



# Coalition to End Homelessness Provider Meeting - Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

encampments, talk, landlords, meeting, city, coalition, community, questions, maureen, tacoma, money, folks, county, put, great, housing, homelessness, week, rental assistance, people

## SPEAKERS

James Pogue, Sherri Jensen, Mike Yoder, Abril Mitchell-Ward, Gerrit Nyland, Klarissa Monteros, Diane Tilstra, Sara Irish, Carolyn Reed, Sonja Nikiema, Rob Huff, Jennifer Ammons, Theresa Power-Drutis, Reanna Bettencourt, Rosemary Powers, Maureen Howard, Colin DeForest, Daisy Reyes, Dionne Jacobson, Nate Blackmer, Linda Stewart, Charles, Reverend Boyce, Tiegan Tidball, Valeri Knight, Jenny Lorton

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## Rosemary Powers

Okay, so want to welcome everyone here today I was thinking this morning about anniversaries. And so I looked up to see I mean it's, this is March. Now the, I think it's the 19th is that it right. March 19 Anyway, on March 23 to 2020, Governor Inslee instituted a stay at home order for up to two weeks. We didn't know much about the pandemic, and now it's almost March 23 2021 And here we are having learned a lot, but having a lot more to learn. And one other anniversary I thought it was really important for us to acknowledge is on May 9 which is not yet here. The City of Tacoma council and mayor declared a state of emergency for health. Regarding homelessness. So that's four years of a state of emergency. So here we are, all of us in a state of emergency for the duration. So how do we survive in the state of emergency, obviously, for those of us who come every week. This has been a spot where we can gain that kind of mutual respect for the work we do. And my only recommendation this morning is that we be strong in our advocacy and we be kind and give each other a break. As this is a very hard time. So I want to welcome everyone, but especially to welcome people who are new or returning after some time away. We really are hoping to have this be an open table. And we have a lot to learn about how to do that well so all the voices that want to be heard, have an opportunity to speak. So I'd like to invite anyone who's new to unmute themselves and just say your name and where are you have gotten involved with this issue of whether it's an agency or an advocacy or a neighborhood or annoying people



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who are vulnerable and wanting to be of some support so there may be other reasons you're here, but let us know who you are so we can network with you. I saw a hand, don't need to do that right now.

Hey my name is Desiree here.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Hi Jess here. And how did you come to find out about us.

I found from Shirley Karstens, I am. She's my preceptor I

am a student from jumble and university.

We got into BSN program.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Excellent, well welcome and I hope we can have conversations about many things, welcome.

## **Diane Tilstra**

Hi I'm Diane, Telstra, and I was invited to this meeting by Janet runback, so thank you Janet, I got involved with the Food Not Bombs group one weekend to serve food at the 509 encampment. And as a result, I was trying to think of some way that I could be helpful to the final nine encampments, so I asked Food Not Bombs to go down to the camp and ask if anybody wanted to have laundry done. So I went down and collected about 14 bags of laundry and Janet and her husband showed up to help me process, all the laundry for those folks, and we delivered it the next day. And a guy named Nathaniel said, just when we get feeling really low around here somebody like you shows up. And so that was kind of, that was really nice and thoughtful, to hear from one of the residents down the encampment. And then I've also gotten involved with laundry day to come a mutual aid collective. And last week we handed out, I heard over \$3,000 and laundry funds, and I remember at my laundromat. We did laundry for about a half a dozen homeless folks that lived at the 60th and McKinley, tiny home village. So, well welcome Diane.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Thanks. Wonderful, thank you and this helps us to understand what's happening in other parts of the city to. Okay, so I see April, your hand is raised. We're not sure. But we'll come back. Is anyone else that's new today want to say, say who you are.

## **Abril Mitchell-Ward**



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Oh, hi. Sorry, I couldn't get it unmuted. This is a Braille mentor. Okay. Hi, I am here, I have been here weekly. We are a new grantee, with carries House Foundation. We support. We walk alongside people facing tragedy in the community as a new grantee we're looking for ways to fulfill our passion with just serving the community in any way. Our agency has a passion for the homeless. So we have been supporting in our own ways, but we are just looking, we've been attending the meeting just to see how we can be better an asset in the community. So if there's any way we can net with network with you, please let us know. That's great and if you could put your information in the chat that would help folks who have immediate wants to connect to do that. Thank you, Alberto, you're more than welcome. Thank you.

## **Dionne Jacobson**

Hi. Well, traditionally, I have a little bit of background noise because my kids are doing zooms but my name is Dion and I'm with Mission outreach for St Vincent DePaul. I think a lot of you are familiar with our program I see some familiar names. We do outreach for homelessness prevention and then meeting basic needs for members of the community that are struggling, like I said I'm going to keep it brief because my kids are doing a zoom right next to me but I'm super glad to be here, I met with Juanita and Gabby associated ministries and coordinated entry a couple of weeks ago and they suggested that I participate in this meeting to learn more about the community need and what everybody's doing so I'm excited to be connected with you guys. Deon it's wonderful to have you and it's wonderful to to empathize with you in zoom the Zoom school at home, so welcome.

## **Rosemary Powers**

So if others are new and haven't had a chance or are just on not able to do it right now and want to put your name in the chat box with some contact information. If you're looking for something specific to do or partner with. That would be great. And the last thing I want to say before I hand it back to Rob is, sometimes it's kind of hard to know what to do when you come to these meetings and what is it anyway that you're coming to, and what are the rules or norms for how to behave in it and you raise your hand or how do you make sure everyone gets a chance to speak so we have a small committee that's working to write down some things. And so, Mary Conley is chairing that if we have a chair, but I think we'll put her contact information in the chat if you're interested in sharing your ideas about what's worked really well for you in groups that you have felt like you belong, pretty quickly and you don't have to hang around a really long time to know whether you do. That would be really wonderful, and just finish there I just really reinforced last, last week Verna talked with us about the importance of dealing with our own needs and come being compassionate to ourselves and so let's just do that today. And as far as we can. So, Rob.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, rosemary, so let's move on to the next item in our agenda and this is our regular weekend weekly item about what's happening this week on the streets. I will invite Sonia is going to lead us in this weekend the streets I don't know if you want to introduce her James.

## **James Pogue**



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Sure. So Sonia who is using Heather fossils login here is my outreach program manager for a homeless outreach team. She's going to introduce one of our resources that we're restarting when COVID hit we used to have a walk in clinic so people would get our cards and they could come to our agency at 1305 Tacoma Avenue both for mental health services but also for homeless services we had to walk in coordinated entry assessments we had the ability to do case management just on a interim as needed basis, someone came in and had a basic need, we would just, we have open walk in and COVID, close that. And so it took us a month or two to get our bearings about it but we decided to change our process and Sonia and her leadership, like we came up with a new plan to go out and have like a mobile outreach like we use the word clinic but it gets mixed up with medical services so if we use the word mobile clinic but it's really a mobile service fair is the better way to think of it, and we had to stop in and around December and January due to raising cases but we're back, coming live next week and I'll hand off to Sonia to talk more about it and share some information about our mobile service fair, I'll go with.

### **Sonja Nikiema**

Hi I'm Sonia Kima As James said the manager Homeless Outreach at comprehensive life resources. So I'm super excited that we're going to be back up with the mobile clinic, a little misperceiving there's not medical services again just to read it, reiterate that, but we are working with other agencies. So I just like to put it out there if you're an agency that you know wants my team to go out to the actual encampments and let people know we're here hey we have services, and you guys could stay by the agency, the staff, they come along because they by the clinic, I encourage you to reach out to myself or James and he can get you in contact with me to kind of coordinate that. We do like to meet with folks and chat with folks before we make that happen so that you're aware of the expectations but and have an idea of what that's about but it's also, it's, it's been really successful for the folks out there, because it removes the barriers, we're taking the resources and the access to them right now with people not having phones or this and that. And one thing we're looking to kind of help folks with and push with is the stimulus and if they've received those. And so we're going to kind of have a push for that. And I also think that we have some information from the health department regarding vaccines so that people, so that people have access to information before people just, there's just places showing up with, like, Hey, you want your vaccine so that they have maybe some time to soak it in so we're having some different kind of pushes when we're out there, definitely. But next week. Hopefully this week, I should say, by the end of the day today we'll have our resource page updated so you can see the locations where we'll be. We like to put that out there so that people are aware and if you have someone or working with someone or know someone that's close by, maybe they can come and connect with us. Sometimes we take supplies. Sometimes we work with people on the coordinated entry assessment, it just depends on what the person wants to do, is willing to do is in the space to do at the moment. So, that is super exciting. Actually what I will do is pass the mic to Nate, who is my outreach staff, and he will chat a little bit about some of what the mobile clinic is doing and if you have any questions feel free to ask us as well.

### **James Pogue**



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But just real quick before Nate does that, I'm going to see if I can share real quick how to access the page that Sonny was just showing we've actually made it super easy. So thanks Rob for letting me share my page real quick and then I'll let me take it away so this is our coalition website hopefully everybody's seen this because you have to register here to get here, at the very top there's a little button that says resources that most of you probably haven't used it, it does take us to our Pierce County Resources website that the comprehensive manages but it's part of the coalition. And when you hit that and it takes it to the new website, you'll have a button over here that's sort of blocked for me but right here where it says mobile clinic. Right now it will tell you that due to COVID We're not up and running our locations but we actually have a map that is going to be loaded now it's just blank but it'll show you the days and times of the encampments that we go to our target population that is encampments that are larger than 20 participants or inhabitants, and we go there, on the same time every week, multiple weeks over and over again to start building report and make sure everyone gets access to the resources which is why we love to get partner agencies who can can come so anyway there's a look at that I'm going to stop sharing and swing it over to Nate.

### **Nate Blackmer**

Hey, hi all sorry I've been away for a little bit. It's good to see all your faces. Yeah, no, we're really excited to get the clinic up and running again, the idea is is we're going to be hitting the M Street area for three weeks, it's going to be Wednesday morning at 11 for one to two hours based on kind of what our engagement looks like so if anyone is working in that area, and they have people that they think might benefit from seeing the homeless outreach team, Like coordinated entry or connection to benefits or whatever just send them our way. Yeah, we're really like looking for and excited to partner with anyone that wants to come out with us, we've had like really wonderful interactions with a pro bono recently and one of their attorneys is going to be coming out with us to do some to do some work on Eliphaz and eviction history stuff so we can get some of that stuff that stops people from getting housed like off the record and kind of moving in the right direction. We also have been working with a needle exchange, so they're gonna come out with us so that we can make sure we're given like wound care kits and fresh needles and stuff like that. So yeah, I mean really if you're working in the area, and you know folks that are there already. We're gonna start swinging out just to make ourselves known again because then a minute. We've been doing a lot of concentrated outreach. But you know, feel free to send them like whenever, whenever we have the location up and posted which I think we have now actually as we were looking at that map. Yes, and I'm like, it doesn't matter how many folks are there we're gonna show up and help as best we can and like they said the idea is to be at the same spot, predictably, over and over again right like, we don't want to have to take the client, and be like hey, come with us to you know a COVID closed, AOL, and try and get anything done because we know that that's not going to function very well for them. But we want to really hit everything in the moment with them in, in their location. Yeah. Does anyone have any questions about it real quick. I also talk fast so if |

### **Dionne Jacobson**

put my email address in the chat right here. Do you have a flyer that you can send. Yeah.



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## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Or maybe just send the flyer out through the whole coalition, because then everybody will have it.

## **Nate Blackmer**

Or we could do that.

## **Sherri Jensen**

And it's scary I'm here on my phone, I'm driving questions so you mentioned to you well which is closed, are you seeing any, any positive pathway towards getting identification social or or IDs.

## **Nate Blackmer**

It's a massive struggle. We haven't had very good luck. It works right like, because we know that when we're dealing with, you know the houseless population right that there are like, there are different like sort of subcategories right and so the folks that are pretty functional that like diversion is aimed to helping the need like a one time cash infusion that are going to bounce out of homelessness pretty easy. They tend to have better results right because, and I know you know this this is more for last. But basically if someone has had to order a bunch of IDs, it becomes impossible to get anything done right and if someone has had to like order one ID, and they only need like a print off or something like that that's functional through them for us. But like any type of like restorative work to get someone like housing, like access is really really difficult right now so we haven't. I am hopeful we're talking to a couple of folks, so hopefully in the next week or two we can have some better news on that because it's been a consistent issue for a long time,

either thank you as you're collecting information if you could pass any our way we're trying to be as lenient as possible with the eye and documentation as an employer. So, you know, there's you're supposed to have hard copies that are unexpired and no copies in word we're trying to be as conscientious as possible, you know, people have copies at DHS and so I know that there's a resource locker that Maureen had passed out with an idea to So, anyway, Kimmy posted and I want to share and Jackson and Benjamin are both out on the call, and I'd love to connect them with you to go out and offer employment services.

## **Nate Blackmer**

Yeah, that'd be fantastic and we'll let you know as soon as we know anything. One more thing. Sorry, I'm being reminded of a thing. Also on the page that James shared and we'll send this out at the bottom, there's a referral link there where you can like put a little like hey like I am familiar with an encampment that is over here. If you do that, it'll send an email to our team, and we have a team that like manages the rotation of when the vans gonna go and where, and that would be really beneficial for us like we're always happy to have other sets of eyes and if you see a thing that needs attention like. Also it's just so good to see all of your, I'm sorry. Yeah, but,

## **Rob Huff**



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well, it's great to see you too, Nate. James, any. Thank you. Thank you very much. So does anybody else have any last items they wanted that they really wanted to share around this week on the streets before we move on to our next agenda item. All right, so we will move right along. So our next conversation is going to be two parts. Today with us we have both. Sarah Irish and Daisy Ray as both of you are going to share some time to talk about, working, working with the Latin X community. So I'm not sure Daisy or Sarah which one of you wanted to go first, but I give you the floor and we can go from there.

## **Sara Irish**

I can go. I'm gonna do this today, no I say Malina employee, I'm a part of the Latin extra middles of south south and a group that I work and participate on my free time in the group works mainly to support the Latino community and help remove barriers to help them with access to language and other services. We started five years ago, the city of Tacoma asked us to help them to find ways to better serve the Latino community so we were with them and we the couple, Latino town halls, we did in every board and we wrote the report and then five years and we move in, slowly but it is some progress been happening. So we meet this, this first and the third Saturday of each month from 10 to 12, and we've been working in a lot of stuff and the things that we find about trying to help the Latino community is the lack of access to many resources I know that right now there is a lot of support for rental assistance, and other things but unfortunately the Latin X community especially the undocumented, have a hard time accessing those. The reason is because that when you ask for taxes right away I was talking to Maureen last time. You know, we saw the application that came from the county, and they asked for tax, a W two cent tax payment and you know when the person is undocumented, they don't have social security number, so as soon as you see, tax returns and W two and all that, automatically your mind moves to social security numbers and know that a lot of our undocumented community members work on, you know get paid under the table, wherever they get paid some time so they don't get paid at all, and they never report any of these for fear. So, you know they're in need of assistance asst but we need to find a way also to do it, where they can take advantage of the resources that are available. Their language is number one, the lack of documentation, then it's, you know, some finding somebody they speak their language, and it's not just that help them to fill up the paperwork because when you start talking to them, you find out that they're in need of everything. So it's not just feeling the paperwork, if you want to really helping you become like a everything, like you have to advocate for everything that they meet. So, we are been putting like band aids on a lot of things but the problem is bigger than just the language and that. So one of the things that I've been asking every time and probably I sound like a broken record every time do you have this available in Spanish. And it's not just that having somebody that understand the quarter. You know last time when we have somebody from the city and they were explaining about the tenants also you know like, I know that they are the city guy name is a compassionate city and welcoming city I think that we have the obligation to educate our communities when they come to live in, in Tacoma, Pierce County. A lot of people coming from systems where they, you know, they honor the word, you just talk to somebody you give them your word and it's the biggest thing that you can do and here they have to understand that everything is very legal, you know, you have to do paperwork for everything you have to write every pour your stop rock you have to report it to your manager in writing. And again we go back to the language and the



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education, and they very trusted. Like, they trust people, they think that they gonna be the same thing as that the places that they come, a lot of other issues happening to where people don't understand that they have rules for how many people have to live in one unit if they rent an apartment is know that they, they just, you know, and they're big families and extended families and so sometimes they get in trouble for that, because they don't know they don't understand that they have we have limitations on space, and a lot of that stuff. So it's not just the language is just you know we've been advocating for that we've been working representation, you know, give them the boys. And it's not just the language, like I say it's also understand the culture, and you know and I'm pushing we're pushing as a group, the Latinx who needles is pushing the city to actually honor that compassionate city by you know, implementing these programs what they're gonna be educating our community not just new commerce but everybody else that live in the city, to be able to understand the we are living here we coming from different communities they we have different costumes, and we need to acclimate to the new one, and people don't have those expectations so everybody knows that because you leave here, or many people just say what you do, you need to learn English, but it's not that simple people come here to work and they work really hard to support their families, maybe their family is not here. They're sending money at to other countries to help them, but also they're there in immigrant community and undocumented community are the highest pay your taxes in the whole country, and they never get anything in return. You know, and they don't want to challenge authority because they're fearful. I hope this new administration changed all that. So people actually be able to claim what they need to be claimed. And don't just give the government, millions and millions of dollars that they never gonna be able to gain back. So, that's my experience and I'm willing to have conversations with anybody they want. And the other thing I want to add is that sometimes it's very, I think, irritating for me when we try to advocate for somebody, and the person that we're trying to, you know that service provider right away, Turn around and say, but you can help. I do, I do help but I cannot invest my time, you know like yeah I can help you, maybe if you hire me or you pay me to do it because I'm, I need to support my own family too. It's not just that I don't want to do it I will help you. And the same thing get asked all the time like, oh, maybe you can help. Yes, I can help, and I'd be happy to help if I can do it full time, you know, or if you want to help somebody because we leave other things, you know, we leave other things that are important for us to help, and it's just not just a form when you start talking to an immigrant or non English speaking person you open a Pandora's box, there is a lot of needs, everything, a lot of things is not just the rent is not just the utilities, it's not just the insurances, everything they've been isolated they've been abused, they've been met, you name it, and they don't report any of that for fear or because there is no way to for them to be able to report that. And now all the immigrants and undocumented people are criminals, we have a lot of people that come from other countries that are well educated, they have five degrees, and they have to be doing something else here because our system doesn't honor those degrees in any of that education, but that's all my, my profession today and I'd be happy to expand or talk to anybody if you want to know more. And thank you for having me and thank you for giving me the opportunity.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you Sarah. And thank you for your perspective and offering help. That's fantastic. Daisy.





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## Daisy Reyes

Hi everyone, good morning. Yes, so just just to echo a little of what Sarah was saying, I think we, we are very aware that COVID has hit the moles, the people of color, and that's including the Latin X community,

I think, for the past five years that I've been working with the Latin X community, I know some of the struggles that we have our lack of documentation like Sarah said. So when somebody is in a shelter, most of the times they are able to get an extension, and sometimes they are even able to stay there for until whenever they need to because they understand. But when you are working with somebody who is Hispanic and at some document. After the shelter, there's really no other places they can go, why because they don't have a social security number. Sometimes they also have a either physical or mental disability, and they can apply for Social Security benefits. Sometimes also the language is a barrier. Most of, I know most of the permanent supportive housing do or least need to have a social security number, and if they have a physical or mental disability, they can really work. I remember when I used to work with another agency I was translating for a person who was 70 years old, and he has been here for at least 30 years, he had a physical disability, And he was able to go and see a doctor to our, one of their community health care clinics that we have, but he needed to see a specialist and he couldn't get any of those services because community health clinics, only offer primary care services, and he couldn't apply for medical insurance because he was on document. So those are the struggles that I think now with COVID, our, our community is struggling more than before. Right now we know that like Sarah said we have families that there's like more than one family that live in the same household, and that's because a lot of them. It's not that they cannot go to another live on their own, but they don't have the documents. Sometimes financially. Not too long ago, I was also helping somebody to get a document translated. He came and said, I don't know English, can you please help me to read this, and it was a letter from the landlord and the letter said that he owe \$4,600 And they wanted to work with him. But he said, I want to work with them too, but right now because with COVID, there's that there's not that much work like we used to do before. And I told him about the rental assistance and everything you don't need a social security number, but he was also scared to go there because, although they might know that they're not gonna get in trouble, they're scared, they they fear. And those are just some of the experiences that I have had. It's kind of hard for me when I see an email from the Homeless Coalition when somebody is asking for help with somebody that speaks Spanish or somebody that it's Hispanic, it's kind of hard for me to reply back because I know what it is to be in a country where you don't know, don't know the language. I know what it is to be in a country where your culture is very different. So I always want to help, but like Sarah said they are not as many resources like there's, how can you help somebody who is in a shelter, and you can really help like there's, there's no free housing for them. So we just wanted to create more awareness about the issue, like Sarah I know, I work for a government agency, I'm probably also part of the problem, part of the system, but I also care about my community and I want to help, so if anyone wants to continue with this conversation I will be more than happy. I can stay for the whole meeting because I'm actually doing outreach with our Latinx community, community and some of our farms that are qualified to get the vaccine, but I'll leave my email on the box and if anybody wants to continue the conversation I'm more than happy to do it.



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## **Rob Huff**

Thank you so much Daisy. We don't think you're part of the problem. So,

## **Sara Irish**

there is a couple questions on the shot and I would like to respond. One was from what he said about the the how I say that the Latin X or the immigrant community paid more taxes than anybody else. Well, because some people take advantage of them and they provide them or they think that they got these legal documents and they end in violence or security numbers, they have to work, and they pay taxes on that social security numbers so they never get to claim or they file taxes and say you know this is my number and people have been here for 20, plus years. So all that money goes to whoever owns or debt people their own social security number, but they have to work and I don't think they know, and even on the, on the instance of the parents who are undocumented and the kids are American citizens, they cannot claim those kids, they won't get the reimbursement of those kids, so you know, those are the things that I meant when I say that they pay more taxes because any of us file our taxes and we get their credit for our children, they're undocumented they have US citizen children, and they don't they are not able to claim those children and get the, you know the benefits that we normally we get so that was what I meant when I say that. And then, somebody asked also about the translation sometimes you can get. I say organization, get some like the phone translation, you know, have the service or contract with a translation companies there is a few that there are available when you need them, they, they, you can pull them and connect the client over by phone. And now that we're on the internet, you know, electronic era, sometimes you can do the translation on Zoom. So, ob pan, And I don't know there's some little companies that they do that right now to assess nonprofits and governmental institutions. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Sara and I think Maureen asked a question about whether landlords can require social security numbers is that what your what your question was, Maureen.

## **Maureen Howard**

Yeah, I mean, can they legally ask for social security numbers when have you lawyer people that might be. I mean we're not required kinds of stuff that now says, social security number optional.

Yes, they can and it's related to running background checks on people. You of course don't have to provide it, But then they can refuse to rent to you.

## **Maureen Howard**

So we need another list.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, maybe that's something to fix.



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## **Sara Irish**

So Maureen So sometimes that's why they add people that don't have social security number and the pain, highest rent or deposit. For that reason, and they don't never get their money back even if they kept the unit's impeccable because they, they're fearful and who's arrogant they gonna tell, and they need to live somewhere.

## **Maureen Howard**

Make a sticky note.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks Maureen, any other questions for Daisy and Sarah before we move on in the agenda. Alright so if you have any questions feel free to put them in the chat. Thank you, Daisy and Sarah for being here today and for being willing to share how we can work better with the Latin X community. Thank you very much. So our next brief item on the agenda is turning it over to Carolyn Reed to talk about the upcoming event.

## **Carolyn Reed**

Thank you Rob. I put in a chat, a flyer it's at 921 today, and it's a group of us got together because we wanted to promote revenue for housing by pushing the county to take a regional approach and approve the HB, 15 91/10 of 1% tax for housing, it's only one penny on 10 bucks, and, and they didn't seem to have a real appetite for it at the time but in the meantime it sounds like the city of Tacoma has taken this on seriously which is great. So anyway, this little groups called revenue for housing, and we've been approaching the county, every week, reminding them that there is a community out here that wants to solve. And we want money to go towards it and we want a comprehensive plan. That tells us, who's doing what, how is how are people accountable. Get the money and how is the money being used and it's an effective approach. So that's kind of what we're doing, and then one of the, you know, besides going after them understanding the community wants this done is also changing the narrative in the community, and showing you know walking alongside the community and educating ourselves on why, who, and how people become unhoused. And so that the community understands, you know, in many cases, this isn't just, you know this is not a life choice but it's very complicated and a lot of times, many people just need a hand up to get out of the situation. And so we're going to hold a forum, a community forum, we've got three county council people that are going to attend. We're gonna do a film viewing of Melinda Ray burns film stories of us camp second chance where she embedded herself during the winter in a Seattle encampment. We will have someone will have Garrett, Talk a little bit about, you know the data how actually how many people are on house because if you look at point time that's not reflective of, you know all the numbers. We have mullet mullet, or Amanda walking sticks, she's going to give a little bit of perspective on her story and what housings meant to her best dog Leo, who was a representative is. Representing, representing the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and she's going to talk a little bit about statewide housing policies, and then we'll allow the three council people, your Derek young Ryan Mello and Janney Hitchin to give a five minute talk on where they're at because I know they're working on a plan, and on a resolution that points to a plan. We really want the



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community to be represented here so I'm pleading for you to invite, business leaders, faith communities. Anybody that cares you know about our community solving this problem, including you, we'd really like you to come. So there's a link on there, an event bright and then, you know, unfortunately, it's kind of a double registration but the event brights keeping track of who we've got, and then the League of Women Voters has, there's no account that you log into. So we're really excited about it, and we hope that you can pass it along. And let's have a really strong showing to the council so that they have confidence that as they make some moves, moving forward, and solving this that they have community support. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Carolyn. And can you also send the flyer to the coalition mailing list again, ahead of them. Yeah. Yeah, that'd be great.

## **Carolyn Reed**

Yeah, yeah. Kevin did it during the week but I'll do it again.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, perfect. Thank you. So our next item on the agenda is going to be the next in this series of conversations that we've been having with Tieghan from the city of Tacoma to help inform the city's homelessness plan. So Taegan, the floor is yours. When you're ready and you're muted at the moment was a meeting.

## **Tiegan Tidball**

I get it on the shirt right. Well, it's good to see everybody thank you for having me, as always, so I'm really excited about today's topic so we are going to discuss it dive a little bit deeper into prevention. and I think there is just so much creative ideas on this one so I'm really excited to hear your guys's feedback so just to ground us definition of prevention is homeless prevention refers policies, practices and interventions that reduce the likelihood, someone will experience homelessness. So we're looking for the tactics and strategies around that so obviously working homelessness household stability so there were people there unsafely housed as well. So looking at that. Something I want to highlight is the way that we're currently for our prevention programs we're defining success is I'm supporting clients that either you can maintain their housing. Since attaining it, or they can also access direct assistance. So what does that look like so that could be rental assistance programs, temporary financial assistance. So you know dollars for something to support their needs, whether there's documentation paying a phone bill, things of that sort. Um utility assistance free meals. Eviction supports legal services, food banks furniture banks, credit repair and advice and like housing navigation. So it's a it's a variety of services, um, and so our, like I said our defining success right now is supporting them accessing any of those. Um, I don't have a lot of legislative guidance around this for us, yet we do have a lot of standards of practice where if you're supporting somebody with like first month's rent we wanted to market rate. So we have some internal standards around that too. We do have some standards around our rental assistance programs and stuff like that about AMI, things of that sort. Um, I also want to highlight like connecting someone entitlement and benefits to like, Tana, things like that. Those are like state levels.



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We don't have the influence in that yet we do have influence of supporting people getting access. So, the other thing I want to highlight before we jump into the questions is, of course racial disparities. So when we look at the spark report specifically they talk about economic mobility, and the lack of economic capital within social networks, participates homelessness. For many people of color. So that's the one thing when we think about prevention, Like how do we support that increase with economic capital like how do we increase that for somebody. So that being said, here's the questions I want us to dive into, we can wiggle around I'm so excited. So the first one was, how would you prioritize prevention support, like what seems like the most important that we're seeing in the community right now, and individuals with lived experience and what ones need more investment like where are gaps and services, where's the blind spot where we can increase more to support people staying housed. So that's where we're at, we have any questions before we start, or need to have any clarifications. And I'll put it in the chat, of course.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, thank you to you again and just as a reminder, especially if you're new to the coalition meetings and these breakouts that we do. So, what I will do is split everybody randomly out into rooms of roughly five people will spend till about 10 o'clock in the breakout rooms, and we will you know you'll have an opportunity to consider the questions that Teagan is going to put in the chat. I will broadcast that to the room as well. The request would be that someone in the room, take notes, and when we come back here to the main room. Take a moment, whoever that note taker is and paste those notes into the chat, we retain the chat and pass it along to Teagan so that there's a record of everyone's ideas, and, and we can move along from there so you can see there's the two questions that tieghan Well three questions that Teagan has put in the chat, and some backup, backup information. Any questions from the group before we get started. All right, so I'm going to send everybody off to the rooms, again, we will have about five people in the room, and we will come back here at 10 o'clock, so have a good conversation, everyone.

**12 Minutes for breakout rooms – no transcript**

## **Rob Huff**

Perfect. Welcome back everybody. Yes, So Tiegan did you want to say a couple words to close this out.

## **Tiegan Tidball**

Yeah so, I mean we had some really great robust conversation I can't wait to hear feedback from everybody else. Thank you again so much for participating. I greatly appreciate it.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you. And just as a reminder, whoever took took notes in your chat or in your group, please. Paste the notes into the chat so we can make sure that that gets saved and and can help inform the effort and appreciate everybody's enthusiasm for the conversation that's fantastic to hear. And here



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comes the information in the chat so our next item in the agenda is actually, I'd like to invite Linda Stewart from the city of Tacoma to give us a quick update.

## **Linda Stewart**

Thanks Rob and and hello everybody. Just very briefly this morning. First of all, thanks for your continued work of, I joined just as we were waiting for all of you to come out of the breakout session so I just want to appreciate all of you and then recognize the work of Taegan Tidball on behalf of the city, to engage with you on the draft strategy the five year strategy. I'm really here this morning to make an exciting announcement. And that is about an interim appointment to the position of homeless program manager for the City of Tacoma. And we have appointed Clarissa Monteros to this interim position, and clearly said she and I are trying to communicate she's trying to log on to this meeting right now. I wanted to make sure that she was here with me so we'll give her a couple moments but I'm sure most of you know Clarissa, she has worked in the community for years. She lives here in Tacoma. And she brings several years of experience in direct homeless services funding homeless programs, and a strong background in applying an equity lens to the field. I think she actually just presented on homelessness and equity. Last night, to a meeting of this associated ministers, and she has been with the Office of Equity and Human Rights at the city since October of 2020, where she has been supporting a portfolio of work at Tacoma Public public utilities. And then, appointing her into this position aligns with the city's commitment to equity and building an anti racist organization on several levels, identifying talent within the organization, that we can tap into and bring into positions to inform how the city is going to continue building our anti racist, organization, and also in this position clearly so will help us understand what we need to do as we move to move up, fill the position permanently. She will serve in the interim role as we develop our five year plan to address homelessness. She'll serve on the continuum of care and regularly attend this weekly meeting, so you will all see her every week. And Teagan will be working right alongside her, and they will both be reporting directly to me. As we transition to how we're going to fill the position permanently. Again, we're working on how we'll position, the city to be successful in addressing homelessness. We're layering her expertise in with the existing expertise in the department, and then we will also be seeking community feedback into any decision to fill the position. Once it's opened on a permanent basis or open to permanent recruitment, and we intend to engage the community in that process as well so Clarice I think you're here. You want to come on and say hi.

## **Klarissa Monteros**

Hi everybody, it's good to be a part of the group again. I'm excited to be able to work with you guys. In this capacity, and thank you for the warm welcome in our chat.

## **Linda Stewart**

Thank you, Clarice.

## **Rosemary Powers**

So Clarissa will report to her new interim position on March 29 And so between now and then you can continue dialing Erica is great as old telephone number, there's, there should be seamless



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communication here. Alison Griffith is is answering those calls, and that number will stay the same for one Clary said joins the organization, that number will connect directly to her city cell phone so anyone looking for homeless program. Questions for the City of Tacoma, you can absolutely call me but you can also call Clarissa, and you can also call Teague and so you have abundant resources here

## **Linda Stewart**

for you. In, in

## **Rosemary Powers**

the city. So just want to pause Rob to see if there are any questions. And then, I don't know what clarice's schedule is today she's not working in NCS yet, but she made time to join us today. But I will I will roll off the call.

## **Linda Stewart**

If there aren't any questions.

## **Rob Huff**

I do see Maureen Howard has her hand up.

## **Maureen Howard**

Linda thanks thanks for coming and sharing this news and welcome Clarissa. Linda, where does Allison fit you said that Tegan and Clarissa would report directly to you.

## **Linda Stewart**

That Allison's that the assistant director of the department, she reports to me.

## **Maureen Howard**

But Clarissa, I understood you to say that Tegan and Clarissa would each report directly to you. That's correct. Okay. Okay, thanks.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, any other questions. All right, I'm not seeing any thank you for coming to the meeting today Linda and welcome Clarice,

## **Linda Stewart**

thank, thanks.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, so it seems like this would be a great opportunity to flip into other government updates. I don't know if there was anything else from the city of Tacoma that needed to come up today. Tikun was there anything else.



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## **Tiegan Tidball**

Yeah, I've got a couple, a couple of additional updates, so I want to again highlight that the warming center the Salvation Army is still operating with a maximum capacity of 30 individuals for single band, and this is been extended so this program is probably going to continue until April 30 So that's a little bit of excitement that that is extended. Um, I also want to discuss again and mentioned the hygiene pilot station, the hygiene station pilot, that's on Eighth in Yakima. It opened on March, 5, and it's still continuing to provide garbage, toilets and hand washing, without is still continuing as well. And our rental assistance so the rental assistance portal is now open. I'm sure we'll hear a little bit more from Valerie in just a second on that, and residents can find more information on [www.piercecountywa.gov](http://www.piercecountywa.gov) Oh my gosh there's numbers, forward slash 7142 slash rental assistance, I can put that in the chat too. And the program. The program provides up to 12 months of assistance dating back to March 2020 Search households up to 80% of Pierce County's area median income. So I just want to highlight that as well.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you taken. So why don't we flip right over to Valerie for an update from the county. Hello.

## **Valeri Knight**

Sorry I was out the last two weeks I have been doing. Every landlord presentation I can find to connect with our landlords all over Pierce County I think I'm up to 13 presentations in the last two and a half weeks so thanks for having me. So so far our portal went live March 8 for tenants to apply and we have over 10,000 applications started. Just to put that in perspective for you we served a total of 7000 households last year, and we are two weeks in, so the need is there and the need is great. And so we are processing applications, referrals went out today so that's fantastic news. Of those, about 10,000 applications total just under fourth just over 5000 are completed applications so this year with the portal folks can go in and save add additional documentation, answer questions, collect more information, and then go back in and hit submit at a later date, whereas last year once you started it you were stuck right like that was it. And so, those, we have a bunch who are started have not completed yet and then we have some who are submitted and complete. So of those submitted to complete just about 5000 of those, we sent out, just over 1000 referrals just last night, so our providers are all super busy getting folks out the door. We heard, we will get, Hopefully our state contract today. We are still waiting for that and so fingers crossed we have our state contract today so some of our providers are working but don't even have contracts, so good job to them because that's a big ask. So, we are prioritizing based on US Department of Treasury requirements which means households, under 50% area median income, and those who have been unemployed for 90 days or more will be served first, and so we're filling all of those first 30,000 slots with those. Anybody whose household is 24 and under, so no one in the household over age 25 They have all been referred to reach through reach will offer this wraparound services for those for that specific population, and then we are just continuing the work as we see. So, our outreach currently is extensive. We put out about 8000 flyers just this week to different organizations who requested them for big events like associated ministries, they have a large event coming up so they asked for Viers and all five languages. So if you have an or an event coming up if





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you're stuffing bags if you're doing any form of outreach, Daisy I just sent Daisy an email, we can print flyers for you and get them sent to you in any of those five languages. If you have a specific language that you need we can have it translated and printed as well. So just let us know what that need is we are willing and able to shift on a dime, to make sure that we are reaching all populations. We are currently coming out with some more. Sorry, some more outreach materials we are also going to be looking at setting up sights throughout the county spring and summertime and really just be available to folks to help assist with applications in person. And then, for folks who do not have internet, they can call 211 and complete their application over the phone and up to 200 languages, and we really want to refer it with respect to that, without internet access, you're really just tech savvy, because they're just getting, they're getting swamped. And so while they staff up we want to make sure that they folks have the accessibility they can do it over the internet that would be fastest so dollars going out the door as fast as we can get them here in the next couple of weeks we will have that live portal on our website with weekly data that's updated and that will be number of applications, it'll be broken down by race demographic ethnicity, gender and location hotspots and that will be a weekly update that we provide on our website so folks can track how the program is doing. And then we're just going to shift her outreach based on what that data shows so for example, no one in the keeping insulin is applying, we're going to make sure we're out in the key Peninsula, no one in Ashfords applying and yes Ashford is in the Pierce County, then we need to go out there and see if there's rental units and Ashford, and that they know about this program so been a very busy couple weeks, it will be a very busy several more months we did get word yesterday that the moratorium has been extended to at least June 30 which is so fantastic. And we actually saw an immediate drop in the number of applications received per minute. And so that was interesting and we expected that we were prepared for that. And so this just gives us three months to make sure we've served as many households as possible. So, yeah, so I'm here to answer any questions, concerns, comments complaints that you may have

### **Rob Huff**

already and I see your hand up.

### **Maureen Howard**

Oh, Valerie, thanks. Well folks, you know to, like I reached out to Valerie asking, she do a flyer in Spanish for undocumented people and she just immediately said yes, so don't, if you've got folks who don't fit the flyers, then just ask, Valerie, tell her what it is you need until let you know if she can do it or not. But my question is about the landlords. So, the last time they were almost 1000 landlords had entered their information into the landlord side. Are you getting pushback from landlords, or are they happy to work under the terms of what you can offer.

### **Valeri Knight**

Yeah So, so far because we're paying 100% of rents, everybody's pretty happy so last year they all got very conditioned to accept that 80% area median, or sorry 80% fair market rent, and this year we can go up to 150% fair market rent, so most landlords are pretty excited about that. We can also pay all of those utilities and up to 12 months of rent, with an additional three months available if it creates housing stability. And so, every landlord I've talked to is pretty excited and ready to just get it done. The



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questions we have or do we have so King County, they're only paying nine months of rent, and you have to forgive all the extra months past due until most of our Pierce County landlords are hearing that and realizing that's not how we're setting it up. We just don't believe that creates stability on behalf of the tenant or on the landlords, and so we are just not doing it that way so most landlords are pretty excited that we have very few if any barriers for them personally. They're also very thankful that we're sending checks directly to landlords, and not to clients themselves and so I think those are kind of the little carrots to get landlords more engaged this time. Diane, I see.

## **Diane Tilstra**

Valerie is this money that you're able to supply landlords coming through the Cares Act.

## **Valeri Knight**

It is US Department of the Treasury funds from the last round of last year so we have \$58 million through that US Department of Treasury dollars, and then we have an additional allotment coming in the next 30 to 45 days. So, we will have approximately 40 million more coming in the next door to 30 to 45 days.

Thank you very much.

## **Valeri Knight**

Welcome. Great, so yeah if you have recommendations if there's an outreach idea that you want us to do. If you need specific flyers printed if you have an idea for a flyer, send those to me via email, I will respond to them, and we will get you what you need. So just work with me and we will be happy to. To adjust. Do you have any link to help with back money. Do you have any link for help with back money owed to landlords, other than calling, Christina, do you mean, for a unit they're currently in, or for a unit they have already left. Prior units. So currently, this program because the priority from the think tanks, community wide word was key people in their current unit so as of right now we are going to focus on keeping people in their current units, we are not completely pulling it off the table there may be a time this year that we will be able to pay rent for units prior left. And so we are keeping that as an option, but right now we're going to try to get folks served so that we can get past this moratorium get people to stay in their units, and then we are looking at options for opening the that this funding source for any prior units, it is an eligible expense under treasury, but go one key people housed gold to see what else we can pay off for the landlords and the tenants so that they don't have a debt that follows them around for years to come. So it is, it is on a sticky note on my laptop which means nothing to you but it means it's very important. That's my system. And so we will keep that moving forward and see what we can do but we based on the information right now, the need is so great. We're worried we still don't have enough dollars for everyone who needs to keep their housing so definitely keeping it on the list and we will we will adjust as needed and we will inform folks when that rule changes, Valerie, I

have a quick question.



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Do people who are need mortgage help go to that same

### **Valeri Knight**

link. No, this is rent only so mortgage, we are expecting mortgage to come from the family, act that was just recently passed it's got some mortgage mortgage money in it, that's going to be closer to April, May, June timeframe. So just keep checking back with the Pierce County website this is rent only and then utilities for renters only so folks can apply for rent and utilities, just rent or just utilities, but they must all be renters. Okay, thank you. You're welcome. And I will not be here next Friday I am headed out for a surprise trip with my husband, I don't know where I'm going or anything, so I will leave on Thursday and come back on Sunday. I know there's no kids, no schoolwork and No, no work so that's all I know, and I will be back here on Monday, but I'll see if Jeff Rogers can pop in and be your update so just say no I will not be around, I don't know where I'm going but I'm told it's warm, that's all I know it's gonna be like 70 So, wish me luck,

### **Rob Huff**

enjoy your time away.

### **Valeri Knight**

Thank you.

### **Rob Huff**

Alright so, continuing with our government updates Rianna from Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.

### **Reanna Bettencourt**

Hi everybody, I want to go where it's 70 degrees also but I won't be enjoy Valerie. Um, so, so, Just a few things. Some days eligibility updates vaccine planning updates, and there's some little links here and there. Okay, so it's been really hard to keep up with the changes over the last week. Um, so, as of right now, many people living homeless, or those serving them are already eligible, including workers in health care settings people 65 or older 50 or older who live in multi generational households. So as of the 17th, the state opened eligibility to phase one B, tier two, which includes those are pregnant, living with a disability, putting them at higher risk staff and volunteers who work at homeless and domestic violence shelters, there's other people on the list. You can find that information on the state website or our health department web page. However, I just want to highlight staff volunteers who work at homeless and domestic violence shelters are eligible. As of Wednesday, so you can. I'll post the link to our vaccine website that has all the information we have vaccine clinic information we have a call center number to help with registration. We have all the information that anyone needs I believe so, I'll, I'll post that. So for a vaccine, event planning. A lot of us on the Community Liaison Team that we're focused on vaccine education we're sort of shifting to, we're going to vaccine supply is going to double. Pretty soon for Washington and Pierce County and so we're sort of shifting to looking at vaccine



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vaccine clinic planning and helping the rest of our, our teams do that work. And so that's sort of where we're at. So we're working with Jenny sheppy some of you are familiar with her and work with her doing this but we are working with mobile teams here to, and shelter managers to plan vaccine at homeless shelters and other housing sites to begin at the end of April. We have a proposed plan to bring vaccine on site to several shelters and housing units, there's about 10 So far, we can add more as our internal capacity and vaccine supply allows. Currently we can't establish any set dates for these events yet because our mobile teams are still busy doing other sites were spread very thin but everyone's working hard to do this so please be patient with us. We had a. We're also working with Valerie, to bring together homeless outreach teams and community partners to map out our approach to getting vaccines to those who are unsheltered and in encampments and, and other places, plans will not be public, we don't, we're not having a written down a public facing plan. We are working to do this. We're sharing plans and regular meetings with homeless providers and outreach teams to get feedback and hear concerns. So, yeah. And so then yesterday, we during the outreach, or the emergency shelter meeting, we had an announcement that as of the 31st of March, new eligible groups include 16 and older with two or more core, core comorbidities, more workers in congregate settings restaurant manufacturing and construction, everyone 16 and older living in congregate settings that includes correctional facilities group homes for those with disabilities and those experiencing homelessness, and then everyone, aged 60 to 64. And there's more on our website about that. So lots of stuff happening. It's challenging but meaningful work. I'm going to post some links in the chat. I want to, because we're moving more from presentations to planning vaccine clinics, I, I want to invite everyone to come to our virtual community vaccine presentation that we have, that is already set up for community members, and I'll post the link to that in the chat as well, but I think that's all for my updates if there's any questions, feel free.

### **Rob Huff**

Yeah, so if anybody has any questions you want to either raise your hand or I see Garrett's hand physical hand go up.

### **Gerrit Nyland**

So just, I mean it's a big deal so as of March 31 Everyone living in a homeless shelter is now eligible for a vaccine. That's over the age of 16 Correct, yes. Right.

### **Valeri Knight**

Or anyone who goes to one of their shelters for services so folks who are not living in the shelter but go for like decent food any of that stuff they are all eligible,

### **Gerrit Nyland**

and that didn't happen just because we got lucky. That happened because the Health Department took the concerns brought up by providers and lobbied very passionately with the state health department to make that change so hats off to the health department for making that happen. And that, that is going to be a game changer in our homeless populations keeping people safe and helping people to do their jobs. So that, we're gonna really Yeah, we're gonna see a big change so super exciting. Thank you.



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### **Reanna Bettencourt**

Thanks. Thanks, Kara. My, I gonna post the webpage in the chat, real quick, my eyes are watering out right now. I've been, you know Jenny's been working super hard and my goal is not here but my, my team member Michael and I have been working really hard since the beginning of January and you know sometimes you all are a tough crowd but we, you know, just kind of rolled with it and we've been on the, the Department of Health, like, come on, you know, let's do this. So, I appreciate. I just appreciate it and I know you guys really work really hard to, to help people and so yeah, thanks. So this, our vaccine webpage has all the information you could want to find on it and so if you need any other flyers that you see on this web page that need to be translated or anything. This, send me an email and let me know what your needs are, and I will do my best to meet those needs, and I'll be quiet now. Think.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Brianna. So I don't see anyone from the Pierce County Emergency Management Group on the call today. If anybody is and wants to speak up, I'll hold a second here before we move on. All right. So, some of you may have noticed that Kevin is not with us for today's meeting. He wasn't feeling well, so I'm going to shuffle the agenda items, the order of items, a little bit. And I thought, why don't we provide a little bit more time for Maureen to talk about the advocacy update if you're willing to do that now,

### **Maureen Howard**

your one minute, I was waiting. Okay, so it's a great time to be an advocate folks, starting with the extension of the eviction moratorium. And I know everybody's concerned about what are the off ramps on June 30 or July 1. And we don't know, we know it takes about a month for evictions to go through a normal process. We know, assuming the eviction resolution program continues, it'll take longer than a month. But that's about all we know right now. However, there are some really amazing things that have happened. 1213 House Bill 1236, which is Representative Matt Griese, just caused bill passed the Senate, housing and Local Government Committee, and goes to rules now. So that's a big deal. The other thing that just passed out of House Appropriations is 1277 That's the increase in the document recording fee. And that money, Then will be used for rental assistance for operations and maintenance, and services for permanent supportive housing, and for the landlord mitigation fund. So it's not a done deal yet, still working its way through. And then the. So the city in the county so we've Tuesday, March 23 is like homeless housing day and Tacoma and Pierce County. So, with Tacoma as Carolyn already mentioned, the city council and AI set this out to listserv and then I'll send something again this weekend. So the study session with the City of Tacoma will take up the 1/10 of 1% for affordable housing. The goal is that the first reading of the ordinance is that evening in the study in the regular council meeting with the second reading and hopefully passage. On March, 30, at the regular city council meeting. I'll send a link to my Madra skulls article today in the review and also. And the. So the, the request is out, and I'll re emphasize that, that as many people as possible, either as individuals, or if your organization can do it. The contact the city council members in support of this 1/10 of 1%. The only pushback that I can think of because the Chamber of Commerce has taken care of the issue of



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adding a tax, it's a minimal amount of money, but the only other thing I can think of is that because of the American relief rescue plan passing. Last week, that there may be council members who think there's enough housing and homelessness money coming. That's not the case. They 1/10 of 1%, of the money that's coming is COVID related, you've got to be able to tie the use of the money to the impact of COVID. That's not the case with this 1/10 of 1%. So this is money that we can use for extremely poor people to have housing. And if 1070 passes in the state legislature that does a technical correction that allows that money to be used for acquisition of existing properties right now you can only use the 1/10 of 1% for Bill for new construction. So with a technical correction, It opens up our options. So that happening, then the county at the county council will be putting forward the ordinance around the regional meaning county plan to end homelessness. So that passed out of the Human Services Committee, but with questions about should, should the resolution separate out the commitment to end speed homelessness by November 1 Should that be a separate resolution. What exactly are the duties or expectations of this ad hoc committee, the expansion of the ad hoc committee to include somebody from the city of Tacoma Puyallup and Lakewood. And we also I think as many of you know raised several of us raised the issue about a race and equity lens on this project so we are waiting as a coalition to see what happens with that resolution before we invest more energy and our original step which was to take the leadership on this. So, that's happening back to the city council. I'll send out the link for the study session this week. And those of you who are interested in more information about the American rescue plan can just click on that, it's the first item from the study session, and it's the city's Washington DC lobbyist, and she does, one of the cleanest briefest presentations on the entire rescue plan that I've seen, there is a ton of money in there, remember I said it's a gift that keeps on giving. Well, it's giving in places I didn't know anything about. So, the city itself will receive 60 about \$63 million county will get about 175 million, and that what we used to call the Cares Act that really flexible money. Well now it's the American rescue plan, half of that money is going to come, but before the middle of May, and it's got a wide eligibility for use. Then there's a hole, and actually the local governments can contract directly with nonprofits that are funded through McKinney vento monies. So there are lots of possibilities there that nobody had flagged for me before. And then there's also the, there's a whole lot of money that's going to come along the vaccines to health department, most of that will probably go to the state and then the state will distribute that to the local health departments, And then there's money around small business so I think that we have opportunities we haven't maybe thought about before. And that, I'm just gonna keep doing the 230 Wednesday in the weeds around the rescue plan until we sort of sort out what we might be able to get it was heartening to hear to come on city council members talk about non congregate shelter options about councilmember Walker party's viewed the webinar that the national webinar that was done on non congregate shelters last week, and we also have, it's clear that there's an interest in acquisition and using money for long term assets like hotels, so that is really good on an individual basis. Remember, the stimulus checks are out if your folks have direct deposit it. That money should be in their accounts. If they don't use the get my payment, big button on irs.gov If it says something like, you're not eligible or we don't know. Then go to the FAQs because there's a whole list of reasons about why you could get that response, it doesn't mean you won't get a check or the pre loaded debit card, it just means it hasn't happened yet, some of your folks may need to file 2020 taxes, even if they're not required to do that, they may have to do it in order to get the first or second stimulus checks if they didn't get those, or the current one, but the Treasury guidance is the IRS guidance is



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really clear on that page, food stamps, snap the 15% increase continues. And the unemployment, the federal unemployment benefits continue, and of course the child tax credit is amazing if you've got folks who have children through the age of 17. So it's some of these things, you'll get directly through your usual channels if you're on distribution lists for specific issues, and others. If you've got questions, you can email me, I'll try and find you. Somebody who knows what that's about. So in any event, I think we are. I am, like, way more hopeful than I've been in a very long time you realize we're gonna have over \$100 million in rental assistance in this county. When you take the December money the 58 57 million that's out right now. Probably another 40 coming from the rescue plan, and we don't know what the state of Washington might put in out of its own money. For instance, if the document recording fees 1277 goes forward, we don't know what's going to be in the capital budget, but fair warning, Valerie, I'm going, keep going to go back for the federal money allows for word rent allows forward rent for homeless people who have a lease. So, on a, you know, over \$100 million. Seems like we get out a million to get people off the street. So anyway,

### **Valeri Knight**

all that ESG funds are gone. Let's do it. Alright, for now, we've got other funds, let's use other funds first and keep people. So keeping in mind folks TPU has millions past you. And we have one landlord with 500,000 and past due rent, just in Pierce County. So the need is great so as soon as we get down the line. Yes Rob I have been buffed a little, it'll be fine. It's just going to be a really busy couple of years, that's okay. I will eventually find a way to do my real job too. I just got to do both.

### **Maureen Howard**

Well, the beauty of it I think one of the things is, hats off to the county for contracting with the portal people, the database people, I mean, the more, the more we can encourage local governments to invest in technology that works for the people with whom we work. The more we make this money last on into the future because now we're helping them change their internal systems. So, you know, Think about, like, you know, once the dashboard goes up, everybody take a look at it and see. Does that answer our questions, or are there more questions. Is there more data, are there more data that we need for our work, so I you know, I, I know it's awful. On the streets, and I know it's awful if that's what you're doing, it's trying to work at that level. But honestly, these are like the first glimmers of hope in a very long time, so. So yeah, thank you. As always, thank you.

### **Rob Huff**

No thank you. So does anybody have any questions for Maureen,

### **Gerrit Nyland**

marine, did you cover the 10th of 1% mental health stuff with the county. I didn't ask him.

### **Maureen Howard**

I didn't thank you. That resolution passed that pass at the council or just out of the committee, Council at the council.



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## **Gerrit Nyland**

Sorry to pass out of committee and it's on the council agenda for the 23rd for Tuesday,

## **Maureen Howard**

and in non technical terms what it does is it removes the requirement for a fix at the state level before the 1/10 of 1% for behavioral health starts to be collected. So that should. It passed out, with total support, and we expect total support in that council county council, this is county council. So they, the state, then they just go to the state and tell them what they've done and then they start collecting taxes. I think July 1 And then the money's available in December I think that that's a just a state procedure but but yeah that so that issue is taken care of. And it was a councilmember Morel, who sponsored that change. So, you know, it's just electoral politics are really important, folks. And it's really important to have relationships with all our elected officials as well as with the staff. So, yeah. Exciting times.

## **Rob Huff**

And it sounds like it's gonna be a busy week next week so. All right, thank you, Maureen. Kim. In continuation of shuffling things around in the agenda Collin, would you be interested in doing a safe parking update. Yeah,

## **Colin DeForest**

sure. I can most definitely do that. So, I've been busy, lots of meetings, last night I did the presented at the associated ministry's quarterly meeting which was nice to get the word out to a new crowd. Really good. It was a fun meeting to participate in there was a lot of good presentations on that meeting tomorrow at tomorrow morning actually. Jeffrey boys had he facilitates a group it's like the bishop's homeless task force. So I am going to present on on safe parking at that tomorrow morning, which will be. I'm looking forward to a good conversation there. Do you see is there moving forward. So we are working on right now, it's crafting the letter to go out to the community. I'm hoping that that happens within the next. I'm hoping that happens this coming week, and then we start kind of door Belen and getting the word out on that and then shortly after that, hopefully, if we do that early in the week then by the end of the week, we'll do a zoom meeting for the community if they have any questions, so that's moving, which is exciting. TCC is still moving. I think I'd said last, I met with the Vice President, Carl, and had a good meeting with him. He's taking it back to leadership, again, we're either gonna get word on yea or nay on March 23 They have a meeting or March 30 They have a meeting and just depends if it makes it on the 23rd calendar, which is better than mid to late April. Still not ideal, but they've basically said if we, if we okay, we're going to, it's going to happen really really quick so, so that's good. Um. Outside of that, I'm still working with Father candle over at St. Matthews on the northeast side of town. Our Celtel site is full, overflowing, that we're trying some new times I think I said that last week for outreach workers to come out are actually coming out in the evening. Now, this was the first week that happened. So that's exciting. We have, there's a couple openings at the Tacoma site. So, we have a lot of referrals coming in I know a lot of you have referred people unfortunately some of the people just we don't have places for him right now so that's challenging. I'm confident that we're going to have some of these new sites going on to use, you see will be a game changer. And then having TCC will be really





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nice also. And then we're, we're waiting on a few others that we're talking to, also so that's that's pretty much it. I don't know if anybody has any questions,

## **Rob Huff**

feel free to sign up,

## **Carolyn Reed**

you mind mentioning the forum to your bishops meeting because that's, that's the kind of group where you'd really like to attract.

## **Colin DeForest**

Yeah and I can pass that along. And you also could pass it along. But I can do it to Jeffrey boys who is right there in the middle, and he is. He's in charge of that, that bishops group so

## **Carolyn Reed**

hopefully I'm pleased to since you have the relationship, where we're a shared leadership group.

## **Colin DeForest**

Cool.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, so thank you very much, Colin it's great to hear there's new sites still coming along and new sites about to open so that's fantastic. So that the other two items on our agenda, since Kevin is not here today, we will not talk about the updates to the coalition plan to end home street homelessness, which he briefly spoke about during last week's meeting. However, I thought I'd give a couple of minutes, rosemary, do you want to offer a kind of some summary of what we talked about regarding governance.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Sure. So, a while back not too long. We had a small conversation about where are we as a coalition in terms of our structures of who makes decisions who can speak for us, who do we want to be if we don't want to be what we are who might we be who could we be so those questions were raised in a very general sense of and kind of a specific need, is that we've had some requests for representation on groups like the continuum of care and as potential of our planned ad hoc committee for the plan for homelessness for regional plan. So we, we know we need to come up with a way at least to deal with, how do we support people who might be able to represent us in a way that's, that's clear, and not just having anyone who's on the coalition say they speak for the coalition. So, I think, I think next week we are going to deal with that more specifically, but we've had these requests and we have a preliminary idea that the coalition would publish the request that we have at a meeting like this, and then the steering committee the following Wednesday which is we meet at three. Generally, would make a recommendation, if people were willing to serve or people put their names in or find people who might be willing to serve that we could contact, and then the coalition would vote on that the next Friday



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meeting so we'd have, whatever they were candidates or they were self nominated folks are. So people who could represent us who would have the time to represent us and in fact, trying to think about the characteristics of a coalition representative that that people have been engaged with us for a while, not just somebody who just joined that they have working relationships with multiple peoples in the coalition that they have the authorization from their job if their job, brings them here. They are not but if their job would permit them to commit the time to doing this, whatever the time is involved, and that they'd have the ability to publicly support coalition positions, which may not also be true for people who come here in their works. Their work capacity. So that, that's something to think about we'll take it up next week, but in a more general sense about the bigger question of structure is requested everybody here think a little bit about what you get out of the coalition what's its value to you. What is its benefit some of you have come here every Friday for years. And in the last year you've come to a Zoom meeting every Friday for a couple hours. So what's in it for you and your work. And then the other question that helps us to move forward and thinking about what we might want to get stronger about is what are we not able to do because we're as loose, and open a table as we are. So how do we maintain the values that we experienced in the Open Table, and what are the structures we need to be able to act, to act vigorously and sometimes quickly on issues that as Maureen said so well in her advocacy update, there is, there's a lot of stuff that we need to take some positions on and advocate for so what kind of structures is best for doing that. So that's the general frame I know we had some number of people volunteer to participate in discussion. And we didn't make a list of those folks so you can either let Rob know or me know and if you're not able to come to a steering committee meeting at three o'clock on a Wednesday. We'll find a way to make a meeting time that would accommodate your interest in carrying the conversation forward. I think that's my memory at least of what we did.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, rosemary and I'm going to put my chat, or my email address in the chat, so that folks who want to participate in the conversation around governance, and, and setting up a little bit more formal system for the coalition can email me to join our next meeting related to that. So, Garrett had a quick poll that he wanted to do with the group before we go to other items of interest so the floor is yours. Gary,

## **Gerrit Nyland**

thanks this is sort of in the, in the sort of vein of last week's poll sort of a little bit about who we are. And this one is about your volunteer behavior activities rather, so I was just sort of interested I know lots of us are here because our jobs allow us to be here and we get paid a lot of us to volunteer work here and volunteer work all over the place and I was just thinking that this group volunteers a lot. I'd love to know how much you volunteer, and why you volunteer so I've got a fun little poll that I'm launching here, And it's got two questions. The first one is how many hours a week do you volunteer your time, and yeah, just kind of make a guess as to what you typically do. And then the second question I think is more fun, which is why do you volunteer, and I've got a bunch of options, I'll read them here you can fill the poll out while I'm talking or whatever, you have a family culture of volunteering something you grew up with. You feel an obligation to serve others, you can answer multiple times on the way volunteer right so I expect multiple options. It's part of your religion, right, and you know the real kind of a part of your faith



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is is serving others. You have the joy of making a difference, right, it's something that kind of feeds you inside. Guilt drives you, guilt, a major motivator for many of us. And when you see suffering that's kind of drives you to do this work for a lot of people volunteering keeps them active and social after they've retired, my father in law, it's a good example of that, that, um, that's part of his social structure. I have to for school or for other things, like a lot of our graduation requirements have volunteer as part of it, or scouting writing volunteering as part of rank advancement and Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, learning or career development right things that, that kind of, you know, open up other opportunities for you. Volunteering can do that, I don't volunteer, which is perfectly fine lots of us have lots on our plate already if we have schooling or we have family that we're taking care of. And I'd rather not answer. So we'll let this go, and I'll do results in a minute or so. Thanks everybody for humoring me.

### **Rob Huff**

All right, And so we have 3435 out of 51 of us who have done the poll so we'll give this here another 30 seconds or so and then move on to other items of interest, or just 10 more

### **Gerrit Nyland**

seconds. That looks good. And I'll just put them up here.

### **Rob Huff**

Sorry, Rob. No problem.

### **Gerrit Nyland**

We could all you people, reveling in the joy of doing good stuff for other people. Obligation Oh, glad to see there's some more people in the guilt category like that over 20 hours, we've got somebody somebody 13 hour they'll get five people spending a lot of people spending at least an hour a day. That's a lot of folks. Cool. All right, back to you, Rob.

### **Rob Huff**

Fan, fantastic. And I know not everyone was able to probably participate in the poll, so if you were unable and you want to make a comment in the chat, we that'd be great to see as well. So let's, we've got a few, a rare few minutes at the end of the meeting here for other items of interest so open the floor if anybody has any items that they think would be good for the full group, Diane, I see your hand up.

### **Diane Tilstra**

Yeah, I wanted to ask the question about the purple bag program that has recently been talked about, I think in this group because Janet told me about it. So I contacted Brent Rucker at the city, and he advised me that they're only going to supply purple bags to the city sanctioned camps, and that they're using it is a way to connect with people in the camps to try to encourage them into housing or to avail themselves of other services. And so I asked him if it's at all possible and volunteers that are trying to do something with the camps could take the purple bags down there to encourage people to use them and he said no. So he said we don't have a plan right now for our volunteers to do that. And, and I know that the garbage issue is really a huge issue around the camps.



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## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, and I know Jeffrey, I see Jeffrey has his hand up, I'll let him speak for himself.

Okay.

## **Reverend Boyce**

It's still a problem, in some ways. No, I've been able to get thee through talking to my Councilwoman Mosca, about picking up the garbage at the camp on 38th and G. And that is because I've started, I'm a chaplain and I've spent some time with them. The first thing I asked them was what do you need and they said brooms and bags so I did they cleaned it up, and they're putting everything in garbage, and are in garbage bags and boxes, and the city comes by and picks it up. I've also been down to the other, some of the other encampments on to Yakima, where they said yes the city just came through and picked up all our garbage, but they had no rooms or garbage bags so I gave them some rooms and garbage bags, and I'm trying to do that with all the on street camps. The city seems to be picking up some very quietly, but doing it, but I don't know all the particulars, because nobody in the city has told me what they're doing is just getting done so. The Purple Bag program will not be coming to. And I know this for a fact, to the unsanctioned camps. And at some point it would be nice to see us expand into some organized unsanctioned camps because I'm not sure the city can put together enough sanction camps.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Jeffery. I see Jennifer has her hand up.

## **Jennifer Ammons**

Hi, I just wanted to mention, I know a couple of people have already mentioned that the eviction moratorium was extended. It's been extended through June 30 The provisions, I went through it pretty carefully and the provisions appear to be identical to the previous provisions so nothing's changed. In JP has had luck so far, arguing that those 60 Day notices that were put out before the, the change that required the affidavit to be attached are not valid. So we've, we've defeated several evictions that were based on 60 day notices without affidavits attached to them. And the see the CDC moratorium, you guys have probably heard that there are lawsuits out there, some federal courts have found it's unconstitutional. At this point, the Pierce County Superior Court is just putting a pause on all cases in which the CDC moratorium is alleged as a defense. So, if you have any clients or know people who are facing potential eviction and they are behind in rent. Make sure they do their declaration under the CDC and allege that as a defense, and at least by some time.

## **Rob Huff**

Fantastic. Maureen I see your hand up. I

## **Maureen Howard**



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want to go back to brooms and bags which I think is a great program title, but So Diane, we've had, Brandon from environmental services with us a couple of times, and, and part of what makes the purple bags, not work, city wide. Is that it, they're coming out of environmental services not out of solid waste. And so part of is the the peculiarities of funding, they're doing it as a way to remediate or mitigate environment. Environment coming out through an environmental lens, I guess so. But that, so that they're not, they're probably not going to solve the problem. We're just within the city we're gonna have to tackle it differently, and it could certainly be one of the things on the list for funding, as we talk about what the American rescue plan provides and flexibility that a city wide, serious, you know, and the county to that serious. Garbage program.

## **Diane Tilstra**

It's a health issue.

## **Maureen Howard**

Oh no absolutely no we know that, but I'm just telling you where the purple bags come from, they come from a particular environmental funding source, but, but we could put that, I mean, somebody flagged that so I don't forget it. And that could be one of the things that's on the, on the list of priorities for the American rescue Act money that's plan Act money that will be here, and we and we've got a model, and not just in the purple bags but we've also got a model and the people from the self help groups and people like Geoffrey, who are delivering brooms and bags and, you know, if it's X amount of money that that garbage people need to pick up the garbage well that can come out of that pot too. Yeah, County's gonna have 175 million probably in the city 63 Garbage can come out of there.

## **Diane Tilstra**

Right. And I really do appreciate that. Having garbage dumpsters is optimum I really am not promoting plastic bags.

## **Maureen Howard**

Right, no, no, it's just whatever gets the garbage,

## **Diane Tilstra**

whatever it gets the garbage. Yeah,

## **Maureen Howard**

yeah. So yeah, so people who want to do garbage. Think about that what okay Jeffrey. Jeffrey so the garbage leader.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, so I noticed that we are past 11 o'clock, and I know a lot of folks have other things to get to. I want to thank everybody for joining us today. If you do still have something that you want to announce with the folks who remain that's great. We will have a small group of us hang out after this meeting to plan the agenda for next week so love to hear your voice if you want to hang out. And I will stay here for



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a few minutes but I know we usually take about a five minute break before we start our planning meeting so have a great Friday and weekend, everybody.