things that we're looking that we're not looking to say, you can't do it, or you can't do it in this type of structure because it's being done already. It is already being done it's been done for years, but it's more popular now because of the way the housing market is in Tacoma. So we just want to make it to where people are living in safe structures, and then also that people aren't being forced into homelessness because someone is not following the laws, or it gets. There's a dangerous situation and we have this deema property uninhabitable and now you have 15 people that are living in a property that have been paying their rent that are forced onto the street because someone overcrowded a building or had been sleeping in spaces that weren't habitable so we are looking at this from a racial equity lens.

Rob Huff

I see a girl with her hand up and then Sarah.

Abril

Hi, my name is Abril, and I'm with Karis health. I'm with Tyrese house foundation. I have a question about that that the client has brought forward. If you are in housing, and you. We have a complex that is that is being affected, that is asking people to downsize in the middle of the pound pandemic. So like if you are in a three bedroom and say they have said you're now only eligible for two bedroom. They're having them move like in a 30 day period, is that something that is right or is that something that does



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not sound right. No, that, that is, those are the like if they're on subsidized housing or whatever, those would be the, those are that's me. Yeah, those are the Tacoma Housing Authority. Those are the HUD regulations as far as like, how far we don't have any authority over that those are the federal government's right requirements so the city wouldn't have any authority over that so I can't speak to that, unfortunately, and it does carry on because of because of their voucher size, people do have to go into smaller units based on what their voucher is and what the Housing Authority is willing to pay. So that is something that the city wouldn't have control over that would be the Housing Authority. Okay, I appreciate that. Thank you.

ChiQuata Elder

You're welcome.

Sara Irish

So my question is for the immigrant and refugee communities is the city willing to do some kind of education about how they're ruling and they have that ruling for the cities to determine how many people live in their houses and what is the consequences. A lot of people coming from other countries they don't have those, the sense of it and they're easy to take advantage by like you mentioned landlords, don't put people in even know very safest basis. So there is a program or something that you guys willing to create about the rights of the tenants in situations like that so they can learn and they won't become a big them.

ChiQuata Elder

The city of Tacoma. We do plan to do a lot of education and outreach this year. A lot of people on this call that are familiar with me know that I've been running the landlord tenant program for like 12 plus years and it's just been me. So we've recently hired someone to help with the day to day phone call so that I can do a lot more of the policy work and then the training and the training is been on my list of things to do so we are going to be working with our commission on immigrants and refugees, that's in the city of Tacoma, and then different organizations so that we can get landlord tenant training out to these different communities so that they can know the rights and responsibilities that they have. While living inside the city limits of Tacoma, and the things that are available to them, whether that's code enforcement fair housing discrimination, things like that, that landlord tenant laws, we are going to be doing a lot of education and outreach this year to ensure that all of the residents of Tacoma know their rights and responsibilities. Whether you're a housing provider or whether you are a tenant. That's our goal for this year.

Sara Irish

Thank you.

ChiQuata Elder

You're welcome.

Rob Huff



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So, any other questions if you posted one I see Marines hand up. You're muted morning

Maureen Howard

to try and keep me respectful to quota thanks for me.

ChiQuata Elder

I'm trying to be respectful to me.

Maureen Howard

Absolutely. Every bit everybody.

ChiQuata Elder

I thought you loved me.

Maureen Howard

And I'm delighted that you've got another person in your office. So one of the things that I just want to urge you to keep in mind as you're preparing educational and outreach materials and training materials, is to have somebody take a literacy level review of these materials. So, one point in my life I taught Adult Basic Ed, and we targeted fifth grade reading levels. And that, that means simple structures no involved clauses and, you know, as many phrases as you can add on and also to be conscious of the fact that a lot of folks who are vulnerable don't have the same access to vision care that some of us do. And so we, you know, it can't be nine point font and fancy scripts and they don't have the same internet access so things can't dance. You know, all that sort of thing is that this really needs to be, I mean you can do as many versions as you want, but I'm asking for a version that people can use who have a low letto level of literacy, who have probably some vision problems, and who don't have decent Internet bandwidth.

ChiQuata Elder

Thank you, Marie. Thank you. I try, it's funny because I try to think about that, even as we're doing like the intake forms and different things like that. And so, the new person that I that we hired, which is Ashley Duckworth was coming from. to come with pro bono. She's great. So on one of the questions she asked me she was like, Well, is there do you think that there's a way to rephrase that. And I was like, I thought I had it at the lowest level that it could be, but it's good to always think of things that way and I tried to do that and so thank you for bringing that up so that we can always be cautious of that, and then maybe do it in a different way some way that we weren't thinking of. But that is a priority of mine, and I do know that everybody doesn't understand legal jargon and things like that so I try to bring it down to a level where I think that people will understand but we can always do better and thank you for reminding us of that.

Al Ratcliffe

Dakota Microsoft Word has the ability to read and written document for read level, you might want to check that out with, with your Microsoft Word program.



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ChiQuata Elder

Okay, thank you.

Rob Huff

All right. We have time for one last question if folks haven't.

Kenny Coble

Well, I want to ask you a quick question.

Rob Huff

Yeah, go ahead.

ChiQuata Elder

Um, Kenny.

Kenny Coble

I think what I'm seeing there's so much in the chat which. Our team is going to definitely take and look at everything so please put as much feedback in there as you want. But your credit, it's clear that a lot of people want to stay involved, can you just say again, how people can send you their feedback and. Am I right, that you have a stakeholder group did you talk to that yet. And if this group is going to have a role in that.

ChiQuata Elder

Yes We Can you guys still see me. Nope. Oh we hear you,

Rob Huff

we still hear you. There we go. Um,

ChiQuata Elder

we do have a stakeholders group, and I have asked a couple of members from your team to me from this group to be on the stakeholders group so there'll be bringing you guys back a bunch of information. As we move forward. And then the city has a dedicated website that we are using for for emails, so that you guys could. And I have to find the email address, sorry. Um, so that you guys can do us give us feedback. Kenny did I give you an email address yesterday,

Kenny Coble

I forget what it is it's something like rental housing, isn't it, or I forget what it is.

Rob Huff

I will click on that is the link on that website that you just posted as well Kenny



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ChiQuata Elder

it in with that, that link is on the website, yes.

Kenny Coble

Okay, I'll find it and post it in the chat.

ChiQuata Elder

Thank you I'm sorry to say

Kenny Coble

it's Tacoma r hc at City of Tacoma dot o RG.

Rob Huff

Awesome. Well thank you very much for presenting the update to kuata, and it's great to see you again. And I hope we have some folks from the group who will be involved in helping inform us moving forward and. Thank you.

ChiQuata Elder

I do have a question. So, as Kenny said that we will be going through your chat questions, and getting answers and stuff to that kid you may know the answer to this what is the best way for us to get that information back to you guys.

Rob Huff

Actually if there are enough questions that there's kind of like a little FAQ or something in a document you can always email it to me. We can put posted on our website at Pc homeless.org,

ChiQuata Elder

because I do want to get all the questions answered and I don't want you guys to think that we're not you know it's not important or it's not a value. So if there are a number of questions that we didn't see that weren't answered, asked in here or answered in here, then we would like to get that information back to you guys in the most effective way. So, we can do that. Okay, okay. And thank you guys so much for allowing us to have time on your agenda.

Rob Huff

Thank you for making time to be here.

ChiQuata Elder

Thank you.

Rob Huff



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All right, so the next item on our agenda is an update on the purple big project. So, Brandon I saw you were in attendance. Are you ready to talk with us about that.

Brandon

Hey, yeah, I am ready. I'm having a little bit of trouble with my PowerPoint but my colleague Eris a thing is also on here and I think she'll be able to share her screen and then I can, I can speak, while she was sharing her screen.

Rob Huff

Okay, I will make her a co host so that she can share. Thank you. And she should have that ability now.

Okay, great. Thank you so much, Robin areas for helping with that just the last minute page unresponsive thing. So, yeah, thanks for allowing me the opportunity to come back and provide an update about the Purple Bag pilot project and thanks to the couple of folks from the coalition that I've reached out to check in, over the last couple of weeks. Um, so yeah I'm Brandon I work for the city's passive open space program which is housed under environmental services, and our small team originally got involved because we manage natural areas city city on natural areas and over 75% of those easily are home to unsheltered persons. And, you know, there are very real human and environmental impacts associated with that. So, um, let's see if you could progress to the next slide. So, I showed this slide last time and I'll move through the impact slides pretty quickly because I know you guys are more interested in the results. But you can see here, these are all of our open space properties and stormwater facilities with either continuously or occasionally occupied encampments, there is a correlation between, you know, more encampments occurring in lower opportunity areas generally. Next slide. Alright, so some of those environmental impacts. They're, they're pretty extreme, including damage to vegetation and lots of denuded steep slopes and undercut trees we often see human waste, which can carry bacteria as well as lots and lots of garbage. Next slide please. So just to give a little bit more of an idea about what that looks like. So, you see an under cat tree on the left, someone was seeking shelter. Underneath that tree, and then on the right. There's an air conditioning unit which has the potential to leak Freon, we see lots and lots of gas powered equipment out on these sites that can leak oils into the watershed. Next slide. These photos were about taking that Schuster slope where there's quite a substantial encampment as I'm sure many of you are aware, you have some garbage cascading into a stream and cleaning supplies use that a storm water outflow. Next slide. So with all that in mind, and more. We wanted to start this project out, and the goal is to test out regular waste pickup service at homeless encampments in order to reduce the harmful impacts of improperly disposed waste and improve sanitation and equipment, during a pandemic event. Next slide. So we feel this project aligns very well with the City of Tacoma has equity goals. Certainly, it is in support of human rights equitable service delivery and purposeful engagement. Next slide. It also feel it aligns well with what the community is looking for right so as, again I'm sure you all are well aware homelessness ranks very high on the list of issues people are concerned about in Tacoma. According to this 2020 Community Survey. Next slide. So it took several steps in order to implement this project collaboratively, we started with the city's three on one call center, we informed 311 operators about the



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bag project, knowing that they regularly receive calls about homelessness and garbage. We made clear that any bags found by community members outside of the pilot site should be documented via 311. Next we talked with MCs, and our main ask to NCS was that they assist with outreach during the time of bag distribution at the pilot site. We also worked with the city's emergency met. Excuse me. Emergency Management Department, and they connected us with masks and hand sanitizer, which were acquired through the cares act. At that point we were ready to begin distribution. So in December of last year, when we started, passing out the bags, every Thursday. And then we directed pickup by the third party cleanup contractor, every Friday. And that was utilizing an existing citywide cleanup contract data sent from that contractor every Friday. And we'll share some additional details in the next slide about that. And finally we just want to share information with the larger community through events such as this, or feedback.

So by week 12. Now we're out the good stuff by week 12 we had collected enough data to reasonably conclude that purple bags were working. They're being used by most folks living at the pilot site. Excuse me. Of course I get a phone call. They're being used by most folks at the pilot site. And we had passed out 395 purple bags and gotten 281 back for a 71% return rate which honestly exceeded our expectations. Over 19,000 bags. We're sorry over 19,000 pounds of garbage were, were ultimately picked up by the end of week 12.

So, the status quo for most land managers is a reactive type of cleanup right so those reactive cleanups they're very expensive because the trash and environmental impacts they compound over time. And they also take several days, especially in natural areas that are difficult to access such as steep slopes. By comparison, we found purple bags, take about two hours for the contractor to pick up from the site and then drop off at the landfill. And it's a little bit difficult to compare these two cleanup methods is reactive cleanup and proactive purple bags, apples to apples, but you know at this pilot site we've had both types of cleanups now, and the numbers do reflect that this proactive purple bags approach was more cost effective. I think ultimately it's going to depend on how long the Purple Bag program would run at each individual site though. So that pilot project has been really successful overall but there has also been some trial and error and some adjustments made along the way. One issue that we had early on was bags being ripped open. So, the campers on site, they would report that non resident folks, they would walk by and see a big pile of bags and they, they would start digging through, and that created a big mess and a couple of instances. So we talked to the folks living on site and they thought it would be better to just leave bags right outside their individual camps. And so that's what we did. We also distributed bags to individual camps. We initially asked folks if they had any use for a sharps container everybody said no but we did find sharps around the site so we might consider distributing sharps containers, just leaving some out in the future anyways. At the end of 12 weeks, nearly everyone had actually left the site. So that's a really important piece of this, and we started with about one dozen people on say, and they were about one to three. By the end of week 12, it's difficult to say for sure right because people are moving in and out, and is a dynamic situation. So, you know Where did everybody go. Several were connected with housing through ongoing outreach by the



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NCS hot team. The one coordinator that's been out there with us, most of the time she agrees that there is potential to build bridges through this program, which may help move more people into housing, but we just at this point don't really have a big enough sample size to say, that was a primary driver at this pilot site. Someplace folks likely shifted off the city property just due to our increased presence. And I feel fairly confident saying that because, as we saw the number of people on the city property dwindle. We saw an increase on the adjacent, tribal, and private property which, you know, it looks like one continuous natural area. Making sure other solid waste providers aren't picking up and confusing data is something to keep in mind we, we almost had a situation there but we're able to resolve that. Okay. So in terms of the next steps we are looking forward to transitioning to the next stage of purple bags. We have heard lots of strong community support for program expansion. And the, we do want to expand. So that expansion is going to be coordinated by a new homeless outreach team staffer that will be housed at environmental services, and they will have increased capacity that it will be squarely their job to work on these issues. We also want to explore additional opportunities to work with unsheltered persons as environmental services, and to work more with networks such as the coalition. Finally, once the state has been abandoned, we must begin ecological restoration, so many abandoned and common areas have disturbed and compacted soils vegetation has been stripped like in some of the photos I showed earlier. And we just can't leave it like that right because there are very real implications for slope stability and environmental function. So, The, let's see. Next slide please. So this camp is at the pilot site, it was abandoned. And it's located on a very steep slope, that's been denuded, there were large trees undercut just out of frame, the soil was shifting and the slope was failing in one area. Next slide please. So the goal of the program that I work under is to restore these disturbed natural areas.

So in this case in erosion control blanket was applied to a steep slope and planted through. We had over 700 majority evergreen and deep rooted plants installed, you know, typically, this type of work occurs after invasive species control, like if we were taking out blackberry or English IV but we are performing this more and more after encampment associated events. So this is definitely very much relevant to environmental services. This is really difficult work, and fortunately we have the FCC crews that are up to the task so these are AmeriCorps members and you can see them here rappelling down the steep slope and sticking in that blanket. So, thank you for listening, everybody. We are hopeful that purple bags will continue to improve sanitation for homeless community members and continue to limit environmental impacts. We fully acknowledge that on its own this program will not solve homelessness. It needs to be part of innovative and collaborative efforts with other city departments and the larger community, but we do feel this is something that we have an opportunity to contribute to as environmental services providers that I'll take any questions.

Rob Huff

Great. Thank you very much, Brandon I see there's a number of questions that have popped up in chat Can, can you see those or would you like me to kind of run through those.



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I can see where do these begin there's a lot of.

Rob Huff

Yeah, there's been a lot of chat.

Brandon

See,

Rob Huff

so I think it starts with calling at about 948, asking about the next proactive, step, step that can be taken. And yeah, Next step, yeah. Okay,

so. So I think the next proactive step will be expansion to other sites and exactly what that looks like. I think we're still working out. So, I also want to mention that this is happening at the same time as NCS is also undertaking efforts to improve sanitation conditions. We are working only on environmental services managed areas. And so that only includes natural areas like steep slopes and wetlands where there might not be space for like a dumpster or a bin, there might not be a place for the garbage truck to pull off and pick that up. And so that's where the bags come in handy right and that's the same, that's a similar model that's been used by Seattle and Portland and other municipalities in natural areas. I can't speak to the efforts that MCs is putting forth but I do, I can't speak to those details but I believe they include the use of receptacles. Let's see. Yes, I agree that the new outreach person should join these meetings. Absolutely. And that's something that we have already talked about and, and intend for them to do. Is there a place for people with lived experience to be trained to help with cleanup.

Brandon

Um,

I hope that there will be in the future I don't believe there is now I know that there's a city council member that is working on a relevant program. I don't know the details for that yet but I believe that the premise is that we would be paying the city would pay and I don't know if it's through the city or through a third party organization but we wouldn't be paying a homeless or unsheltered persons to help clean up. Okay and then I see, well you do the purple bags within encampments and Metro parks. Yeah, that's a really good question. Um, I would like to see that I know there are folks at Metro parks that are also interested. And that is a conversation that has not yet occurred because I think we've all been waiting to see how this pilot plays out and now that it's finishing up, I think we're going to start, those sorts of conversations and hopefully they will be led by this new staffer they'll have increased capacity to help lead those conversations.

Rob Huff



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Thank you, Brandon. So I see Theresa just made a comment and there is anybody else have any comments, they would like to unmute and ask. Yeah, Colin.

Colin DeForest

Just a couple things one. Thank you for presenting that's, that's great, that's really cool work that's going on. And I think just just to follow up on my question about the garbage receptacles. I think the idea would be not to have them. I'm very familiar with, you know, Bayside trails some of the, you know, some of the steep slopes but Rogers school that one site. So obviously not having them in the camps necessarily but having garbages and I know that's hopefully somewhat of what NCS is going to do but I also know that, as you said, Environmental Services has their own process. So it just it's more of the idea of having actual cans, whether it's a 300 gallon one like that was touched about in in nearby properties that can be accessed within those kind of neighborhoods or communities, because the, I mean, and I'm sure you saw this But as you know, using the garbage bags is awesome, but if those garbage bags left next to the tents, it's just a matter of time until the rats, until stuff gets into those are the individuals as you said, so I think it's a great step but it also seems like there should be a next step and it seems like if the, I guess the goal of it, I'm kind of scratching my head exactly understanding what the goal of the pilot was and it was just to see if this group would use the garbage bags and if that's the case then obviously that's awesome because it showed with that 71% which is super high that these individuals I think went a lot less no if given the opportunity these individuals can be successful in a lot of ways if they're giving the same resources that were given right whether that's housing or whether that's garbage cans so to me the natural next step to this is find a way to provide provide actual garbage cans to put the garbage bags, right so i i just want to clarify kind of my point on that. But thank you.

Yeah, thank you. I, I agree that it might make a lot of sense to put out receptacles like like those large. Yeah 500 gallon bins and I think that is a conversation that folks have resisted for a while internally. But I am seeing that start to shift So, hopefully. Yeah, we can continue to work on that with MCs and within the city.

Rob Huff

For that Janet I see the comment about NCS equals neighborhood and Community Services at the city of Goma. Yes,

Brandon

thank you. Sorry for not.

Rob Huff

No.



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Anna ally, I agree. I think that's a really good idea about sharps containers. We did start a conversation with. I'm struggling to remember what the name of the group is right now but we started a conversation with the local group that collects sharps containers, and we ultimately decided not to put a stationary. Collect collection receptacle out because we were about halfway through with the pilot when we started getting more details about, about what that receptacle would look like and by then so many people were moving off site that we thought it might make sense to try that somewhere else where there's a more stable population. And what Yeah, thank you. Angela we will have sharps containers at our sites in the future. Yes, and it was the needle exchange exchange.

Rob Huff

Perfect. So Brandon if you can hang around and folks have additional questions they can put them in the chat. I want to thank you for, for coming to today's meeting and agreeing to give us an update. I know there's been a lot of interest in this topic. So, thank you. Alright, so if I look at my agenda we actually are going to talk for a few minutes about a V Vaccine Education grant, Garrett Are you okay with bumping that so that we can allow the city to do its presentation about homelessness plan. Perfect. So at this time, we'll shift gears and I'll invite Linda Stewart from neighborhoods and Community Services at the City of Tacoma, to talk about the homelessness plan.

Linda Stewart

Hi, good morning, everyone. I'm Linda stewards of neighborhood and community services, and I'm here to provide some updates and deliver the homeless update presentation that we made to City Council on February 23, Rob. I'm just going to make some updates before we share the, the presentation if that's okay. Sure. So in terms of updates.

The city is partnering with a private property owner to establish a hygiene station at South eighth and Yakima Street, as a 30 day pilot program. And that's going to be a highest hygiene station running from today, we're setting it up today and that's going to run through April 7, and the pilot program services will include portable toilets hand washing stations dumpsters and supplies for collecting trash on site evening security that will be from 6pm to 6pm, and then routine daytime monitoring. Next, we've got two, community centers that had been temporary closed temporarily closed for normal operation since the start of the pandemic. those had been activated as temporary warming centers, the Eastside Community Center opened as a warming center in mid October, to provide a temporary bed space. And then we also brought on the nohr point Center at nohr point in. In January, the total number of folks served at the warming Center at Eastside Community Center was 264. And we served 31 folks at nohr point. So those two centers were closed as scheduled on Sunday February 2008, and we successfully transition 57 clients who are currently in both of those locations to other community shelter locations. I want to make sure to mention that the success of these warming centers is directly related to the professionalism and compassion of the layo vocation. Under Sherry Jensen's leadership. They coordinated not only the daily operations and worked with the city to set these up. Sorry someone's driving on my front yard. But all of the volunteers and donations that came flooding into both of these centers are coordinated by Sherry and her team. She also worked directly with many community



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members to address their concerns related to the warming Center Operations. We had a really rough time opening Center at NorthPoint. And, you know, I really commend Sherry wood and her team for really sticking with the plan, because the the the plan has always been to, to make space available for people who need it. And thank you, Sherry. I don't know if you're on the call. But thank you flail is also working with the city on a project where we can employ individuals in our temporary shelter locations to have them trained and unification and trash trash collection basically around the city that came up in the previous conversation, and we'll share those details when the when those details are worked out with the Sherry and her team. The Salvation Army temporary warming center will continue to operate through the end of March, they're serving men over there and with a capacity of 35 beds. And we've had an average of 28 folks, they're staying there on a daily basis over the last week. We've also reopened the temporary shelter at Bethlehem Baptist, and this is also in partnership with Vallejo vocation, that location opened last Sunday. It has a capacity of 30 with an overflow to 40 and the population there is families with children, women and couples. We're also working with Shiloh Baptist to establish a shelter at their location, and we'll share that information broadly when those details are better defined I know Kevin, you had inquired about that earlier this week so I wanted to make sure we mentioned that to the group today. And then, finally, before we start with the slide deck with the departure of our homeless Program Manager Erica is quite a. We're working on bringing in an interim position to help us look at the programs and the services, generally speaking, and and look at the position itself. We want to do this before recruiting for a permanent replacement. That doesn't make any sense to just fill the position as is because we're at a point in time where we we know we need to do things differently. So once the decision is made on the interim hire, we will make sure to share that information with the coalition, but we're also looking to the Coalition for input about shaping the permanent position itself. And then also we're hoping someone will be willing to serve on the interview panels. And then we've also assured that Erica's emails are all forwarded to Alison Griffith, and her telephone, is the calls are also forwarded so this is really seamless if you're emailing Erica, or if you're calling Erica. It just goes directly to Allison, there's no change. And, and we had some initial technical glitches, with making those connections, but those are all all fixed now and those are all forwarded so we figured this would be easier than putting out some, some information for you know for the time being called this person, we're just making it very simple for people to stay in touch with the city around homelessness. So I'll go into the presentation so Rob. I'm going to go off camera, because it's easier for me to see everything and read my notes, if I'm off camera that I'll come back on for questions so on.

Linda Stewart

So, go ahead and put that up there.

Rob Huff

All right, are folks able to see that. Okay.

Okay. So just a little bit of an introduction. So this is a presentation that was made to City Council on February 23. It was designed to outline the city's actions to address homelessness, under the emergency declaration and during the pandemic. And also present a council a framework for what we



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hope will become a five year strategy to address homelessness. So again, this is not a strategy, it's a framework for what we hope to become the strategy, the February 23 recording of the presentation and subsequent council discussion can be viewed on the city's website. But I was invited to present the same information. So I'm going to use the same slide deck. Garrett nylund had requested the slide deck and we sent it to him on the 24th so hopefully it's found its way to the coalition website. And I've adjusted some of my comments and recognition that the February 23 presentation was to our council. And today we're addressing a different group of community stakeholders. So I can take questions along the way or at the conclusion whichever is most convenient for you so what do you think is the best way Rob So I just know what to expect.

Rob Huff

Probably we can just do them as we go through, so that we don't have a big list at the end, and I'll keep an eye on the chat for you.

Okay, yeah, cuz I can't, I won't be able to see the chat. Okay, thanks. So before starting. We want to mention that the city is not only interested in the number of shelter beds we fund, but we are also fully committed to preventing homelessness and supporting efforts to address behavioral health and substance use disorder impacts, and also ensuring that appropriate resources are available and focused on those who need the most delivered in ways that reflect our shared commitments to diversity, equity and inclusion. We're also committed to supporting our provider community with commitments to technical assistance and capacity building. So for example we increased funding in 2020 for the youth and young adult services at beacon Center by 40%, which equals approximately \$325,000. And we also pushed out \$500,000 in digital infrastructure supports to all providers who requested assistance during the pandemic because they had to shift to digital platforms to continue serving clients during the pandemic, we're very focused on using our, our dollars to support our providers and pivoting to meet client needs. So, here we go slide two presentation overview so we're going to review the council's 2017 declaration of emergency on homelessness, and our response today, specifically highlighting our actions, under the emergency declaration before and during COVID, and then provide an overview of the city's draft five year homeless strategy framework. We present this information, while recognizing that everything we've done has not been enough, and that the strategy framework we envision now will need to evolve in ways that we cannot imagine today. So this is going to be an iterative process that hopefully we can all work on together. Slide three. So since 2017, the city has been operating under a public health emergency on homelessness, which was declared by the Council in response to the number of growing encampments in the city and the public health and safety impacts experienced by individuals residing in them, as well as the public health and safety impact in communities adjacent to or neighboring encampment. You may recall that the declaration of emergency was extended several times, and a 2019 City Council adopted the staff recommendation to extend the emergency, adding the metric to operate under the emergency until we have shelter bed capacity for 95% of unsheltered individuals counted in the point in time count for the previous three consecutive years. The declaration of emergency authorizes actions to quickly adapt policy and allocate funding to provide shelter and resources for people living unsheltered into coma, in support of mitigating



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community health and safety risks, arising from the impacts of homelessness. This includes flexibility in the permitting and purchasing processes, as well as waiver of utility for the fees. So for example, we've waived over \$30,000 in utility fees for the setup of emergency shelter sites. Slide four. So under the declaration of emergency the city launched a three phase response plan. This included a focus on three key areas mitigation stabilization and housing. The city originally established a mitigation site in 2017 as a response to an existing large tide flats and campman. Since 2017, our mitigation efforts have focused on outreach and engagement with individuals and encampments through our homeless outreach team and our contracted partners to offer services and transition to shelter or other services. We also deploy the services of third party vendors to collect unwanted litter debris and dumping in and around encampments lots of people dump things, and it around encampments, and then it's blamed on the folks in the encampments current efforts underway include contracting with local businesses for trash collection, including biohazardous waste collection, developing a program to train and employ individuals experiencing homelessness, I mentioned that earlier, and then you heard today about how we're looking to expand the Purple Bag pilot program. We actually deployed two contracts this week, which will improve the biohazardous waste collection. And also, General waste collection in areas around town.

Rob Huff

You heard a couple of questions yeah

Linda Stewart

I can't see that. I can't see.

Rob Huff

No, that's fine.

Linda Stewart

I'll go ahead and stop. Go ahead.

Rob Huff

Yeah, so, um, one question from Teresa was why are, why is the city continuing to use the point in time count rather than more reliable data.

That is the question that we are all asking, and we continue to use it, because there is no other agreed upon method at this point in time. As we continue to look at our homeless strategy framework and have some outcomes identified within the frame, within the strategy, perhaps one of those outcomes can be, we need to identify a better way to count people who are living unsheltered in our community.

Rob Huff



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And there's a couple of questions from Carolyn Reed. First prior to the onset of the pandemic shelters had a 30 to 90 day waitlist. What's the city's plan to increase capacity for stay for that stabilization stage. Post COVID, and will that wait will a waitlist be a measurable goal to reduce.

That's up to the community as we look at our strategy right developing our strategy is that one of the outcomes and that is that one of the goals. But what I can tell you, it should be an outcome to reduce that wait list, it should be, it should be a goal to not have a waitlist actually because we have capacity to get people into shelter when they need it. And the city is right now. Today I'm actually briefing the city manager on a list of potential city on properties where we can actually establish a stabilization slash mitigation site. That would be set up very low barrier to provide access to shelter for folks who, who typically haven't been able to access shelter in other locations perhaps they've been asked to leave existing shelters, or they have needs towards a different type of environment that the typical shelter can provide to them.

Rob Huff

Great. Those are the questions that we have right now so sorry for the interruption. Okay,

no problem. So you heard a little bit about the, I was gonna mention the hygiene station here in my notes but I mentioned it up top. So again, in the following slides, we're going to review our ongoing investment in shelter and efforts to stabilize and transition individuals to housing, this focus on stabilization has been the primary driver of NCS his work over the past two budget cycles, but that doesn't mean that it's quite as the primary work. We know that we have to shift. So in addition to responding to the emergency declaration and prioritizing shelter. The city's affordable housing action strategy includes goals of increasing affordable housing and creating additional supportive housing options. And we're also supporting legislation to provide more revenue for affordable housing. And through this as a sales tax that we're talking with the council about right now. And we're looking at continuing support and implementation of these types of strategies should lead to building necessary housing inventory to transition individuals to permanent housing. So again, shifting from prioritizing shelter to prioritizing housing but we can't walk away from shelter until we have adequate housing options. Slide five. So this slide demonstrates the 21 2022 investments that the city is making in preventing and addressing homelessness. We have an approved contract budget of just over \$13 million for homeless services. In addition to that the city has access to just over \$12 million dollars in one time COVID related resources, which is allowing for the operation of temporary emergency micro shelter. Temporary emergency micro shelters sites two and 324 seven sheltering operations of our youth and young adult shelter will also allow for \$6.5 million in emergency rental and utility assistance to be distributed to our community. Now just this morning I got a legislative update that says there's going to be about \$510 million coming in, under the federal program, which actually I find really bleak news, considering that there are billions of dollars being proposed in other areas so \$510 million is a drop in the bucket for me but at least is something we can expect. So as discussed in the previous slide you'll see that the majority of our budgeted expenditures right now are dedicated to the support of



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shelter in the community. I think everyone knows what these definitions are but I'm going to read them in case you don't so prevention is rental and utility assistance as well as pandemic response eviction prevention shelters our single adult family young adult youth and domestic violence shelters. These are both temporary and emergency. And by the way we increased our funding for domestic violence shelters in the current biennium housing includes transitional housing permanent supportive housing Rapid Rehousing and shared housing complimentary services include legal services, food security mental health services, education and employment navigation outreach includes case management and referrals to unsheltered individuals as transportation, as well as transportation to shelter and supportive services. We are working with providers right now to increase how we are offering transportation for individuals who aren't encampments directly to shelters, including COVID testing prior to go into the shelters. As a reclamation site reclamation is the process of making public and private spaces safer and more welcoming for people who live or work in the area. So, those are those definitions. Slide six.

Right. So, earlier we discussed the declaration of emergency being tied to the provision of shelter beds and having enough available space to shelter 95% of those individuals counted in the point time count for the previous three years. Here we're sharing the graphic year over year, demonstrating the number of shelter beds and the stacked bar. The number of individuals counted as sheltered into coma during the point in time count in the gray bar, and the number of unsheltered individuals counted counted in the playing time county cheer on the right hand side is a table, demonstrating the total number of individual individuals both sheltered and unsheltered, the number of available beds for the calculation of how the number of available beds compares to the needed comma. We collected this information using the Pierce County housing inventory count and point in time count. However, the 2020 Pierce County housing inventory count is not yet complete the what you see here is a projection, developed by city staff. You'll see by this calculation that we have not yet met the metric for ending the declaration, which is providing available shelter for 95% of individuals counted in the point in time count in the previous three years. It should be noted that in 2021, as we know the point in time count will only reflect individuals in shelter the night of the, of the count in January, and this is due to the pandemic and concerned about safety of volunteers, conducting account encampments and again we, we know that we have to do something different in terms of counting individuals. There is a lot of discussion about that. And we're really hoping that as we look at developing our homeless strategy that we can come to an agreement about an outcome and the goal of how we're going to do a better job of counting unsheltered individuals to coma.

Linda Stewart

Slide seven.

So here's a look at the performance of our shelters in exiting individuals to housing. This slide demonstrates performance by the type of shelter while the following slide will detail exits by specific shelter. The city's investment and shelter comes from a sense of commitment to meeting immediate



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needs and exploring shelter options that other jurisdictions just aren't doing. We have seen success with a 24 seven case managed approach, although we also are exploring other options for shelter, including the very low barrier I just mentioned a while ago, as an option for folks to access a safer environment that can eventually lead to tailored housing solutions. Slide it,

Linda Stewart

Rob, are there any questions I need to pause for.

Rob Huff

So, there are quite a few questions at trying to re call how many slides we have in the deck.

Linda Stewart

So that I've got three more slides.

Rob Huff

Okay. Why don't we continue, and then we'll come back to the questions. Okay.

So slide eight is busy but we think it's important to detail the performance of our specific shelter locations. And please keep in mind that the exits for housing vary widely depending on the population served as well as the model of the shelter that is being used at each location. Slide nine two more slides. So, homeless service providers experienced significant impacts during the onset of the pandemic and last March, a year ago, shelters had to reduce their capacity PPP was not available officers had to close and programs had to change to address the impacts and so this is just a little bit about how we've invested in it you know utilizing our one time COVID resources to do a couple things. For example, we added 257 new shelter beds, we set up the temporary emergency shelter site. Number two, we provided p p p p p and all of our encampments and shelters. We provided hand sanitizing stations outside of four of the shelters, this was last year. And this turned out not to work out very well. We provided over \$900,000 in rental assistance to help people keep people in their homes. And we had external contracts that we carried over we didn't compete any of our contracts. Last year, for service providers going into the new biennium. This was so that we could support all of our providers, but especially our homeless service providers and sustain their services during the pandemic. We modified everyone's scope of work to ensure that the modified work was being captured in their contracts. We relieved. Certain onerous reporting requirements for example, hand hand, you know, hardcopy surveys, and evaluations. Those went out the window last year when when when folks, couldn't do that anymore so we we really looked at doing things differently. We, the city's also maintained consistent contact with the health department to address incidences of COVID-19 occurring in the shelter locations, although you know arranging for quarantine and isolation of individuals at the temporary Care Center is, is really a big problem. And we are trying to continue looking for ways to make that less of a problem. Slide 10. So now that we reviewed our actions in support of the emergency declaration. Let's shift our focus to where we're going. So our three phase approach has been the strategy to assist us in responding to an emergency on homelessness, and the added



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declaration of emergency related to the pandemic. Now we need to introduce a strategy to address homelessness here in Tacoma shifting from our emergency response to actually having a strategy to address homelessness. Slide 11. So the framework for the draft five year homeless strategy aligns with the Pierce County plan to end homelessness, which was updated in December of 2019. We participated in that update process through our regular participation and leadership on the continuum of care. While we are committed to supporting the strategies outlined in Pierce County's plan. We recognize that Tacoma has additional needs and unique resources related to homeless response as the largest and most densely populated city in Pierce County, homelessness experienced as is experienced living up homelessness experienced as living outdoors and the impact of chronic homelessness, are impacting our community

Linda Stewart

uniquely.

So our local response must be tailored in order to effectively support our unhoused neighbors. The framework for the draft homeless strategy will address these focus areas. Our bipoc community members specifically black individuals experiencing homelessness who we know from the spark report are disproportionately represented in our homeless population. Our ability to end the state of emergency on homelessness by addressing the needs of individuals living outdoors in our community. We want to amplify our partnerships by leveraging resources and building new collaborations. And we also have the efforts of the affordable housing action strategy, which identifies specific long term and sustainable options to provide housing for everyone in our community, although we often are talking right now that the homeless, the affordable action, the affordable housing action strategy, doesn't call out enough about what we're doing around homelessness. And we also want to continue on making sure that we support our provider community with commitments of technical assistance, oops we do I have more slides, sorry. Um, so let's keep going so slide 12 so we're seeking engagement with our community to help us develop goals statements and action items around each of the focus areas along the continuum of homelessness from encampments to stable housing slide 13. So we've drafted the framework. Okay. If we're listening to community feedback and acting without authenticity under our transformational process. We now need to see community input. This is before the strategy is fully developed and comes across as fully baked. So I've heard it being questioned that you know, what are they talking about they don't have a strategy. Those of you who are saying that you're exactly right. This isn't a strategy. This is a strategy framework and we're coming to the coalition and others now with help for help in developing the strategy. So the coalition has been provided access to a portion of your weekly meetings to talk about specific stages of the homeless continuum, and to provide input on goals and action items. We hope you'll continue to allow us to access to your time, and then collaborate with us to continue developing a strategy that includes specific outcomes and goals. And we're specifically looking for ways to incorporate perspectives of people with lived experience. And our providers and we know that you can help us make those connections. And so we'll also be consulting with our continuous improvement staff inside the city as the strategy unfolds, to see how our current efforts can be improved or be made more efficient and that interim homeless manager that we're bringing in is also



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going to help with that. So this is the last slide left slide 14. So based on the schedule for our focus groups. It looks like we're going to be able to go back to council with a draft strategy document by the end of April, and we're hoping that what we will have is something that everyone can support because basically no one has the only solution here. But if all of us are caring and we're all committed to doing better. We should be able to complete a five year homeless strategy. And this is a, you know, a real opportunity for all of us to embrace this work together. So that is the end of my presentation.

Rob Huff

Great. And I have stopped.

Linda Stewart

Yeah, and I'll switch you over here so I can see you. Okay.

Rob Huff

So there are quite a few questions. I'm scrolling back here to see what I can find so. Will any of the news sites under consideration for the mitigation site include health for medically fragile and health needs.

Linda Stewart

Yes. Okay.

Rob Huff

There's a question from Lisa about what's being done to address behavioral health needs. And I think this is, this came up when you're talking about the potential for the one 10th of 1% for affordable housing.

Yeah, and we were we also have the one 10th of 1% sales tax and mental health, substance use disorder sales tax that we programmed. And we took, you know, over a \$1 million hit in our budget. We took a \$4 million hit and NCS budget last year which is 10% reduction. And because of some stabilization of revenues, it looks like a couple of those dollars on the mental health, substance use disorder side might come back to us this year through the reappropriation of processed so we'll be able to pump those dollars back into the service system.

Rob Huff

Another question. Can the plan. consider using vacant housing that exists housing stock that exists in the city now that just a general comment that there's so many empty homes that are becoming rundown.

I think everything's on the table this is a strategy. This is a strategy with with goals and I think, you know, that is more related to the affordable housing action strategy than it is the homeless strategy. So



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if someone has an idea about using it, you know, you know, using existing housing stock, someone, you know, my hope is that that's already been expressed in the development of the affordable housing action strategy but I can certainly make sure that that main is maintained as as a concept.

Rob Huff

Okay. Colin asked, Who will be prioritized for the mitigation style site you mentioned and will the larger encampments be prioritized.

This is specifically to have individuals who are at every encampment have a place to go, we're looking at capacity of 100. So this is, this is actually, if you're in an encampment and you want you want to go to a place that is cleaner and safer for you. Here's the place for you to go.

Rob Huff

The next question Why are we creating hygiene stations in neighborhoods rather than in sanctioned encampments low income neighborhoods will continue to serve as containment zones, until sanction campgrounds are established.

Linda Stewart

Can you repeat that second part.

Rob Huff

Yeah, it says low income neighborhoods will continue to serve as containment zones, until sanctioned encampments are established this is not a step toward ending street homelessness.

So, so there are no sanctioned encampments so I think the first question was why are we doing the hygiene stations in neighborhoods, instead of sanctioned encampments. There are no sanctioned encampments. The council asked me to bring forward a plan for hygiene stations at existing encampments. And that is what I did I brought it I brought forward a plan for five hygiene stations, originally, and then we decided that we would do one as a potential pilot program. As we look at this larger mitigations slash stabilization location, at which point I believe the, the action will be to have an opportunity for everyone in encampments to go to this other place where all of the services will be provided including services for medically fragile individuals. The, the location will be very low barrier. And, and I'm we're hoping that that will incentivize folks to relocate from their existing places over there.

Rob Huff

Courtney asked why is there such a small amount of funding allocated to housing versus shelter shelters great but it's temporary is the city focused on longer term solutions and if so how can we increase the funding for housing solutions.



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So it is absolutely focused on housing solutions that's why we're looking at this mental health. This additional sales tax under Bill 1590 at the state. So if the city can just like we went first on the mental health set, mental health, substance use disorder sales tax. If we can go first. On this 1590 sales tax, isn't it, it's actually a one 10th of 1% as well. So, we that's specifically for housing. 60% of it can be used for capital, that would be to acquire or to build. And then up to 40% is for operations. So Jeff Robinson and I have been talking we've been talking for about a year now about actually reprogramming how we use our mental health, substance use disorder sales tax revenue to focus less on the sheltering and more on the, the operation side of supportive housing because unless we make some headway down in Olympia about getting some more flexibility, about use of emsa dollars. It can't be used for capital right now. We can only use it for operations. So yeah, we are definitely focused on

Linda Stewart

housing.

As the goal. But we can't step away from shelter,

Linda Stewart

yet.

Rob Huff

Okay. Garrett commented that his offer is always open to work with the city and county staff to develop a method for more accurately counting unsheltered homelessness. Sherry added a comment prevention funding should be made available for new housing as more stock is really the only prevention, to treat the crisis. And you know as I look through this we are seeing a real flood of questions, just in the time I've been going through these are 16 new messages, so.

And you know what we've done before, Rob, where where we're pretty accustomed to getting I think when we had nohr point we had 60 pages of questions come to us in the community setting. So if you'd like to send your list of questions to us. We can respond to them. And then I can either come back and present the responses to you in person, or we can send them to you, and you can post them to the website. I'll look to you, Rob to make the decision with whoever is the leadership of here and let me know what works best

Linda Stewart

for you.

Rob Huff

Sure, we can supply the, the questions from chat and between Garrett and I get it posted on the website. And then we'll kind of look at the questions and see if we think it'd be good to bring you back to



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address some of those. I don't know if anybody has any last one or two burning questions that they wanted to ask, just raising their hand here before we move on to the next topic. I see Maureen's hand up. And you're on mute.

Maureen Howard

And desperately trying to behave. So thank you, Linda, and the burning question for me is this interim person who's coming on. Has that person been selected or is there a process. Yeah.

The person has not been selected and the process is underway. It was a very quick process to because we can't wait. The option was to wait. And to have, you know, have a three to four month gap.

While we figured out what we need to do in homeless services, and we can't wait it's too important. So, like I mentioned, Maureen as soon as there's a decision. We'll make sure that we share that decision with the coalition, and that is the person who actually will begin attending the coalition meetings as well. Thank you.

Rob Huff

And we have time for one more before we move on, I see al had his hand up.

Al Ratcliffe

Record Thank you very much. I hope you're getting enough sleep it sounds like you're very busy. And it's doing good stuff.

Linda Stewart

You know, Neil Young, you know what, Neil Young said don't you Ross never sleeps.

Rob Huff

Alright Thank you Linda for joining us today and we will. Oh, I see garrets wanting to ask one final question.

Gerrit Nyland

I was just wondering if you would comment on the efforts that the coalition is putting out for a comprehensive homeless strategy for Pierce County, as you might be aware a couple weeks ago we voted to take that role on to create a plan to end homelessness in Pierce County and since then Pierce County Council is working on directing the County Human Services staff to do that I was just wondering how much you're anticipating shifting your strategy framework the city strategy framework to kind of build into that work that Pierce County Human Services looks like it'll be doing. I know it's early and all that but I wondered if you could just say a little bit about the flexibility there.



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Well, thanks Garrett, I think you and Maureen and I met with the mayor, Mayor Woodard several weeks ago on this topic, and she committed to doing the work on to communicate with county council, particularly county council member I think Derek young and, and I think the policy decision will remain at the Council level. That's about all I can say at this point in time, it's a policy decision, how the city chooses to support that, that effort.

Rob Huff

All right. Thank you Linda, and we will see you at a future meeting and get to these questions in the meantime. Thank you,

everyone. Thank you for your hard work for our community. We appreciate you CSM.

Rob Huff

So let's stick with. Moving on to the next item in the agenda which is our government updates. I didn't notice if Valerie Knight was here.

Jeff Rogers

This is Jeff I'm here. Fantastic, as other priorities this morning sorry I can give a quick update on Monday, our rental assistance application portal opened for landlords to submit landlord information to help us with our process to be more expedient in issuing rental assistance payments. There are hundreds of landlords who this week have been busy filling in their information into the portal. So that's been a success this week. On Monday, The eighth this Monday. We don't have an exact time yet. We're frantically working our

database vendor. We're doing some last minute things for us but they're committed that we will have access to that, on Monday. Can't tell if it will be in the morning or afternoon but at some point by the end of the day, our expectation is that our will be open and that tenants can apply for funding. We are aware that there's been questions about homeless persons needing assistance to move into housing units. At this time, we're focusing on households who have some type of agreement, doesn't need to be at least but some kind of some type of agreement that allows them to reside where they fit, we are considering homeless households, but we're not to that point, as, allowing them to fight through this process. They're also at the same time preparing to afford some funding for rapid rehousing which potentially could bring some help or person to be homeless to tap into that Rapid Rehousing program as well, and some awards will be announced soon. Regarding the emergency solutions grant funding we have, and how will be administered to those. So, maybe by next Friday we'll have a final decision on those boards and we'll be able to announce how those we expect, or how much per intervention we're looking at funding outreach, emergency shelter expansion and rapid rehousing through those resources. Hopefully next week we'll have an update on those dollars. That's it for today.



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Gerrit Nyland

I'm gonna fill in for Rob for a quick second Sheila Mira floor had a question. What is human services doing to ensure the rental assistance portal doesn't crash due to the volume of applications.

We're working with a vendor out of California who comes with a pretty good resume. They're assisting large jurisdictions in California, with a type of rental assistance program so they have experience in this work. We don't anticipate a crash. Through our last process we had a lot of applicants daily and the system never crashed so I'm not thinking about crashes right now. That's the last thing we need is for the system to crash. So, we're not anticipating one we didn't have one through our last portal process that we managed internally with a small database. This is a sophisticated organization, out of California, who was working with quite a few jurisdictions in California. We spoke with San Diego through this process because San Diego County is one of the counties in California that they're working with. And they come with very high regards. So, hopefully, we don't have a

Jeff Rogers

crash and Jen.

Gerrit Nyland

There was also a question about funding for outreach workers. I think about ESG Do you want to comment on that.

We heard about funding outreach when we did our community discussions our think tanks as we called them. And I'll share with you that there's a large investment coming, hopefully within the next week we'll have approval for outreach large investment compared to what we've historically done. You're on mute. Garrett,

Gerrit Nyland

because I don't know how to use them. Yeah, just make sure that you know they all know that they're not gonna have any work after November 1 when we industry homelessness. Right.

Jeff Rogers

Yes, absolutely. We all are we all gonna be out of work.

Gerrit Nyland

Well, that's not ending homelessness that's just ending street homelessness. Thanks, Jeff. All right. Oh,

Rob Huff

thanks Garrett for filling in there. I'm so. And thank you very much, Jeff. Let's switch gears over to Brianna from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.



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Reanna Bettencourt

Hi everybody, my name is Brianna Betancourt, and I am my role is at the Health Department on team to help ensure equitable access to Vaccine Education, not a part of the vaccine team. So I have a couple of updates. Right now, we are reworking our Vaccine Education outreach to include a vaccine site application for any organizations that may want to hold a smaller community vaccine clinic for their own organization or a community clinic. It's, it would, it's up to the organization. So, so I'll have that put together pretty soon and be sending it out to. I am populating our strategy document with the list. The nice list that get updated the website with so I'll be contacting each individual shelter with our outreach application. Also, we have the. I'm going to post a link in the chat. We have a upcoming community vaccine presentation. And so if anybody is interested in attending that you can click on the flyer and register for it. It's in a couple of weeks, it'll probably be updated with the Johnson and Johnson information, by that time and all that. We are still getting clarification on phase tears and what that means for us locally, we know that a bunch of information came out yesterday and that's being looked at, so I don't have any clear answers about that this time. But our, our smaller community vaccine clinic events are still equity focused. So, that is not going to be changing. And then one more thing I have a RSP. It is open from the health department, and it is a dominos around COVID back pain clinic Community Health work. And so we're looking for people to apply for that so I'll post that in the chat as well. And then we'll put our contact information in here, if anybody has any questions or wants Vaccine Education flyers, we're working on updating everything right now with Johnson and Johnson and, and things like that so that'll take a minute.

Rob Huff

Thank you so much. Does anybody have any quick questions for Brianna. All right, so we'll move on to the next item in the agenda. I don't know if anybody from Pierce County Emergency Management is on the call. Alright, not hearing anybody, and tieghan was there anything additional from the city of Tacoma that we should know about

Tiegan Tidball

having technical difficulties over here.

Rob Huff

Can you. Okay. I can hear you. Well, I did. Now I'm not,

Tiegan Tidball

I don't know what's going on with my thing. Anyways, I know you got the majority of our updates from Linda, I just wanted to also share. Just reminder that the RFP for the youth and adult children has been extended to the 23rd. So that is also happening so I just want to put that reminder out. I think that's the big reminder that I had, like I said you've heard everything else from her our most current update and I know you will see me next week to discuss the homeless framework, again, so I'll see you then.

Rob Huff



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Sounds great. Thanks.

Tiegan Tidball

Thanks Rob.

Rob Huff

All right, so I'm going to shift this over to Garrett for a quick item

Gerrit Nyland

you hope it's quick, Rob. Last week. Last week we discussed briefly, a funding opportunity to do some communication to support communication with people experiencing homelessness about the vaccine. So, why you should get it what it does, how to get access to it. This is a State Department of Health, bit of funding that's flowing through some consulting group. And mostly the plan is to use it in some way to kind of facilitate conversations, much like we did with the census. Last year, right where we had water bottles and some fact sheets so the census helped us craft the message, all of you had some tools to remind you to say the message. And, and that's what we're looking at again. So, something we can maybe handout or or something to help us kind of remember to have the conversation around vaccines and how to get them. Or maybe materials that say exactly how to get them it. Hopefully the health department's can be able to make some time to really help us, you know, nail the nail the message and all of you that have connections with people experiencing homelessness can continue to provide that message so that trusted messengers. All right, can really help folks to see the benefits of the vaccine, so that grant will be between five and \$25,000, I kind of need to craft what we're going to do, so I'm have two requests. The first one is that you email me or put into the chat ideas for how can we use five to \$25,000, to help us communicate to people experiencing homelessness sheltered and unsheltered about the vaccine, why to get it, how to get it. And so that's the first request, and the second request is should we even do this. So I'm asking you to vote yes or no for whether the coalition with the kind of assistance of associated ministries once again, acting as our fiscal sponsor should make this application. So, the application is due next Wednesday. Although I'm hoping to get it crafted by Monday. And if you're interested in working on that you can work with me as well but so the request is should we, as a coalition apply for this funding, mostly to be used for buying things that will then be available for our, our office all selves right every agency to be able to provide to folks to help them to help remind us to have the conversation about vaccines, so I'm putting a poll out there right now, should the coalition apply for five to \$25,000 grant to communicate vaccine information with people experiencing homelessness. I wish we had the exact proposal of what we're asking but it's a crazy tight deadline, so we're gonna, once again, fly the build the plane as we fly it. So I'm going to hand it back to you, Robin we'll let that poll, and then I'll just share it when we're done and you can see what we decided and again put stuff in the chat, email me I'll put my contact information. If you want to work on it, blah, blah. So, I think this is a great opportunity to really focus ourselves on communicating about vaccines to people that really are not going to get the information, unless it comes from you. Thanks.

Rob Huff

Perfect.



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Gerrit Nyland

I had one more thing. I have a second grant that I'm going to talk about next week, and I'm going to talk about at the steering committee on Wednesday, if you can come for that and that is, there's a group that is the speaker's bureau. We had Amanda walkingstick come, a couple weeks ago. And the goal of that is to bring people with lived experience are currently experiencing homelessness and a variety of other things. And the goal is to set the grant would be to support this project. And so, that funding would be used for someone to do some administrative work for the project. Really though it's to, and also to compensate the people experiencing homelessness for their time sharing their stories right so I'll give more information about that in the coming week you can email me if you're interested but the goal is lots more people with lived experience really able to really tell their stories in an impactful way so we get their knowledge as we develop programs and the community understands all of the kind of varied experiences people have in homelessness. So, that's on the queue, thank you I'm all done now we're up.

Rob Huff

Perfect. All right, so obviously we have more agenda items in almost no time but I wanted to give Collin an opportunity to give a quick update on safe parking. Yes,

Colin DeForest

I can be short and suites. I just, um, we have two openings right now at the Tacoma site. So if you have any referrals ideally families but we can also take individuals there the South hillside is still fall. We're still going through the process with Salvation Army who applied and was okayed for funding by the network. So we're still working with them out in queue all up, had a really good meeting this week with Tacoma Unitarian Universalists out on 56th. They are just finalizing their last steps of application questions. And I'm expecting that. I was actually hoping that would be in this week. So, and then they're gonna they're pretty ready to go so I'm excited about them a little frustrated with TCC right now, my meeting with the President has been pushed back to April, early April April 12 so I've kind of responded to them and said you know that's a whole month, this is really a priority, we're really trying to work with your students. So, we will see what happens with that. I just think that waiting around a month is kind of silly, so I'm hoping maybe they can prioritize a little bit more. Um, what else

colin

we got going on.

Colin DeForest

Oh Port Townsend so people from faith based organizations from Port Townsend are coming up at a long conversation with them yesterday to visit one of our sites today. They've heard about it and heard, so that's pretty cool. They want to replicate that. And then I would just the last thing I'd say is a kind of an exam, there's some really cool stories that are coming out of the sites. Yesterday I got a call from one of the female that staying at our Tacoma site, and she said hey I found a wallet, outside of the sites. Do you know who this, this person is and she rattled off the name and I was like, well, that's the



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pastor so it was pastor Alex Davis's wallet so she found the pastor's wallet he had been stressing out for like over a day had no idea was getting ready I don't know if he canceled his cards yet but I think that's a great example of what this population and I think we, you know just just just to hear that she did that I think he was even surprised by it so it's just really really cool and I think once again it's a great example of what happens when you give individuals an opportunity to do positive things so I just thought that was really neat, so that's that's about all I got.

Rob Huff

Perfect, thanks for all that you're doing in the safe parking network is doing Colin. Thank you. And I see Maureen, I'm sorry, we've run out of time in today's meeting with, with all the conversation prior but she posted her email with a request to contact her for advocacy information, yeah morning,

Maureen Howard

and seconds. We're gonna send out the link for the rental assistance program. Put that every place send it to your networks, put it on your own email signature, put it on your websites, get that link out. All right.

Rob Huff

And on that note, that I see Jeffrey with his hand up Carolyn with her hand up. You're muted Jeffrey.

Reverend Boyce

Yeah. Real quickly, everything's going good. Sorry about to hear about the sweep, I guess, and the non sweep. I am anxious about the people over on 38, because they are less than a block from Lincoln High School and they're going to be active. This month so we'll keep you all up to speed on that as I hear. And if you hear anything please let me know so that I can let them know and we can start things happening.

Rob Huff

Thank you. Yep. Carolyn.

Carolyn Reed

Yeah, real quick I put in the chat. At about 950, because I accidentally hit the enter button. But anyway, that's in the chat, we're holding a forum and a viewing of the film camp, second chance. And the panel discussion will be with the community and some council members, and this will work really nice with what the coalition sounds like they're trying to press for a comprehensive plan, because that's what we want to get from the council What is your plan and we're kind of in a listening learning stage at this forum we're not going to make any demands on them, other than to listen and learn and discuss, and for them to hear from the community, what they would like to see. And so please mark that on your calendars, we're going to do it through an event right now have more information so this is a grassroots effort. The other thing is we're having our last of the three part series of our training for volunteers I put those links in the of the Eventbrite for that to Teresa and rosemary teach that. And it kind of be the homelessness 101, and the substance use disorders and motivational interviewing. We don't have a lot



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of slots left, but they are there. And I would just put in again. A request that coalition consider taking on this training, as far as coordinating it because I think we could really get a powerful group of people that go through the training that we could invite to coalition meetings or advocacy action. So, I'm just putting that out there.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Carolyn and I see Julian with your hand up.

Carolyn Reed

Thank you Rob,

Julian Wheeler

um, it was good to see everyone here just wanted to plug our Pierce County, accessible Community Advisory Committee. We have our next meeting on March 9 that's coming up on Tuesday online at nine o'clock, and we're looking for new members new ideas, and we help expedite funds for accessibility projects in Pierce County would vote on whether or not to exploit the funding. And then if positive or affirmative that gets sent up to the accessible community subcommittee of the governor's committee on disability issues and employment, and they make the final decision but there are two periods, there are two application periods per year now and this period ends, April 7, so that's a deadline. I just want to encourage people to look at what you're doing and if any part of it is to make things more accessible for people with disabilities and everyone. Feel free to come to us and we have an intake process, and some application materials. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Julian, and just to make it clear. We're five minutes over for today's meeting so feel free to step away if you need to, we will have a group of us continuing to hang out for planning for next week's meetings, and you're happy to. Everyone is welcome to stay for that. We will take about a five minute break before the next planning section. So, have a great weekend everybody.