



# Coalition to End Homelessness Provider Meeting - Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

coalition, meeting, site, encampments, services, good, maureen, chat, people, questions, folks, homelessness, shelter, rob, conversation, homeless, talk, thought, great, housing

## SPEAKERS

Julian Wheeler, Mike Yoder, Jeffrey Boyce, Greg Walker, Gerrit Nyland, Kevin Glackin-Coley, Verna Lilly, Klarissa Monteros, Laurie Davenport, Rob Huff, Theresa Power-Drutis, Reanna Bettencourt, John Davey, Rosemary Powers, Maureen Howard, Valeri Knight, Colin DeForest, David Earl Duncan, Janne Hutchins, Al Ratcliffe, Tiegan Tidball, Janet Runbeck, Courtney Chandler, Laurie Anderson, CC Mendoza

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### CC Mendoza

Hey good morning everybody, welcome, welcome on this beautiful sunny Friday morning. This is the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness meeting. And what I'd like to do is invite anybody who's new and joining us for the first time, to please introduce yourself and tell us where you're from anybody new

### Laurie Anderson

Hi I'm Laurie Anderson, I'm the Director of Programs for St Francis house in downtown QL, we are a clothing bank serving East Pierce County,

### CC Mendoza

welcome Laura. Thank you. Happy to be here. How did you hear about us.

### Laurie Anderson

Paul Anderson.



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## **CC Mendoza**

All right, Anybody else.

## **David Earl Duncan**

Hello. Are **we doing interest**. Yeah. Let's see Ah Hi my name is David Earl Duncan I'm Seattle based software engineer, I'm previously done work with like Homeless Advocacy we're going to homeless shelters. Accessibility working with people with, like, the homeless with disabilities, things like that and yeah I heard about this meeting I thought it'd be interesting just like hop in and kind of see, I know this is like a common base but I'm really enjoying like learning more and like finding out about like a, you know, like a regional approach to homelessness.

## **CC Mendoza**

Welcome David. We're glad you're here.

## **David Earl Duncan**

Good to be here.

## **CC Mendoza**

Anyone else.

## **John Davey**

Hi everybody, John, do you want him for the first time. Yeah, I live in Tacoma, work for a small energy efficiency company out here, and we'll learn more about what we can do to contribute and help.

## **Courtney Chandler**

Alright, how did you feel, how did you hear about us, um,

## **John Davey**

Aaron, get up, the director of the Tacoma refugee choir is friends with my wife, and we were chatting. Cool. All right,

## **CC Mendoza**

welcome. What's up. Anybody else new for the first time. Okay, then I'm gonna hand it back over to Rob.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you CC and welcome everybody. It's great to see great to see everybody's faces on the screen. To start this Friday. At this point in the meeting, we're gonna shift over and talk about what we're seeing that is new, what's happening on the streets, so we don't have anybody designated to speak during this



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time this is, this is open for folks to say hi and let us know what they're seeing if they're interacting with people out on the streets. So I open the floor. Has anybody been out and about and seen or interacted with folks who are living outdoors this week.

## **Courtney Chandler**

I have last Sunday, I don't know if this was already shared and then passed me no but the 38th Street camp, Camp mount was cleared out. And then, it looks like the Yakima, and Knight street has more pants and there was people picking up garbage from there. Earlier this week, like, tons of garbage bags so I don't know I haven't been by there again yet.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Courtney,

## **CC Mendoza**

and I was on Yakima, um, I think it was Tuesday evening, and I took some garbage bags to them. There were a couple of fights going on at the time, which was sad to see, But there were people trying to clean up.

## **Rob Huff**

CC was at the residence that we're cleaning up there or resume versus

## **CC Mendoza**

Well, the residents. Okay, the people in the encampment.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, yeah that's what I meant. Jeffrey Have you had any more contact with folks from the former 38 and GSI.

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

The five camps that went over to the access road at 705 were swept out, and they were only there like four days and actually saw somebody moving the big bricks with this pickup truck and next thing I know, next day they were gone. I did run into one of them later, four of the 10 households went up Davie road.

## **AI Ratcliffe**

And then two ended up at 72nd street. That small encampment up there. One went to 34th and Pacific. And that was the one I was most concerned about because of the fragility of the two people.

## **Jeffrey Boyce**



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One is mentally ill and the husband is very very fragile. So the last I heard they're at 34th and Pacific I'm trying to work them down to nativity house but I don't know how much success I'll have.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Jeffery. Anyone else with eyes on the streets this week that have interacted with folks

## **Laurie Davenport**

are housing justice attorney Casey Burton went out on Wednesday and talked to several people found a couple who she thinks she may be able to help help with past evictions, so she's working through their paperwork now.

## **Rob Huff**

That's awesome. Teresa.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I just want to mention a treasure we have and I don't know how much everyone else is aware, but right on our blog we have the needle exchange van comes every Wednesday from one to six, and it's a time when it's easy for the rest of us to interact with people because kind of a gathering place. And it's, and it's one of the, I want to say, I believe it's because of the people in the van and the kind of community that they present, but it's one of the most relaxed, times, like people don't feel the tension because they know it's okay for them to be there so just kind of a shout out to something I saw on the street and I keep seeing on the street. They've been doing this for years and they do it in other communities, if people are, are looking for ways to interact with people that's, you know, it's not like you go up to the van and say, I'm here to do this but it's if you hang out. People will ask you for help, like with finding their birth certificates or other such things. Thank you, Teresa.

## **Rob Huff**

Alright so if anybody else has anything they wanted to share. I think we will move the meeting along, but feel free to drop items in the chat we do retain the chat files from each of these meetings, and use those as a resource. So anything that you want to make sure the coalition knows and retains you can drop into that. So let's shift over, Courtney, do you want to give us an update on what happened in the second meeting of the Tacoma Pierce County, or the Pierce County, ad hoc committee that's been meeting for a couple of weeks.

## **Courtney Chandler**

Yeah, Garrett is gonna start and then I'm gonna fill in with anything, he took notes this time so I did not. I was engaged in present so I wanted him to start

## **Gerrit Nyland**



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here, Courtney, Somewhat quick notes. So we had our second meeting of the four meetings that the ad hoc committees doing, and again this is, this is we're putting together with what the county is calling the action plan, and so that clan is basically putting the pieces together for how we're going to actually do the comprehensive plan, right, the roadmap for ending homelessness in Pierce County, and that's going to be a six month process starting in May. And we're also putting together, how we're going to reach the goal of, of having shelter available or at least safe places available for everyone by November 1 stuff that's the charge of this group. And again, Courtney jump in and I see. Clarissa is here from the city, who's also attending those meetings and participating and marine so just chime in when I screw something up. This week we worked on three areas. One of them was data, and the county presented point in time data, as well as some crude data pulled out of the HMS system, and, and really kind of compare the two and the inadequacies of point in time, and, and the need to have good data. And so that was a healthy discussion really about how, how we need to work hard to figure out the scope of the need. We talked a little bit about the different groups that we need to have involved in the planning process, and all of your work. I took actually almost all of your work I get a few things I missed in the chat but, but we had a list of 13 different groups that that you guys worked to put together during breakouts last Friday and so that was incredibly helpful. We just ran through that list and and as ideas come up of groups we need to engage with let me know I'm going to be publishing that list out to the coalition today, so you can kind of see what we know. Anyway, and the last thing we talked about was about kind of the scope of what the work we were doing and this is a real challenge because we really need to design a homeless system, you know, what type of homeless interventions when people become homeless and how much should we be prioritizing shelter and, and, you know, homeless prevention but there's a lot of peripheral things that are probably going to have to be out of the scope that need to be considered, or maybe need to be in the scope like access to substance use treatment or mental health treatment, how we work with people experiencing, you know, sexual violence from trafficking or, or looking at a lot of the, you know, the major drivers of homelessness, incarceration, and it's, you know cyclical connection and systemic racism and how that's a you know a huge part of, you know, the, the homeless, kind of, you know, driving forth, and, and so that's going to be, I think, interesting so your thoughts are welcome on that. We're not going to do breakouts on this but again you can always get a hold of me or get a hold of. Courtney or Marine, and, and really just kind of talk through what you're thinking about so we can take those ideas to that group. Next week, we're going to work on how we should have our public engagement during the comprehensive plan like what do we want that to look like and how it should that function, and again I'd love some input from folks on how to do that well Larry's sequence called me up and it was great to just hear his thoughts and kind of, you know, help them to form out you know some ways of thinking about it so I would love calls from you on that we're going to talk about how we're going to do the sheltered stuff. So that's, that's going to be interesting is how, how do we get enough places for everyone to be safe, right, we're talking safe parking encampments tiny houses hotel rooms, the whole gambit of tools that keep people safe, someplace they belong where, where they're still not quite in permanent housing, even though permanent housing is our goal. We, we need to provide shelter as well. And then we're going to talk about project timelines, and, and I think that's a bit more of an in the weeds discussion, and so I'm



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excited for us to get started on that so I probably have a couple minutes for questions or for Clarissa or marine or Courtney to chime in on stuff that I should have focused on but didn't.

## **Courtney Chandler**

I think you covered it pretty well. And we did have, you know discussion about equity being at the forefront, we talked about, you know, some guiding principles I think you might have mentioned that. And then we also had a discussion about like action and I think that's what Gary's talking about we're going to have a deeper discussion about that next week which I'm excited for because I brought up the, you know there's a lot of plans in place, but we need to actually make sure that this is a plan that action is taken on, and so the action steps next week at the timeline I think will be good. And then, do we want to mention, maybe the that we wanted to make sure that there's a focus on the November 11, or I'm sorry November 1 date for ending street homelessness as well as the comprehensive plan so we kind of talked about that in the steering committee for the Homeless Coalition about how that we want to bring that to the table next week, a little bit to make sure that there is a strict focus on getting that deadline, you know that people off the street by that deadline but then also the comprehensive plan as well and that does that piece doesn't get lost. Other than that I think you're covered everything else.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Yeah, and I appreciate the Courtney's drive and the whole action thing I'm all about that too, like I'm a man of action. And so I think just, you know, having that, Yeah, having that out there, and articulated regularly, is, is, you know, is of high value, Clarissa, did you have anything you wanted to throw in.

## **Klarissa Monteros**

Yeah, I wanted to add on. Thank you, Courtney, for sensory equity and I also wanted to add on that Courtney brought up targeted universalism and share some great resources with the group in that I just wanted to make the connection to what Gary was saying how we're really taking into consideration how we serve young people who have been sex trafficked or people who experienced racism and people coming, or coming out of prison incarcerated, those are special populations and if we can make a system that works for those that are most disadvantaged in the system, our systems can work for everybody. And so, thank you, Courtney for introducing the topic and I also shared it with the city internally and we're going to talk about how we can incorporate it as well. But yeah, I just wanted to connect targeted universalism to those special populations

## **Courtney Chandler**

is thanks Claire so

## **Gerrit Nyland**

yeah, between Ms Monteros and Miss Chandler and Dr Lamont green we've, we've got some, some people that have some real significant experience putting equity into plans, not just talking about it so



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that's it's going to be. It's going to be an education for me and I'm super excited to be part of that. Marine.

## **Maureen Howard**

I think for me it was really important to see that the coalition was prepared, that we had done the work in the last meeting so that Garrett and Courtney had something to take to the table very specific that list of, you know, who should be involved. The other thing is that Courtney brought up something during the session that I think we need to follow up on and that is, we look to add data, and that's all available on that public website with a county's website. But we looked at data, but it was all quantitative data, and Courtney brought up the need for qualitative data, and we all work with anecdotes and stories but there was a request on the listserv yesterday I think that it seemed to me that it was a kind of a request to assist a particular client that was not only qualitative, but could have the quantitative data behind it, because this person had been through coordinated entry that sort of thing that maybe we can maybe there are some of these stories that we can match to the current system, and be able to start to demonstrate ways in which it really works well or doesn't work well and for whom, and I don't mean a ton of them, but it just seemed to me that that that was something that we hadn't really done up to this point. And so that was one thing and I love the fact that this county is really, I mean were the ones who said, make this public, and they are so you know everybody can sign it and you're not seen, but everybody can sign in it and some of you will appreciate that for me to be quiet for two hours is like nothing sort of a miracle, but by the fact that you formally made me an alternate means that I get to have my picture there, and I get to say I'm present. Right. Anyway, it's exciting, you know,

## **Courtney Chandler**

yeah I like that idea Marine. Because when I think of qualitative data, I often think of like doing a formalized, you know process of focus groups and specific questions and asking that but that is a very, that's a step, another step to get to the qualitative data and one that we wouldn't have to wait for, right, if people wanted to share some stories whether they're successful stories or unsuccessful stories and those unsuccessful stories are extremely important, right, or those ones that where people are hitting barriers or they're telling you they're feeling this distrust with the system or, you know, those things are important for the county and for the city and for all of us to hear and know because otherwise we can't address those issues in this comprehensive plan. We won't let this, you know, I, I just want to make sure that we stay creative in this plan is my biggest fear is that we stick within certain boundaries and things that may not be working already, and that that's what's pushed and so if we can hear from the people about what's in providers, what's working and what's not working and we actually have some real data to look at and bring to the table. Then, change is going to happen.

## **Maureen Howard**

I guess the last thing is that we're working off this in the coalition we're working off this built for zero model underlying our belief that we can in fact end homelessness and weekend and street homelessness by the first of November and I sent out, if you read nothing, read the MacArthur Award



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went to community solutions, I think it is anyway the built for zero people. And so if you just follow the links, then you'll have a better understanding of the belt for zero model, they just got 100 million from a MacArthur is on MacArthur Foundation's change award whatever that's called so.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

All right. And I think another exciting thing about all of

## **Rob Huff**

Europe. The only thing I was gonna ask is, has there been conversation yet in these first two meetings about how the ad hoc committee if members of the ad hoc committee will be involved in putting together the actual comprehensive plan, or is it really that short engagement. Just this month.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

We haven't talked about the role of the committee and beyond the end in a real formal way. I suspect that a lot of us are going to lobby to continue to be involved, so I think we'll make that space.

## **Maureen Howard**

I think next week's agenda.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

All right. Any other questions, you can shoot them to me offline or any of the other crew working on it and again, so far, it's all been, I think very positive I have not encountered red flags that makes me feel like this is just lip service I feel like everyone is there to genuinely make this work happen as the coalition, you know basically constructed this objective. So, fix it.

## **Maureen Howard**

Thanks Rob. One more thing is that you can make public comment. All right, you can make it directly on that website or you can send it to Courtney, or Garrett and they'll put it forward, individually or organizationally.

## **Courtney Chandler**

Also sorry last thing is that they, the Pew Allah representative was there this week, they found somebody for a few hours to represent people who was not there, that read presentation, the sorry representation was not there last week, so that's cool so now we have a full

## **Rob Huff**

table. That's awesome. Well thank you for the update and we'll look forward to next week and seeing how the coalition can help, help with this effort in forming it in the background so let us know what you need and I know you will. So our next item on the agenda is I will open the floor for rosemary and





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Laurie, to talk about a conversation around the current coalition structure and some questions that we have for everybody.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Well good morning everyone. I was so interested in hearing Garrett say I'm a man of action, because I want to start with. Last August, Garrett gave us a presentation, and he said to us. Nobody's in charge of ending homelessness. And he said a whole lot of other things and then a couple of months later he said nobody's in charge of ending homelessness, and we can't tolerate it anymore and I think we should end it. And so, here we were this loose coalition of folks who do a variety of things in the middle of a pandemic and Garrett says we should do this, and then we all said yeah we should do this. And so then we sort of freaked about a bit out of out about that because we're a loose coalition, we don't have any like hierarchical structures we don't have any budget process we don't, we got a grant which Garrett helped and Laurie helped and Jan helped and other people helped to get funding for a position to help winter shelters happen. That was a grant, so here we are without these sorts of things you'd may need to sustain such an enormous task and just said we were going to do it. And so we thought, well, we better focus on what do we need to look like in order to pull it off and then we got a little reprieve, because the county council said we think we want to lead this effort and so we sit or breathe a little sigh of relief and said well we want to be involved in that and so we are and so you've heard that today is installment of the kind of work we're engaged in and doing at the same time, we still need to think about where we are as a network as a coalition, what kind of, how does our history prepare us for today and what we need to do differently, perhaps, so we want today in our discussions to look at two questions, and I'll repeat them after I have a few slides just a couple of slides to show is, what do we get out of this as individuals as members of organizations, what's the value to us of this ongoing coalition. And the second one is, what do we need, whether it's resources of Human Resources finances structures that enable processes that are inclusive. What do we need to ensure that our coalition is inclusive and sustainable. So those are the two questions and in order to frame them a little bit. I'd like to share screen and just talk about a couple quick ideas and then show you a graphic so am I ready to do that, Rob,

## **Rob Huff**

you should be allowed to do that now I made eukhost All right.

## **Rosemary Powers**

All right, can everybody see this networking thing. Right, sure. So one idea that comes from the early 70s from a sociologist who, that's my field, I always like sociologists, but anyway, it's called the strength of weak ties, and the idea at the time was to look at what are the associations we have that aren't in our tight network of people from whom we gain a whole lot of benefit. He, in his work, that sociologist Mark Granovetter looked at job opportunities and how do you how do you know where the jobs are you rely on all the people you know really well they all know the same thing, you know, so having someone that's not your friend. Maybe the cousin's wife's daughter in law, knows about a job in your field might



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give you more access to it. So how does and you'll see this in the chart that I'm going to show in just a sec. How does the coalition provide a strength of weak ties for people who utilize whatever resources we do have available. The second term is about commitment, and this idea comes more from discussions recently about how people get engaged through the internet to get involved to do kinds of works and projects and good things. And for many people, getting connected through a website is a very thin commitment. You don't have to stick around, you can come in and out, you can find what's individually useful to you and then you can move on. But oftentimes people are looking for something thicker. And so, I, I took the liberty to even increase this to say thicker, which wasn't really part of the original idea, but in our coalition, we have opportunities at each of these levels for people to be engaged in so that will show up in the graphic as well. And then here's the graphic. I think Laurie so much for making this look like something, I don't know, it didn't look like this when I gave her my, my sketch so it's looking a lot better. But if you look at this graphic I'm trying to show what I think the current structure of the coalition is like, and there are probably things missing here I'm sure there are parts that aren't accurate but I'm thinking, if you look at the outside circle is called a, I call this the communications network, and it's PC homeless.org And if you're new to the coalition that is an incredible if you're old to the coalition, it's an incredible resource. Jared has put together some amazing things and continues to help us to reach out in all kinds of ways to be engaged with what's going on in the community beyond our own selves. So in that you can look around the, the, I'm going to make my little laser closer so I can show that, let's see, where are you. Okay, so around this outside circle, everything, everyone can come. Everyone can post to an email list, there are lots of resources, you see meetings and calendars events are posted. Here it is, it's a thin commitment with the strength of weak ties you might find somebody there that will really set you off in a new place for your program or when whatever else you want to do, and we have a lot of people. I'm not sure if this is the right number but we have a lot of people subscribe to it. Can't say really the coalition is that many people, but people who use this resource our needs and requests are put there if you need steel toed boots for a client if you need some kind of Id help, Everything can be communicated across that network. And so we also shelter availability updates and all, and the whole listserv itself is a way we can communicate so that's that's a thin commitment, but it's a wide network. The next level is us this is today this is who we have been for a number of years where we've met. And we, this is our basic decision place, and our resource place in terms of introducing ourselves to each other into our work. This is what I'm calling a thick commitment though it's a little thin sometimes because you certainly can come in and out. And also, if you're a person looking for something to get involved with coming to a meeting might not exactly serve your purpose in the way you'd like. So, people hang out for here for a while, decide whether that's what they want to do and they sometimes then join in another commitment now this middle one, this didn't exist for very long. This steering committee came into being as a way to help provide oversight to the one staff person we've ever had. Kevin blocked and Kulina work on the winter shelter project. And then, because Kevin and is a man of action again. We got to do something about this stuff and so let's, let's think about it and then Maureen said, you know, we've got to do something about this stuff, let's have a summit let's, let's see what people are willing to do. So people who were even thicker in their commitment, came together and while every one of these groups is open to all the folks who come



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continuingly to the steering committee which we're calling it is a place of like 10 or 15 folks come once a week, and help to provide us with the kind of strategic direction that we need to get closer to that goal. So that's, this will be available for people to explore we can work on it more, it may not be the best graphic, but it seemed to me that we have these different levels of commitment and we need to look and see whether they actually provide us with what we want to reach the next steps in pulling off this goal of ending homelessness. So here are the questions. And I think we'll have groups of maybe four or five Rob I'm not sure how you really organize that but the first one is what value does the coalition provide for you. And so what would promote a thick commitment. And what do you think is needed to ensure the coalition is inclusive and sustainable, that stuff like human folks doing things, finances, any changes in structures or processes and so if someone in your group can summarize things in the chat, we'll use this in the continuing discussion we're having on governance, and we'll, we'll let, we'll put out when meetings are held I think we have to schedule the next meeting for that. So with that I think I will just give it to you, Rob to set us up to talk. Okay,

## **Rob Huff**

so I think before we launch into the groups. I will have Garrett has put together a couple of poll questions for us to all consider it would be helpful. And then we'll launch into our group conversation. All right,

## **Rosemary Powers**

I'll start screen. Yeah,

## **Rob Huff**

I think you have to stop sharing, yeah.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Cool. This is the same call we did a few weeks ago, basically looking at who's in the room, I have two polls today. So I have just launched the poll and it's just a multiple select it's anonymous so check all the things you are, and, and we'll kind of learn a little bit about who's in the room right now. You've gotten volunteer to somebody that's volunteering to come to the meeting for those volunteering around homelessness, lived experience if you're somebody that's been homeless at some point or other lived experience that kind of drives homelessness, advocates, people that are spending time advocating to policymakers, government employee pretty clear outreach worker shelter provider, other homeless service provider that's a big catch all, maybe you're writing a rapid rehousing program or permanent supportive housing, and a nonprofit employee. If you're working at a for profit business, and other, and if you are other toss it into the chat. We've had trouble with focus on math, then I couldn't make it not work on my Mac so super huge apologies if, if you're having trouble with this poll, I couldn't figure out how to break it, so I need to have somebody messaged me that has trouble and maybe we can try to troubleshoot together so next time we don't have problems.



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## **Rosemary Powers**

So what I can't figure out how to vote on this it's just got the percentages.

## **Rob Huff**

Oh, that's because rosemary, I have you as a co host oh so I'm

## **Rosemary Powers**

seeing it. Yeah, you can take me out of that and then I'll vote.

## **Rob Huff**

There you go, I just took you out of it, I don't know if it'll change it for this poll or the next one coming.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Okay, that's fine.

## **Rob Huff**

I have the same issue so I like that yeah

## **Gerrit Nyland**

I can't vote either that looks like everybody in and so I'm going to end the polling, and we'll go ahead and take a look, we have again a huge variety of people in the room, which is exciting. Lots of nonprofit employees about half of us. But again, we've got 12 folks in the room with lived experience that's nearly a quarter of us. And, and something that is, you know, this shocking always a number of people that have had, you know, housing instability as part of their lives. So go ahead, you've made it to a better place hopefully. Anyway, we have one more poll, and I'll go ahead and make a copy of this, and I have a second poll, which is to do, What do you value about our meetings, and this has a number of things. So what I want you to pick your favorite three things about the coalition meetings as they currently are. And so, you like the advocacy updates that we have the like the government updates, do you appreciate the breakout section for you have a chance to chat with people. Do you like new attendee introductions at the beginning. Do you like the good of the order when you can bring something up or hear other concerns. Resource presentations, that's kind of like when we have a group come in and talk about a program that they operate or how to connect up with mental health services themed meetings, that's where we have like an entire day talking about sexual assault we bring a few providers in. You like to when we have elected officials come in and talk about what their priorities are and listen a little bit to our committee reports, That's when like the governance committees reporting back right now, or do you like using the chat, you know, sort of publicly or privately, like I'm doing a lot of chatting right now, and it's sort of a networking way to connect with people for me. So let's go ahead



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and have you again pick your favorite three unless you're Rob can't pick any sorry, Rob. Once again, some good music will be good.

## **Rob Huff**

Not gonna sing

## **Gerrit Nyland**

the harmonica is in my other room. All right, let's call that good 54321 And we have most popular resource presentations, no shocker there, and advocacy updates are incredibly popular as well folks like Shane's meetings and the government updates. And, yeah, pretty interesting. So I am going to go only that for a second more but I'm going to turn it back over to

Rob. Thanks.

## **Rob Huff**

Great, thank you, Garrett and rosemary, do you want to as I set up the rooms and I will set up the rooms for roughly five people per room for this conversation. Do you want to remind people of the two questions,

## **Rosemary Powers**

your questions. The first one is reflected in the poll that Gareth just did but what, what do you value about the coalition but this, you can have as many things as you want in there so what makes you come back and be in a thicker commitment. And the second one is what resources do we need, and processes do we need to help the coalition be inclusive and sustainable. So those are the two questions to think about

## **Rob Huff**

great and I will launch the rooms for roughly 10 minutes for this conversation, and again as a reminder, please have somebody in the room, capture the notes, then paste them back into the chat when we come back to the main room and 10 minutes. All right, and away we go. And as a reminder if you're in this room with Garrett and I it means you didn't join your breakout room which is fine, but we can't promise it will be very entertaining.

<Breakout Groups>

## **Rob Huff**



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Welcome back everyone. I hope the good, there was some good conversation there. As a reminder, whoever was taking notes in your individual breakout room please. Paste your notes into the chat so we can retain those and use those. and any closing comments are anything rosemary.

## **Rosemary Powers**

No, not really other I, we had a great discussion I hope others did and we'll be letting folks know when we're going to have another conversation about governance. So anyone who is interested in that kind of in the weeds work to come up with some ideas and proposals and suggestions, we'll make sure that people are made aware of when that happens.

## **Rob Huff**

Great, thank you, rosemary, calling you lost your notes. I can watch you frantically pulling notes back together from the top of your head. And anybody who is in Collins room if you have notes as well feel free to share them in the chat will will pull them out of there so let's move past my memory.

## **Colin DeForest**

Well yeah that memory I think I can remember a lot of good.

## **Rob Huff**

Alright so let's shift the floor over to Maureen for the first of a couple of items. Maureen is going to start us off talking about the American rescue plan Act, and the priorities that the coalition would like to put forward.

## **Maureen Howard**

Thank you and thanks to everybody who voted advocacy update says important. So Rob if you want to put the that first item up on the screen, and also in the chat, it's the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, American rescue plan act priorities, which you've already seen in past meetings, and I've made some changes to. And we got two things up your things. Yeah, we

## **Rob Huff**

did it show two documents, it did. Okay, let me, let me close.

## **Maureen Howard**

So for people who are only do people who are only on the phone. I'm not sure.

## **Rob Huff**

I don't think we do. Okay. All

## **Maureen Howard**



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right then, as soon as that comes up, everybody will be able to see it. So, this is the American rescue plan Act which is one that was already passed and signed by the President, here we go, thank you. And what I am proposing that I am requesting that we formally vote to adopt this list of priorities today so that we can use it with local jurisdictions and others who are making decisions about the use of this money, this money is coming, the cities and counties will have the first half of their relief fund by May 10. And in the case of Tacoma that's 31 million, give or take, in the case of the county, it's about 85 million, give or take. So I'm suggesting that our goal, be that as much of as possible we invest in long term housing, and organizational assets, and also meeting a need immediate needs. Unlike the cares money that came last year, we can do long term investments, easily with this money. I'm suggesting that we prioritize households who are below 30% Ami, and organizations with operating budgets below a million a year, and that the note is that all expenses have to be COVID related, they must meet these federal American rescue plan Act requirements, but it's a broad range of what is COVID related with housing acquisition of 1000 existing units, added an average of 100,000 per unit. It looks like a big number, and it is, but if we don't go bold we're never going to get the housing units. These are basically Hotel Motel acquisitions 250 hotel rooms for five months they could be funded by FEMA, that would be an upfront cost to the city and the county, but FEMA would backfill that forward rent for 500 Homeless households that 10,000 per household, up to 20 Self Managed encampments 100 safe parking sites 500 rooms and a shared housing model certified at code, and that follow all tenant protections, prioritizing the new housing choice vouchers for households below 30% Ami inspecting upgrading replacing H vac systems and all congregate shelters that remain, moving expenses that go with new vouchers money to pay off judgments and eviction cases, and ensuring relocation of any low income tenants and acquisitions that go on, not necessarily ours, but because we're the hottest market in the country. There are big investors moving in. I'm not suggesting, these are the only uses, but rather that, that these are like markers on the table to cause jurisdictions and funders to think about what we need and what could happen with respect to health scheduled weekly testing vaccinations at each congregate shelter each encampment of 20 or more people training and support for street medics materials for ongoing outreach testing and vaccination campaigns and increasing mobile and telehealth services, particularly for women's health clinics, and any federally qualified health centers, basically, to fill the gaps, there's a ton of health money in the American rescue plan, but to try and fill the gaps, under Services vehicle repair licensing insurance garbage services for their encampments transportation technology and Human Trafficking Prevention, two new categories that we've not dealt with before Formula One is staff support a housing benefit for staff who are below 50% ami. These are basically frontline providers who are simply not earning enough money to themselves to be able to afford housing. No, I don't know what it looks like. But it just, you know if Lockheed Martin can do it for their employees we ought to be able to figure out how to do it with our, with his government money hazard pay for people who are below \$20 an hour, individual financial counseling, especially with respect to those where if they get benefits, like we're suggesting may trigger a benefit cliff that is not in their actual economic favor. Organizational Sustainability. My greatest concern are those small nonprofits, those that have I just said out million or less. I think that might be the trigger where the executive director is doing for jobs, rather than being the executive director, covering interest on cash flow loans for these reimbursable contracts. I don't know



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how big a problem that is, but you're not have to raise the money to cover that interest, and ensuring small adequate back office support for the small nonprofits, so that they can engage fully and this often speaks particularly to nonprofits that are buying for led by our people of color. So, anyway, um, nobody has made any chances, changes in the past couple of weeks. And so, maybe a couple of minutes if you have any questions. It doesn't bind your organization to anything it binds the coalition to saying that we believe that these are priorities for the use of this federal money.

## **Rob Huff**

Now she told Maureen where you're going to take some questions.

## **Maureen Howard**

I'll take some questions if there are, yeah. Oh god, I can't see the whole chat. Oh, let me see I

## **Rob Huff**

can read you the question that Sheila dropped in there if you'd like. Sure. Sheila asked, How can we put more funds towards vehicle repair and licensing. There are a number of people whose financial scenarios could potentially be positively impacted by having working vehicles reinstated licenses and insurance,

## **Maureen Howard**

we can change it in this very moment, what would you like is a number 500,000

## **Janet Runbeck**

I was just gonna say that.

## **Maureen Howard**

Okay, so let's just make a change 500,000 For vehicle repair. Let's face it folks, some of these numbers, they're my numbers. So,

## **Rob Huff**

yeah, Greg asks, what's the appropriate total of what's on the list versus what we anticipate for funds coming in,

## **Maureen Howard**

that I don't know Greg because some of these could come from sources that don't track, like the health. These might all be fundable under a separate health category money that's going to the State Department of Health and then funneling all down.

## **Rob Huff**





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Okay. And Kristin asked can you talk a little bit about the specific type of programming for street medics.

## **Maureen Howard**

Well I think it's in flux right now when we started Food Not Bombs actually had a couple of street medics and Jan advised, gentlemen, back advised us yesterday that they've withdrawn from that program, but the needle exchange is working with the emergency room doc and some other doctors, and so the program is going to go forward. It's just going to have different partners in it, and we don't know exactly what it looks like. So,

## **Janet Runbeck**

it would be developing partnerships to do outreach and connecting folks from the street or from any shelter into, into medical health systems so it's a, it'd be a massive partnership building outreach program for both direct services and for continuity of care.

## **Maureen Howard**

Thanks. It's always good to have the answer. No, I mean part of the, what's behind that is, how do we get people who need medical support that appropriate support wherever they live, before they're in emergency room crisis. And so part of it is having enough people with trained to use Narcan, or naloxone in the encampments part of it is, and basic wound care and part of it is people who home people in living in the cabins will trust when they say, you need to see a doctor and here's how to do it. Here's the hand off.

## **Rob Huff**

Verna I see you have your hand up.

## **Verna Lilly**

How about we let our go first and then I'll go after him, he's had his hand up longer.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay. I see you out, go ahead.

## **Al Ratcliffe**

We're just clarification on the supporter 501 C three organizations, and just not just financial management but the availability of zero or low interest bridge loans for organizations that have to put the money out first, and then be reimbursed but don't have the money to put out in the first place.

## **Maureen Howard**



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Ah, yes. Okay. All right, so there are under organizational stability, there is now an item for bridge loans to cover to cover initial government contract costs. Great, thanks

## **Al Ratcliffe**

so the reimbursable government contract Yeah,

## **Mike Yoder**

to, to, to provide cash flow for the execution of government awarded contracts, something like that. Yay, Michael, thank

## **Maureen Howard**

you to provide cash flow for initial. Would you say implementation.

## **Mike Yoder**

Yeah, for the, for the execution of government. Government reimbursement contracts, so the contracts that require services to be provided upfront and then be reimbursed. Afterwards, they need cash flow to execute those kinds of contracts. Excellent, thank

## **Maureen Howard**

you.

## **Rob Huff**

And Vernon.

## **Verna Lilly**

Thank you. Um, this is back on the street medic thing. Well, there'll be any use or space for community health workers in in the encampments.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Yes. What would that look like a details to follow depending on the money and all depends on the money.

## **Verna Lilly**

Okay. All right so it's on deck,

## **Al Ratcliffe**

maybe a champ.

## **Maureen Howard**



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Others, Rob, can you help me out here.

## **Rob Huff**

If I stopped multitasking I certainly good. So, I did see that Jane posted a question in the chat back here a little ways about wanting to use fund for funds for services such as showers and laundry. And that's it that I see his comments or questions in the chat at this time.

## **Maureen Howard**

I guess I would say the showers and laundry is coming up under the setup and park safe parking sites.

## **Al Ratcliffe**

There used to be explicitly said complete.

## **Maureen Howard**

Alright then there's now number 12 under housing, which will save fund. Complete hygiene services. And I'll spell that out with bathrooms, hand washing, garbage, showers, and access to laundry. It's gonna add a number on it right now, I don't, I don't have a number in my head.

## **Rob Huff**

Perfect. And Teresa is just thanking you for the research and organization of the West.

## **Maureen Howard**

You're welcome. I don't know what we'll get. But I haven't seen anybody put out numbers like 1000 housing units, you know, we can do this.

## **Rob Huff**

It's good to set goals.

## **Maureen Howard**

Other questions.

## **Rob Huff**

I see calling. Yeah, I was, I

## **Colin DeForest**

was on the phone for a second I heard you guys talking about the hygiene stuff I think it's good to specifically call that out, I get that I was just going to say, along with that, I'm curious, I really think that, you know, secure storage, It's such an easy thing to do, not super expensive, but we don't have it, you know, so I think that that may be something



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## **Maureen Howard**

to call out also. Okay, it's hygiene services, secure storage.

## **Colin DeForest**

It could under Services, it could under the hygiene stuff because I think it really goes right along with that, that's one of the ways we can keep people's clothing dry in the winter time, it's one of the ways we can keep people's stuff so it doesn't turn into garbage that's just being thrown away or they're losing their valuables.

## **Maureen Howard**

Anybody other any other urgent changes. Okay, so I'm sorry go ahead.

## **Al Ratcliffe**

This is not a proposed change mine folks remember the spark report Well, several years ago about impoverished support networks, the author of that is a guy named Mark Dominus, who is now the director of the effort than Kane County, not to have an integrated system across all those jurisdictions, one of his comments that when he was interviewed in the Seattle Times was that so much money is, is focused on services that they forget that the ultimate solution is enough housing. So we have to emphasize that there has to be a way to develop enough housing.

## **Maureen Howard**

That's why it's first, and that's why it has the longest list. And this is just the ARPA, money, okay, there's other kinds of money. Anybody else urgently. So, what I'm asking you then is to vote on an amended draft, which I will put out after the meeting, I have added in to find complete hygiene services and spell out what that is, as described. I have changed vehicle repair to 500,000 I have added secure storage in all encampments. I have added bridge loans to provide cash for initial execution of government reimbursable contracts. And my request is that we do an up or down vote on this, which I think is ready. I know sometimes the government people don't want to vote. That's, or other people might not want to, but

## **Gerrit Nyland**

I'm staying in this time because I'm listening. Finally,

## **Maureen Howard**

there may be other people. So, Rob, do you want to close it whenever you want to close it.

## **Rob Huff**

All let Garrett drive that bus.



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## **Gerrit Nyland**

Oh give folks a few seconds after the last vote. Chugga chugga, chugga. All right, looks like a favor.

## **Maureen Howard**

Hey look at that. All right. Yay, thank you. Thanks for trusting me. God, this is great. All right. And on that happy note, we're gonna go on to the next one, which is a proposed statement from the coalition on encampments and Rob if you want to put that up on the screen please. Okay, so good. Yeah, it is, and this is slightly different than was sent out to the pro coalition listserv. Jennifer Emmons came back with some really good points. So it, I think it reads better now. And the safe sites for all title that's Collins suggestion from the safe parking meeting Monday. So, the city of Tacoma did a study session put forward their initial plan on a large new stability site up to 100 people, and we, in our summits, said that we wanted small sites. So here's our statement as proposed, and I'm hoping we can vote on this, that that Tacoma Pierce County Coalition on Homelessness calls for safe sites for all. We believe that everyone has a right to shelter, every person living unsheltered deserves an appropriate and accessible and available shelter option. When accessible and appropriate indoor shelter is not available, or people prefer to remain outdoors, those who are unsheltered have a right to a safe site in which to live where desired safe sites should make it possible for people residing in them to create community among themselves. We believe that small safe sites should be designed with the people who will live in them. The sites could provide a variety of shelter options with full hygiene services on site, and laundry either on site or nearby for hygiene services include places to safely and privately go to the bathroom and washing state but stations, garbage collection hazardous waste removal site should be dispersed and strategically strategically placed on well drained land in low impact areas near public transportation, to the extent possible, safe site should be self managed with services brought to the sites on a daily basis sites could also operate with a range of management options. Safe sites could have tents pallet shelters tiny houses container based units vehicles travel trailers and a container for lock storage of personal items safe sites could also include individual hotel and motel rooms. The sites could use a variety of operating models, such as low barrier, harm reduction, pets, clean and sober 18 years old or older single adults, or couples living in a safe site should lead to permanent housing, discussion, and Robert Garrett one of you if you could watch the chat for me, that would help me.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, and I'm gonna leave just for a moment longer. I will leave the document on the screen share. I see Greg has his hand raised. Oh,

## **Greg Walker**

I wanted to clarify is this letter intended to be our response to the proposal for the large shelter or large safe, camping site, whatever it was that they proposed because if it is, it feels to me like we may have



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left a lot of space in there for people to read desks and say that we're concurring with what's already on the table, and we're instead of saying we're in opposition to the idea of a large fight.

## **Maureen Howard**

It started that, that prompted my thinking on this and a need for a response. And, and I ended up with offering, like a framework sort of a standard, a statement of principles that we could use with any jurisdiction or any funder. And as a basis for a specific response to a specific proposal.

I think there's a lot of value in what we're calling out for the idea of small sites, but I don't. I don't know if that I mean maybe this is a document isn't intended to carry that message that strongly. But I think that the large 100 persons I think or have there been there are, it's better than nothing but I don't think it's necessarily the optimal solution, and I think we ought to put as much effort as we can behind that idea of smaller and better. But that's just me.

## **Rob Huff**

I'm going to stop sharing the document briefly so that I can see people raise their hand I saw Colin raise his hand.

## **Colin DeForest**

You know I hadn't really thought of it like that, and I guess it just, you know, I think there is some truth to and I know just from our you know, I know that's definitely the the catalyst behind this is that Marine, kind of, we've all said we don't want that. And I guess there could be something to say basically spelling out rather than bashing it really just focusing on the potential challenges of creating a larger site, everything becomes more challenging, self management becomes nearly impossible once you kind of get over 40 or 50. You know, just, you know safe truly I think the most unmanageable thing becomes safety of the site because suddenly, one of the biggest challenges is just knowing who actually is supposed to be there and who's not. You know, there's times and sites that I've been involved with that I've set up where we've there's been months where we've never been able to actually get a census of who's supposed to be in the site, you know, so that's, I don't know if that's maybe an addendum to this I don't know if we call. I don't know, I would hate to see this document. Go. I think it's very powerful the way it is. So, but I do hear Greg's point,

## **Maureen Howard**

I think it might be a separate statement. The challenges of large sites or something like that where you can more carefully spell out those specific items. I guess what I was trying to do was get at something that was a placeholder. That said, we, this is what we want, this is, this is what people are telling us this is what we believe is the right thing to do. And we started with some numbers and I backed off of numbers because I didn't see how we were ever going to get concurrence on what small was. It's five



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to somebody, it's 45 to somebody else. You know, I felt like it was a statement that left room to specify, maybe you only want five people with pets, I don't know, that sort of stuff, but I but I think part of where we're going, also, is that it is, especially as new people come in who want to be really engaged, is that we really need, almost a series of statements. So that people understand, yes, we believe in housing first that's what we follow, yes we, you know, that sort of thing. And it doesn't mean that every individual organization or person is going to do harm reduction sites, it means, as a coalition. We want to make sure that we've got harm reduction sites every site doesn't have to be every organization doesn't have to do that. But, as we look across the county. We've got them, you know, that sort of thing.

## **Rob Huff**

Kevin, I see you had your hand up.

## **Kevin Glackin-Coley**

I was just thinking I think Greg makes a good point in to me I was thinking of this document as kind of being a preamble to that we can refer back to this when we make a comment specifically about 100, a proposal for 100% 100 camp site or something rather than having to have this document have everything in it, it goes as we, you know, so, so maybe it's kind of going along with what Maureen was saying, and then there was someone in the comments who asked a question about the last point, leading to permanent housing and I was wondering about that as well as do we want to say that everything should be moving towards that or is for some people the choice to stay in a tiny home or supportive encampment Is that an option we

## **Maureen Howard**

could support that may be their permanent housing. I mean we don't have a definition of permanent housing. But what we do have is a commitment to built for zero. Without housing intervention is concurrent with the shelter intervention.

## **Rob Huff**

So marine to help address the size issue Should we just do include a statement about the belief that the coalition as a whole believes that smaller sites are easier to, to manage to fit into a community and have the opportunity for greater success and we don't actually get into a numbers game but we just say, smaller.

## **Maureen Howard**

I think that's a great solution.

## **Rob Huff**

I get one idea we cut it so



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## **Maureen Howard**

yeah but did you write that down. Alright, I'm here to manage more conducive to community.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, easier to fit into communities and and have greater opportunities for success. I see our What's your name with your hand

## **Al Ratcliffe**

up. Well I was gonna say more consistent with the values that we hold. But I have another reaction and not to the content of the letter comes it's very good, but there was something about we're going to use this to react to things, I think we should use this as an advocacy tool and send it to every government body in the county to stimulate them. If nothing else, we learned from the county council that if we stimulate them they start reacting.

## **Maureen Howard**

We have some city council members waiting for it actually.

## **Al Ratcliffe**

Well there's a 100 government units in this county.

## **Maureen Howard**

No, I agree totally. Yeah. Anything, I, or a Garrett or rob anything else that you see.

## **Rob Huff**

No I don't, I don't think so. If anybody else has a thought or concern and wants to just speak up, please do.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

We ready to vote.

## **Rob Huff**

I think so.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

My phrasing facts on the phone but the idea of yes or no for committing ourselves to newsletter.

## **Maureen Howard**





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As amended with Rob statement that we believe smaller sites are easier to manage to fit into communities and have greater opportunities for success and provide greater opportunities for success. All right,

## **Gerrit Nyland**

give it about five more seconds for three to one. So it's like, all in favor. Abstentions, so two for two today Marine, and thank you for putting all that together.

## **Maureen Howard**

Thank you everybody. And yes, how it's gonna go out.

## **Rob Huff**

Good. All right, so we are running we've had great content already so far this morning, appreciate everyone's patience. We're running behind schedule so Jan, or Jan I see you have your hand up.

## **Janne Hutchins**

Sorry that to say this so late but Marie when you read that the last time. And when you said easier to manage. Um, I would suggest some verbiage something like, I'm coming about it from a different point of view, that's kind of a negative point of view, it's like, we feel that people are safer, something along that line up. I'll type something up of what I mean. Excellent you.

## **Maureen Howard**

Thanks.

## **Rob Huff**

Alright so let's shift gears and move into government updates. And first up on the list of government updates Clarissa or do you have anything from the city of Tacoma.

## **Klarissa Monteros**

I believe Keegan's given the update today.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay, great.

## **Tiegan Tidball**

Hey everyone, I dig in right, so I've got a few updates, um, the first one is, I know we've already. I feel like you guys always cover some of my updates as I get there. So the temporary hygiene station at 18 Yakimov is going to be extended for an additional 90 days, Exciting. Our city council also authorized to additional locations for temporary hygiene stations so that's a i 705, and a street and the right of way in



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both sides of the Evergreen State College. So site design is under underway ideas are always welcome to please reach out to us. Everyone has my email but I'll put in the chat as well. Um, staff will present to city council, more recommendations on the temporary mitigation stability site so I mean this just feeds right off of our conversation we were just having so that's exciting to already see some feedback coming. Um, I will, I think it was sent in the I sent it to everybody yesterday, But I know Maureen also posted in the listserv, so I'll put that in the chat as well, too so people can watch this live session from earlier this week. One News we had is that, um, the, um, so the city is posting for encampment cleanup on East 72nd street and F Street for removal that will be happening today. Removal is that occurring next Tuesday. And so I just want to give some of the rationales behind this, because I think that's important. So, the factors in the decision of removing this encampment is there's been a high probability of wetland in that area in the location and individuals and encampments, have been digging in a waterway present on the site. The area has seen 141% increase in calls for services the TPD, and the community liaison officers and TPD have recovered three stolen vehicles from the location. There's been drug dealing, on the location and also there's violence and there was reports of gunshot activity and gunfire recently so that is the rationale behind that and I know the hot team has been doing weekly cleanups at this location since November of last year, and they do a lot of outreach visits, also at that same time. So, that is also occurring I think that is all of my updates if there's any questions.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, I'm not seeing any. So next up, would be updates from Pierce County Valerie.

## **Valeri Knight**

Good morning, I was pulling up an email, because I know we're gonna have questions on data so rental assistance is going well, we still we have not received the third and fourth, fourth and fifth I'm not sure anymore which pot of monies. We are still working in trap marine laughs at me but it's true. We are almost fully expended with a wrap so Iraq was funds from last year's cares that got extended into this year. Our goal, Sharon care is completely spent down, helping and house is completely obligated there's and Korean Women's Association is about halfway through there, those dollars can go all the way through June but our goal was to get them out in April, May, at the latest, and so those dollars are done, we are serving households with trap and Treasury which are the federal funds sources which is fantastic. So far we have 6485 submitted applications, so they are inside Pierce County and submitted their applications. And then we have just over 12,000 folks who have either saved and or started or submitted their application so 12,000 Total people have started the process, we did find about 1400 of those folks were outside Pierce County, and now we know that's because the other counties haven't started the rental assistance program yet so if I were in this circumstances I would go to any available Google search I could find and submit an application. So what we're doing with those folks is referring them back to their counties and hoping to help them speed up the process so if they submitted documents, we're going to work with them to try to get their documents to their new county checks are being cut, I just heard from a provider today they did \$28,000 in past due rent in one check to one household. So that's huge. We are quickly working through all the utilities, it's harder doing utilities than



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rent right rent you pay one rent one landlord, sometimes utilities are cutting checks to five. And so they're just really trying to process and make sure we're streamlining that as much as possible. The dashboard is not up yet and I'm just going to be fully transparent onto why the portal, went in and changed a bunch of folks to Asian and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander, we don't know why we don't know how, but when I received that first report I was like, why are 40% of our applicants Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Hawaiian, right, like we do a great job and outreach. We did not do that good of a job so. So we pulled it all back, we are verifying all of the information because we will put out good data rather than fast data. So, it is coming, we are still online we are still going to put it out it will be updated every single week for you. I just really want to make sure it's correct. I don't want to one offend anyone by changing the race and two I don't want to put out bad data so just so this whole group knows why we have not processed that yet but it's still in the line we are not dropping it is hugely important to me that you know what's happening and why and where the Treasury also put out that we can extend our grants to September of next year. So the county is looking at potentially extending all of ours to June, that'll give us a couple months window to finalize processing make sure everybody's cleared and then if there's any additional funds will reallocate them to a fast vendor, so that we can start focusing on fund source, five, six and seven or whatever happens. So, just so everybody knows that's how, that's how it's happening here. Other than that we're everybody's pleased and so far how the system's working I think landlords are very happy. For the most part, and then we will just keep pushing forward so Sheila I see your question, an update on mortgage assistance mortgage assistance will come with the family. Relief Act, so I don't rule number one at the county you asked too many questions the program becomes yours, so I'm not going to ask too many questions about that, but I will find out an update from Brian and I will let you know but Mike, we were originally told April, May, and it really just depends on when those federal dollars come down the pipeline. So great question. I appreciate that. So I can answer any questions that y'all may have, I did just do an email with Jeff and John because I feel like we should be doing better updates than just rental assistance right like we, there's other things going on. I love the city's updates and so we'll I'm gonna see if I can get a little more information for y'all each week on systems wide and not just not just my little bucket of 58 million. So, that's my goal. Great,

## **Rob Huff**

thanks, Valerie. If folks do have other questions, please drop them in the chat. I know Valerie will catch them there because she's on top of it all. And we will move on to Rianna for updates from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.

## **Reanna Bettencourt**

Morning everybody. I'll try and make this quick. Okay so we have a we have a new static vaccine site on hilltop, it's at the hilltop Family Medical Center so 1202 Martin Luther King Jr way, I can, I'll post the link in the chat, it's by appointment only right now, it's going to run three days out of the week Monday Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 330. Right now, they have their majorna vaccine available. So I just wanted to put that out there, it's, it's on our vaccine web page. I don't know if it'll move to sort of a lockup type deal maybe later on. That's maybe possible. Um, let's see. Also, in case anybody didn't



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know cares transit is offering free rides to get vaccines. And as far as I've heard there's no real like verification. You just tell them you're going to get your vaccine, and you can get on the bus and and go to the clinics, so that's a great resource that's available. I wanted to share our. Make sure I share our call center number. We have a call center number that's also on our vaccine web page that people can call to get help with questions, registering people for events, confirming or changing appointments, just post something in the chat real quick. So, um, so yesterday. Whoops. I went I sent it to somebody, mobile teams went out to the nativity house and Bethlehem shelter yesterday, and people got vaccinated, something they noticed was it was a lot less people than, then the shelter and we anticipated. For an activity house and so thinking about next week talking about different outreach tactics maybe kind of don't know what happened there if it was just because it was the next day or not sure so we'll get together and talk with the mobile team about this. We need to figure something else out here, something's something slipped through somewhere. All people and shelters are eligible. So in case anybody didn't know that everybody becomes eligible on the 15th. When you click on a registration link to register for our events, it asks if you're eligible through pays finder. We don't ask that so register for a clinic and get your vaccine. Yeah So, anybody know if anybody has any questions, I'll put my contact information in the chat.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks for yada, and one question I did have how much lead time was there to notify the people staying the guests at Bethlehem, and nativity house. Yeah,

## **Reanna Bettencourt**

so I know that, um, Jenny. Jenny was planning this, these events with both places for a few weeks. So, this Jenny's gonna come back next week. So, yeah,

## **Rob Huff**

okay. I just wanted to ask that question because of something Garrett's gonna mention here in a few minutes so great. All right, if anybody has any questions for Rianna please drop them in the chat. I don't think I've seen anybody from the Department of Emergency Management here but if there is and you want to speak up, please do so now. All right. So, I'm going to shuffle the agenda just a little bit Garrett Do you want to do the coalition Announcements section. Now, before we do the breakout discussion with Keegan,

## **Gerrit Nyland**

try to be brief. One big announcement is the exciting news that we received a \$17,000 grant to do outreach around, informing folks experiencing homelessness, about the value of vaccines and how to get them. So, that is going to provide some staff time for for Kevin to extend his time and work on that as well as some giveaway goodies that can hopefully assist people getting to vaccines. So that's gas cards, and, and some other things. And that's in addition to another \$5,000 grant. We received from



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multi care to do hygiene supplies, which we're looking at focusing on kind of supporting the vaccine side through vaccine efforts that we have and so nothing that's, you know that. Let's see, I mean all of just be available or you don't have to show that you got a vaccine to get access to some of those resources but hopefully there'll be things that can help people to, to our outreach workers particularly just start a conversation with folks experiencing homelessness right so our reach worker says hey if you want to get a vaccine, you can get it at the sights. Here's a gas card, you know, super excited. I got mine you should get yours, that sort of thing. And so that says sets. I think it'd be some work we do with the health department, so really looking forward to some, some direction on things that health department sees that we should communicate and how, as well as taking advantage of the trusted messenger type of communication model that we did with the census. So that's big news and if you have ideas around that, go ahead and shoot them directly to me or Kevin, and we're happy to, to kind of figure out some ways to make money really yet folks that are experiencing homelessness vaccinated. The second thing I wanted to talk about is a little more complicated. And that is the students may be discussed having the coalition write a letter to the Pierce County Sheriff, and to the Pierce County Council, expressing concerns with the incident that happened with the Pierce County Sheriff, and the individual delivering newspapers that situation involves the sheriff basically escalating a scenario where somebody was delivering newspapers at two in the morning, which is when it gets done often into a kind of a confrontation. And one of the aspects of the justification that the sheriff provided was that, you know, some of that response had to do with the person looking homeless. And as we've had some violence against people experiencing homelessness from House neighbors. The, the notion that our police chief is, is not de escalating those sorts of situations that escalating em is of concern. And so, and so basically we would like to write a letter, just expressing our concern with that type of a response to somebody that appears homeless, when in reality people experiencing homelessness, that are abiding the law, do not get a law enforcement response, they need support from our community, not an aggressive response. And so I am asking. So we discussed it that at the steering committee and we were in favor of writing this letter and so the plan is that I would write a letter with anybody else that wants to write that letter to, we're going to really focus on the homeless element, and not on the racist element that's there, I know that to come in ministerial alliance and others are kind of hitting that angle. And so we're going to just kind of come from the place of our supportive people experiencing homelessness. So, I, I know we're short on time so I would love any comments that have to do with how this is a bad idea. And, and kind of express that so and then we're gonna vote whether to do it or not I see in the chat somebody already volunteered to help out, which is amazing. And so, so folks who want to help out, you put that in the chat, and I'd love to get some concerns with this approach or like major things we need to think about.

## **Al Ratcliffe**

Owl. I have real, real conservationists about that maybe I have some old glasses from doing service for the Sheriff's Department. I would like to see the draft of the letter before we make any decisions.



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I think that's very fair.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Yeah I think that's better than fair. So why don't you guys put in the chat folks that want to help me on the draft, and we will put that draft together for a vote next week. And. And again, anybody that just wants to be heavily involved or just wants to see a version of it we'll definitely get a version out prior to the meeting, I don't think this is terribly time critical, just because the processes in place for this will be slow, so great and so I've seen that some from. Yet some folks that are in support and willing to help out with the draft, so I am going to not launch my poll, and thanks for that excellent suggestion now back to rob up. Final thing about coalition, so anything you see me and Rob and Kevin and others doing in these coalition meetings, those are all available for everyone else to do too. So it's as much as you can eat a full buffet at the Homeless Coalition and we want you taking part I'm just throwing that out again, like if your heart is in running pools if the coalition meeting, or any of these efforts, let me or marine or rob or Teresa or rosemary or Kevin or anybody know if you'd be interested in working on. Even better if you can get your employer to give you time to work on that thing everybody.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, so we have about five minutes left to work with before we will do a breakout conversation with Teagan to wrap up our meeting. Maureen, did you want to real quickly offer some highlights of things we need to celebrate an advocacy today.

## **Maureen Howard**

Perfect. We are celebrating the passage of Just Cause 1236 Yeah I know. Can you believe I was at a coalition meeting when we still met in person, a couple years ago Laurie Jenkins was sitting next to me and she said I want to know what all the issues are about just cause before we bring it up, and now she's presiding over it's passing and 5160 which is statewide legal representation for tenants that passed last night, and I think because it passed with an with some amendments. I think it has to go back to the for concurrence. But, and then one amended amendment is troubling and we're just gonna have to live with it, and that is, there will be no extension of the eviction moratorium. So now we've got a hard date that we're working against. Other than that, I think it's stay alert for any alert I send out asking you to contact legislators, and I know it seems like there are a lot of them, but they make the difference. And they put even legislators on our side on these issues, it puts them in a position to say, I heard from 100 people in my district last night, that sort of thing. So, we have signed on as a coalition on organizational sign ons that are consistent with our earlier decision to support the Low Income Housing Alliance, or Yeah, low income housing alliances agenda, including the operating budget increase for permanent supportive housing. So, yeah, I think those are the main things, and we'll talk next week about the proposed jobs bill at the federal level is \$213, billion for housing in it. There's another increase in the ordinary budget that the Biden administration is putting forward for the operations of the government. So it really, I mean, this really is our moment folks. So put aside, whatever your experience has been for the last however many years. Is this the time to put the markers



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down. This is number of housing units we need we need them affordable to people who have zero income, who have 10% 20%, whatever. And let's get them, let's let's be ready. So, thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Maureen, and Colin, I know we've cut you short on time do you have a moment to offer a quick update on safe parking.

## **Colin DeForest**

Yes, I can be real quick. We are waiting. We're been waiting all week for a delivery of portable toilet to the to UC site so they can get going, it is there ready to go. We're waiting on referrals as I had said on Monday's meeting I met with Troy Christiansen from the rainbow center so he is, you know, he already thinks he has potentially a couple referrals down there so all of our sites have openings right now because we've had people move out, which is awesome so we just got our Lady house from our South Hill site. She did it out of the Coordinated Entry System which is definitely not a bash against the Coordinated Entry System, but I think that's one of one of our ultimate goals was let's see if we can avert some of these people from actually entering so, so that's awesome. We had another lady that is in the process, it's a severe alcoholic. In the process, she's agreed to go into treatment, and that's really cool. So she got placed somewhere, so things are going well, um, yeah like I said send any referrals, there's been a lot of referrals coming in, and then oftentimes they drop off for a week or two, we have a couple of families that were referred this week, they're bouncing from our house, and well you can let people know a lot of people will be on a couch for a couple days and then maybe they can't, that's fine, they want to come to the safe parking site for two days and then they go inside, that's totally fine, we can totally, there's that kind of flexibility in this program so you know the only the last thing I would say is TC at this time as TCC has stepped back, they're not going to be moving forward with having a site which is extremely disappointing for myself and for a lot of others including Jeffrey Serra rumba who have put a lot of energy into that site, but I think we're still optimistic that we can maybe figure something out moving forward. So, yeah, thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Colin, and thanks for the work that you're doing around safe parking and safe sites for all. So, thank you. So let, I'm going to hand the floor over to close out our meeting for a conversation with tieghan from city of Tacoma. Tikkun I think you're set up to be able to share your screen and launch into this.

## **Tiegan Tidball**

Awesome, thank you. Let me, let me do it then. Right, can you see, can you see it.

## **Rob Huff**

Oh, there it is.



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## **Tiegan Tidball**

Okay. There we go. All right, so today we're talking about mental health and substance use disorder tax and how that impacts the homeless system. So I wanted to do the visuals because I probably have more lead up into this one than other any of the other ones in a way, because I want to really ground us in the information and the tax at the same time I know we're short on time, so I'm going to try to be concise. So our guiding principles around this is the RC w 8214 460, as a state code. So essentially what it says. And this is a little background as well. It's a much larger code and if you want I encourage you to look it up. But we essentially starting in July 1 of 2012, we joined a lot of other municipalities to have a sales tax for 1/10 of 1% So that's essentially one cent for every \$10 to be used for chemical dependency, which I prefer substance use disorder but this is the RC W language, and mental health and behavioral health treatment services. So we use this to collect to it, and it's very specific of what it can be used for so it's including treatment services, case management, transportation and housing, they're a component of accorded chemical dependency, or mental health treatment programs service. So that's our primary guiding document, a legislative document I should say, of how

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

big it and we're still on your first slide.

## **Tiegan Tidball**

Is it not going, it's not going. It showed it on mine. No,

## **Rob Huff**

no, it's not for some reason. It's also not not fullscreen.

## **Tiegan Tidball**

No. All right, hold on, let's try again.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, you just might need done share and then reshare.

## **Tiegan Tidball**

Okay, sorry about that. Share it,

## **Rob Huff**

technical glitches happen.

## **Tiegan Tidball**

Well it took my, my bar away. Lee,





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**Rob Huff**

that's Friday, that's not good.

**Theresa Power-Drutis**

Just hover near the top of your screen, you'll get your bar back.

**Tiegan Tidball**

Well, there it is. Alright. Share. There we go. Thank you kindly, try new Share. If I bring it all the way over here instead. Can you see this one,

**Rob Huff**

we're saying, there you go,

**Tiegan Tidball**

okay that's gonna do it this way. This is easier alright thanks for bearing with me.

**Rob Huff**

Now let's see if we can go to the second slide, it looks like right be able to.

**Tiegan Tidball**

Alright, can you see that it still looks a little wonky, but is that can we see it. All right,

**Rob Huff**

well the weird thing is we're seeing you're seeing the next slide I know right as well.

**Tiegan Tidball**

If I go like that, I better.

**Rob Huff**

There you go.

**Tiegan Tidball**

Yeah, what's going on. Um, thank you for your grace. Okay so this is essentially what I was trying to highlight, like I said I wanted to put the visual in there because I know it's a lot of information and a lot of numbers. So that's essentially the guiding legislation for this as ours. So the next one is I wanted to really highlight how these have been used and I didn't go back to 2012 obviously, but I kind of wanted to talk about right, right before the pandemic, and what happened, and then the outcome of this



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because this is a sales tax so we do get the money from revenues have spent. And so I also wanted to share. Did I just lose it.

## **Rob Huff**

It just went to the last. Yeah, went to the last slide. So for whatever reason slide four didn't show for us.

## **Tiegan Tidball**

Goodness gracious, there's three. My given us all laughter. All right, so this is this is our the services that we fund. Thanks everybody. I really wanted to highlight what happened before the biennium before the pandemic. Once the pandemic occurred and then after, because it has impacted our revenue stream. So if everybody would it I think it's helpful to understand what these services are complementary services are things that include mental health, education, employment, legal services domestic violence impacts communities in violence services, including counseling services for persons that are perpetrators, health and healthcare includes social determinants of health solutions in that spectrum, homeless services includes funding for outreach services prevention and programming and financial counseling, housing includes transitional housing, permanent supportive housing rapid rehousing and things of that sort, shelter, I think we know that one is single adults, families, young adult, youth in domestic violence and of course our emergency temporary shelters, and youth development is the programming that's on improving social for individuals under the age of 30. So I kind of wanted to get these really important is that during the pandemic we saw a huge decrease in these funds, because people place, they weren't spending their dollars out in the community as they did. So, we essentially when we were, we were developing the 19 and 20 budget we expected, a 2.9% growth rate assumed for 2020 That didn't happen. So when we compare the growth to the actual budgets we are seeing a reduction of \$1.75 million over three years. So, what's also important to notice about these these funds is that, since they're, they're accrued during time, and we don't know how people spend money, things can change. Like, obviously the pandemic that our Office of Budget management really wants us to keep about 10 to 20% of revenues. In my cash reserves in case something goes, goes wonky, it kind of did. So the loss of this revenue, we're also using from the year prior, into this year and into the next year because of that loss of revenue. So I think that's just really important to highlight. I'm gonna stop sharing the screen now since it wasn't going so great. Anyways, um, and I also want to highlight that I know we were talking about the spark report so the thing I always want to mention is racial disparities. So that being said, people of color experience a higher rate of traumatic stress and mental health issues and substance use, and so it's really important to be rhythmic create a system is responsive to those needs. So that was very long winded due to my complications with technology today. So my questions really for the group are. And I'll put these in the chat, of course, what additional mental to substance use disorder services are needed at specific touchpoints in the system, because we know it's needed across the entire system. And since these dollars, not only come into homelessness about 7 million of our budget that we get goes into homeless related services. The other great go to the other part of our work and Human Services in community wellness. So how do we prioritize where are those touch points are where do we infuse those dollars to make the most impact.



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And additionally, what services are needed to impact bipoc communities in the system as well. So those are my two questions.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay, so I know our time is short. Do we think it would be worthwhile to still do this in a breakout or do we want to just do some basic conversation here to help inform it. Yeah, rosemary,

## **Rosemary Powers**

I think the subjects really important and I would like this little extended time to talk about it so I think sharing some initial responses right now would be good but we could reschedule it and people would have had time to think about it. And if we have the slides posted we have time to review those as well.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, I like that a to tieghan Does that work for your timing, it's

## **Tiegan Tidball**

a great idea because it's a meaty one and there's a lot of components to factor in so absolutely. I'd love to still hear some first thoughts.

## **Rob Huff**

Maureen I see your hand up here muted at the moment.

## **Maureen Howard**

Okay, thanks. Yeah, I agree with rosemary, but also taken, if you can give us the actual break out of those different categories of, you know which shelters which program you know that sort of stuff I think that's helpful too. And I know it gets posted different places and things but it just is for this discussion, I think.

## **Rob Huff**

And I do know there was a request to be able to share those slides. I think Greg mentioned he'd love to be able to see the slides and spend a little more time with him so that'd be great to do other other folks have initial thoughts and feedback. Yeah, go ahead, Maureen.

## **Maureen Howard**

I think one thing taken to that would be helpful is, you know, What's the internal conversation about a now that the city is approved the 1/10 of 1% for affordable housing. So how does that fit with the housing specific uses of the behavioral health tax.

## **Rob Huff**



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Please, in the interest of, go ahead.

## **Tiegan Tidball**

I was gonna say, I think this is a really good point to see where those inner intersect because they definitely impact each other.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, Colin.

## **Colin DeForest**

I was just curious on there in the breakout and I think Maureen asked for this and it would be, and that's where it would probably show it. I was just curious how much of the like the stability site is I kind of curious and this is some topic but just what the here's so many different things about the stability site. One, I'm just curious what the actual annual costs are of a noun, if it comes out of this money, or what is the plan for that moving forward.

## **Tiegan Tidball**

Yeah that's a great question, Colin. Obviously that is slightly parallel to this conversation as well, because essentially the stability site comes out of our homeless declaration phase two funds. Um, but it's not all of it, so it's, it, it's it's funded by a mix of funding sources, but it definitely has a place in here as well. Right on.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, I see Janet with her hand up.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Thanks. Um, you know, I'm just Jane public and I have no idea if what happens when you call 311. Because you see, there might be some mental health or substance use activity in a Campement or next door or whatever. So, I don't have a clue what those numbers mean. I also don't have a clue how to access any, any current services or or increase services. So, I would, in order to be part of a breakout session I would need to know what we're talking about.

## **Rob Huff**

I see Teresa's hand up.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

This is just for the first rush of this of course I think about people coming out of jail and prison, and there's a real gap there with people not being able to plug into things really quickly. I think that would be



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a place to strengthen and make it possible for people not to keep going from homelessness to incarceration.

## **Rob Huff**

And I do see as well Teagan in the chat, Paula brought up a question about whether transportation is addressed somewhere in the slides that it's a huge issue for those getting out of treatment and maintaining treatment services

## **Tiegan Tidball**

is sometimes put into a lot of different contracts and is like a sub line item of their work. And I think it's a really great point and it's something that I think there could be elevated and highlighted in it in a different capacity for that one as well.

## **Rob Huff**

Rosemary.

## **Rosemary Powers**

I was just thinking kind of building on what Teresa was saying that the gap. Sometimes could be for a person who is experiencing homelessness, who is ready to deal with things and present pro progress along a treatment task, but there is no place open. And if there were a hotel or motel room or some other kind of supportive environment where they could be helped. Over the period while they're waiting for a room that would be I think a really important use of housing money.

## **Tiegan Tidball**

Yeah, that's a great, that's a great one rosemary. I know sometimes we build those into contracts as well, kind of like we do transportation so people on certain programs when they requested. They have a built in, and I think it's something that, and that's why I'm saying like system wide, how do we use these dollars differently and effectively. Because I think there's another part is like, not only is there the gaps is super important to identify. My other question is, how do we get more direct services, I mean we have a mental health provider crisis, nationally, there's not a lot of people doing the work or going into the profession in the same capacity, or they're primarily just in private practice. So when we think about those long wait times of getting seen, not having treatment beds, a variety of things, it's like, how do we make this also exciting to come into this work, there's so much important needed work and if we're seeing that a national trend, how do we make it equitable and accessible and excited for people to come into this work and provide mental health and substance use disorder in our community.

## **Rob Huff**

Julian I see your hand raised.



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## **Julian Wheeler**

This is Julian, I understand we're short on time, I just thought I'd throw in another Pierce County accessible communities Advisory Committee announcement. It's in the chat box, we meet on May 11 on lines the second Tuesday of May. And even at this very moment. Speaking of private chat. I've been working on advancing an accessibility project that Barrett has submitted originally on March 28th So we're trying to make that work for, you know, typically for parties that advance projects. I don't know if this is appropriate for this coalition meeting but I know that I just heard that Prince Philip's died and he said he was, quote unquote essentially homeless. As a youth, and I understand he's worked with charities over the years, but there's not I mentioned out here too. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, um, Kagan, thank you for kicking off this conversation. I definitely think it's good that we spend some time next week going deeper into this you can tell from the kinds of questions in the conversation in the chat that there's definitely a lot of interest to dig in. So, really appreciate as Maureen mentioned in chat as well, your adaptability, as we as we make our way through these meetings for everyone. I know we've had a number of folks drop off the meeting, and understandably we are past 11 appreciate everybody for being here and hope everybody has a good weekend. Those who do want to stay on the meeting, we will do some conversation, probably for the next 30 minutes about planning for next week's meeting. So if you want to hang out for that, that'd be great. And have a good weekend all. Thanks.