



# Coalition to End Homelessness Provider Meeting - Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

coalition, meeting, maureen, sites, conversation, shelter, pierce county, put, talk, housing, county, tacoma, people, updates, folks, city, community, move, james, thought

## SPEAKERS

Marilyn Newton, James Pogue, Julian Wheeler, Don Pritchard, CC Mendoza, Gerrit Nyland, Kevin Glackin-Coley, Peach McDougal, Klarissa Monteros, Laurie Davenport, Carolyn Reed, Rob Huff, Theresa Power-Drutis, Reanna Bettencourt, Rosemary Powers, Maureen Howard, Colin DeForest, Gerald Daniels, Roxanne Simon, Al Ratcliffe, Reverend Boyce, Janet Runbeck, Courtney Chandler, Andrea Kelly, Valeri Knight, Jenny Lorton, Monique Brown

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## Rob Huff

All right. Well welcome everybody to today's meeting of the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness. We have a full agenda as always but want to get, get us kicked off. So I will hand this over to Rosemary to start with a welcome.

## Rosemary Powers

Well good morning everyone, today is a pretty lovely day here where I'm sitting. And yesterday was the celebration of Earth Day, which reminds me so much of our group and the reason I'm thinking of that right now is I looked at the time magazine this week and there's a depiction of an artist's work that's 50,000 matches, listed around surrounding the whole world, and she then lights the match and of course, everything blows up, because we're all there together. So, I think in this in a positive sense for us while that's a terrifying image the image of having 30 or 40 or 50 or 60 of us as matches to light up the, the work to provide safe spaces for all to be just really makes my heart warm so I welcome you all to this task that we do together, and Rob just posted in the north, in the chat the meeting norms that are in general so I suggest you read those if you haven't seen them before we voted on them last week, and I'm not sure if the Zoom norms are there I can't quite read my chat very well but I want to just to have one of them to talk about briefly today before we invite new people to let us know that they're



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here. We decided because we have sometimes general conversations, and we want to hear everyone's voice who wishes to speak, it's not always clear how you get recognized. We've tried a variety of things people wave their hands people, unmute themselves and just interrupt, whatever's going on to make sure they get their voice in. So we're trying something to see how it works, and if you don't like it, just, you know, let us know too, but there's a little raise hand icon that most of us have in whatever machine we're using for this mine is a Mac and I have this little yellow hand that raises up and it's under reactions. I don't know what you have Theresa said her hand is blue, so you might have a purple one, I don't know. And if you're on the telephone, I'm not quite sure how you do it, I haven't tried the telephone, but I just wanted us to, to just give a try, see if we can do this together, to all raise our hand right now. And so, Rob can see if he can see us. And so if you do that then I have one more thing to say after that. That looks pretty good and then I think you have to lower your hand if you want to get out of that or they're going to think you have something to say all the time in the meetings on one of the things about raising the hand that provides us with some order is that I think Rob can see the order we put our hands up. So, if you're talking, if you raise your hand a lot, you might get called on a lot but you might also be skipped because you call, we're talking a lot. Oh, anyway Rob can see what the order is and keep track of us as we try to speak I know we're going to have a couple general conversations today so we hope that this will help us keep that in some kind of I don't know what kind of order, we could say and so if you're new, this is what we do every week we are an open table, we have lots of meetings, so if you like meetings, you have lots of opportunities, and if you like working on issues you have lots of opportunities to, you can find out by attending any of those meetings. This one gives you a general overview of a lot of things we try to introduce resources in the community and have updates from government groups and test verses who are working. So that's our general frame here if you're new, but one of the things we do every week is invite anyone who is new to our group who's trying us out to see what we have to offer. To see what you might do to return here after being away for a while, reintroduce yourself and, and if so, we'll ask you to do that in person, just your name and if you're associated with a group to share that so we know how to connect with you, depending on the kind of work we've been involved in. So with that long winded introduction to that, I would like to invite new people to identify yourself unmute yourself and let us know who you are and what you might be associated with

## **Rob Huff**

peach I see your hand raised.

## **Peach McDougal**

Hey, hello to everybody. It's been a long time, and I'm happy to be here with my kitty Sprite. I saw that you guys are going to be talking about the camping ban and I'm very interested to hear what everybody and especially Maureen is going to share the neighborhood association, where I live is very excited about the camping ban, and I would love to have some better responses.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Thank you, Paige for joining us again, it's great to see you back. So Rob, can you see Andrea stand up.



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## **Rob Huff**

I can No Yes. Oh. Hi, I'm

## **Andrea Kelly**

Andrea Kelly, I actually work for Pierce County Superior Court. I am the pretrial services program manager, And I know some of you from the CPTs meeting and I, after multiple recommendations from multiple sources have finally come and join this meeting as well. Not only do I do pre trial services but I'm also the grant administrator or have some administrative duties for the True Blood contempt programs here in Pierce County Superior Court, of course not to be confused with the True Blood Settlement Agreement components and programs. So, a lot of information there, but I definitely felt like that. These populations overlap criminal justice and the populations that you serve and how can we connect and break down some of those barriers silos, walls, it's all about who you have the phone number for and whose email address you have, there's a lot that we can do on the inside here at the county to resolve issues that people just don't know about, Especially with COVID and how even the government has moved in ways that I never expected to see. So, thank you, Andrea,

## **Rosemary Powers**

very much happy to have you here. Delightful. All right well remember that raised hand thing and hopefully we'll, we'll work well with that today we'll talk about other norms at other times, and we'll have a more detailed description of these available as we as we think through them more deeply.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Rob rosemary, and thank you everyone for being here today. At this point in the meeting we will open the floor to. And again, you know, a great opportunity to use the raise hand function, I will say, recognize, we're all learning these new group norms. And so, if, if somehow like rosemary had to call my attention that I had missed a raise hand. Give each other a little space so that we can all make some order out of the chaos this morning, but the first item that we're going to talk about is what's happening on the streets, this week, so this is a section of the meeting where we just ask people to weigh in with what they're seeing that's changing on the streets. If you're working directly doing outreach to a community and want to share an update about what needs are those kinds of things this is the time to do so. So I will step aside and call on anybody who has any direct outreach knowledge to share with the group this morning. All right. Okay, Jeffrey

## **Reverend Boyce**

on Yakima I saw one new template, which is not bad, but I am not seeing. I'm seeing everyone dispersing hiding, heading to other sites, and I haven't found some of those sites yet. I'm hoping to check in with 34th in Pacific this afternoon.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Geoffrey, and anybody else with any updates on where you're seeing people moving around or what needs are out there. So Monique are learning everybody yeah there you go,



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## **Monique Brown**

oh yeah I got it. You got to find that button. So I over by the Tacoma Dome I can't think of the street right now. Underneath the 705 I believe I see a lot going on on both sides. Now, initially when I was doing outreach there there was one side now both sides are going on, and then I'm getting a lot of, you know, strange not strange requests that are kind of outside of the norm, like for solar panels, and for, you know laptops for kids with homeless women Veterans Transportation has been an issue for some veterans trying to get to appointments. That's all I see right right now and I could ask my outreach specialist for more and report back next week, but that's what I've personally seen.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you for sharing that it's, it, it actually is a good idea to share a few are sharing some of those that hot out of the ordinary requests so that maybe, maybe we can figure out to connect to a resource. So thank you, Monique, Courtney.

## **Courtney Chandler**

Hi, can you guys hear me, my other headphones died like right before. Okay. Um, I, so I do outreach on Sundays, not through my organization, but I have been hearing a lot more from people that are intense around the hilltop area all over this area, issues with medical like medical issues that they're experiencing. Having infections and not being able to walk to the, or not being able to get to the hospital and I guess I'm just curious if there's anybody that's here on this screen. Or, if anybody knows of any like resource that I can connect people to when I encounter that or that I could call that when I encounter that situation, are there any groups out there offering free medical help to people. That's kind of where

## **Rob Huff**

Janet Do you have anything that you could add,

## **Janet Runbeck**

oh yes the Tacoma Fire Department cares has free transportation with a whole list of sites and and free medical clinics that they will transport people from us, published list two sites, and I'll try to figure out how to put that on the chat. There are free clinics, but everybody that that is on the street qualifies for Medicaid, so they can go to CMR any CMR clinic, and a community health care clinic. And as I say if transportation is is an issue you connect with the medical transport van with Tacoma Fire Department cares and Marilyn Newton is here with the homeless outreach CMR clinic, Maryland, take it away.

## **Marilyn Newton**

Yeah, um, FEMA actually has a nurse practitioner who goes out in the community and sees clients. So if you can give me name or location I can get Elliot to go down there and take a look at the situation. And we, we usually offer follow up at the clinic on 11th Street. So, but if you can give me the names and locations, I'd be glad to have Elliot, take a look.

## **Courtney Chandler**



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Could you guys please put Like numbers to call in the chat for that. Thank you.

### **Rob Huff**

Fantastic. In Maryland, did you have anything else to add,

### **Marilyn Newton**

no I just have slow getting to the button.

### **Rob Huff**

Oh, no problem, no problem at all. Jenny, you have your hand up.

### **Jenny Lorton**

Yeah, Courtney inside passages can assist anyone with getting connected to Medicaid, we help our clients with that all the time so if you need help, just give me a call. I'll drop my number in the chat. Because as mentioned, anyone who's on those treats would be Medicaid eligible. So we help our clients get enrolled in Medicaid all the time, so we, we usually connect them to a Medicaid enrollment specialist at CMR, but we can assist with that so you can always give me a call and I can walk you through that as well.

### **Rob Huff**

Perfect. And this is a great example of how we want to share resources in this section of the meeting so I really appreciate it. Anybody else with any last items for the on the street section today. Maureen, you're muted Maureen,

### **Maureen Howard**

thank you. I didn't see Valerie on the in the group yet Valerie night but she at the Gig Harbor. Keeping until a coalition meeting yesterday morning she brought up a new encampment at the pretty spit and said that greater lakes folks had been going out, I guess tents and vehicles both.

### **Rob Huff**

You see, see you had your hand up, do you still have something to share,

### **CC Mendoza**

or yes I just wanted to share that I listened to the community meeting in the south, and it's South Tacoma. And we have a lot of work to educate the public because they were, they were talking about possible sites for shelters, and all the community people that attended talked about was needles and and crime, and assuming that everyone has a drug problem and they're all criminals, and the city of Tacoma, can't remember who was there, I can't remember her name, there were two people there. And they did a beautiful job explaining why they were at the meeting, the input they wanted from the neighbors I mean they did a fantastic job. But that community and I'm thinking that that, and that's my community. I'm thinking, My community is not the only community like that, but we have a lot of work to



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do on education and and breaking stereotypes and notes, so it was hard to listen to my some of my neighbors talking like that but you know I got work to do in my neighborhood.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you CC and yeah I know we've got some we've talked in multiple meetings today or this week, especially with the steering committee about messaging, and there is a lot of work to do. And Donald I see you have your hand up as well. And you're there you go.

## **Don Pritchard**

Listen to what's been said. I've been on the board for over two years. And that two years. Also prayer transitional housing, which we have two houses now a homeless facilities that whole seven minutes. We've put in our paperwork for the 10 years. I've been doing I'm 63. I've been doing this over 20 years, and I do it as a ministry, not as a job. So we come out of pocket, with everything. Our church does feeding over 500 families a month 2021 churches, they have food bank. We supply their food banks, but we do it all out of pocket. We've been asking for help for two years, promised help. But two years, and we've been open for six, the program. It's sad for me. And our board to be asking coalition boy that I'm on a hill. And a lot of you know me, I'm dedicated. We go on the streets, Starbucks, we have a contract with, they give us their food. Everything we go out on the streets. I grew up in California Compton, California, and know the NEA we contract with DLC. We take their money. We counsel, their drug addiction and whatever else they're going through mental medical all out of pocket, feed the homeless closed them house them all out of pocket, and we've been asking for help, putting the paperwork in promises that we have been given. And they've been lies. So I'm sitting here listening to everybody. And how programs has been funded. And I don't get it. I really don't. I don't. It's like me being on a board for nothing and nothing I can do this myself with our partners, but it's sad for me to be on the board that long. Put the paperwork in promises that's never kept. And that's my MO That was, that is what hurts me.

## **Rob Huff**

So pastor Prichard those funding requests have been largely to the city and county and state, is that correct.

## **Don Pritchard**

Yeah, they're getting all the help they need. Yeah, but I'm just, I guess you call it resignation. Have you want to call it, but we stepping down, stepping off coalition, because there's no black programs that had been recording this.

## **Rob Huff**

So it's just so you I understand correctly, though the coalition doesn't fund things. I know. Yeah, so, so can I, um, I'll turn this over to sh Rosemary has her hand up.

## **Rosemary Powers**



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Yes. Pastor Prichard I'm really sorry that your heart is hurting so much right now, and I really hope we can have a conversation I've been thinking about this for a while thinking of wanting to understand the situation you're in, because the idea that you are providing out of pocket, these wonderful services for people is really, really noteworthy and I really support that. I just want to know, I just want to say that with this group that we are part of everything we do is out of pocket too it's mostly our time, but I, I want to be sure that we understand what the lack is. And so if you're willing, I'm going to put my contact information in the chat and I would really, really appreciate the opportunity to hear more, what your experience has been and how there might be some resolution to it so thank you for sharing that and I'm really sorry that your experiences, been a difficult one for you,

### **Rob Huff**

Maureen, you have your hand up as well.

### **Maureen Howard**

Sorry. Looks like I can figure out how to raise my hand but not how to unmute. I'm really, again, really sorry to hear your comments, and I don't know if it's an organizational issue that is preventing your success with funding applications. Then, I mean there are some of us who do that kind of work. And there are a lot of people in the community who do. And so I'm happy to have an offline conversation, if that's the issue.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Maureen, Monique you had your hand up. Oh, yeah, I was,

I was going to ask the pastor if I'm, if it's a matter of him. I'm trying to understand so he's putting in documentation for request for proposals, and, you know, submitting proposals and then getting denied is that the issue.

### **Don Pritchard**

No we don't get denied, you just get promised. And the paperwork goes nowhere. I've talked to, what's his name. I've talked to the gentleman that I can't remember his name. But, we put the paperwork in for the batch that we needed. And he said, Just give me a shopping list. And we did that. Nothing came up. We've done that twice with with programs that are hooked up with the, with the Homeless Coalition. I mean, we've been doing this for two years we've been asked him for him to I've been asked him to help the board. And it's just me, I don't get it. Because I mean, I associate with a lot of black programs, and not none of them are getting funded the great grants don't get them. So I mean, us as a church community, as a faith based community. It doesn't matter if we get the help or not. We're still gonna do it, it's our passion. That's why I don't get paid for what I do, because it's my passion, it's my ministry, I went to prison. I went to homelessness. So good. And half half of the board knows that just don't, I just don't get it.



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I'm sorry,

sir. I was just gonna say, Pastor if we could just talk offline maybe I'll put my number in email in the chat, I would love to speak to you offline.

## **Don Pritchard**

Yes, ma'am.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Monique, Teresa.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

So I just want to say that what Don's talking about I think, is I want to broaden this a little bit. There are a lot of us in this coalition who are tiny, tiny nonprofits who have very very small budgets, and one of the things that we've talked about in the past and haven't ever really done anything about, there is a there is the possibility of some, some sort of collaboration. And I have some hopes for that but if Donald's situation is like mine, it's very hard to find time to go out and work on a grant with some other smaller organization, even though I think that is really the pathway to having some sustainability for operations that are shoestring. So I want to first of all I want to say that I would bet if you scan through this group, you would find many many other people who are doing things out of pocket and on a shoestring and, and I don't think any of us are having great luck, writing grants that would sustain us for, for much we tend to write for small grants, and we just keep moving along. There has to be a lot of hard in it or it wouldn't happen. I think there is some potential here and you're raising a really good question. I don't think it's as unique as you might think it is. And I think that the fact that we are all kind of in our little hamster wheels, running as fast as we can, instead of being able to support each other, is a sick it's a symbol of what needs to happen if we are going to sustain this work and the good work that I think a lot of people in this group are doing. So, I'm sorry that you're choosing to step down, and I'm sorry that it felt like not being supported but I think your work is very much valued so I wish you the very best and I hope you reconsider.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Teresa, Courtney.

## **Courtney Chandler**

So, I, I hear what you're saying and I think that, I think it's what you're raising is kind of a valid point though, right, I mean, and I would like to talk with you more offline about your work and then the other work of the other black organizations that you work with. So I work for associated ministries I can't promise anything. But I would like to talk with you because that's one of my missions is to start understanding what organizations of color in this area are doing and how we can lift each other up. So if you could output my information in the chat, and I would love to talk with you more about what you do





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specifically and then who you know and what they do. And we can, again, I can't promise anything but I'd like to chat with you if you're interested.

### **Don Pritchard**

Can I say something. Yeah. It's not about the money, it never have the support, support, we asked him for, is to help with beds, dressers for the man. These are the things that we asked you for grant writers. We did get one grant last year, that helped us get the band together with pick up homeless people, and then help get all the cars together. So I mean it's not that we haven't been pushing for stuff but what we have been asking for is that thanks to help us, help the homeless. And just like everybody else our funds are limited. So, I mean, even our, our head our superintendent. When he bangs when I was offering our ties all that go back to the programs. So, I mean, it's not so much the money is this happening to go and buy the stuff for our homeless people when we should be getting help from not promises, but help. I'm calling. And that's that's what I'm saying we were not asking for, I mean, associated ministry, we've been working with them for years. Okay, and they help us. They have been good partners Danna Pearson at Salvation Army, I mean at Goodwill. Going to Catholic services. She's been a partner of ours for six years as long as we've been opening this this program. But I mean, we do have partners that help us put man in, you know, they give us their, you know, the, the needy, young man. So I mean, I'm not anybody misunderstood. It's not about the money, it's about the, the help of things we need in order to house more people. So it's hard to get bands, we use an air match this. And it's just difficult, because I feel. I mean, even though I'm bored I feel like I'm alone. No. And this is what I'm, what I'm seeing the person that's been dedicated on the board with the homeless. When you ask for help. You're not organization, your foundation, the people you work with you should be able to, to help us know. And I know you know Catholic services also services that you represent, we've been working with you guys, But the people that we deal with are handed down to us by people on the coalition, which we're grateful for, like I said, we call them, they tell us to give them a shot us to give them a shopping list. Nobody ever comes through, we end up having to get it ourselves.

### **Rob Huff**

Pastor Prichard there Pitchford, thank you for raising the issue, I think it's, hopefully, as others have said, You will take up folks who've offered to meet with you separately offline. So that, so that we can help. And, again, really appreciate you raising this, I do know that we do need to move on with the rest of today's meeting. But I want to I want to thank everybody for for offering help. And, and, you know for this dialogue today, and I think there's some really good issues that we do need to consider here so thank you again, and we, We hope we'll see you at future meetings.

### **Don Pritchard**

Thank you very much appreciate you guys.

### **Rob Huff**

All right. Maureen, you still have your hand up, did you want to say something or should we move on to the next item,



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## **Maureen Howard**

just really quickly that the coalition approved our priority list of priorities for the use of the American rescue plan money there is a line item in there for financial support for organizations with revenue with budgets of under a million, if in fact you go forward with working group around, whether it's bipoc organizations or all of the small organizations that are engaged. Just come back with recommendations and we'll update that priority list that's not money today, but that money comes in May 10 We just have to grab it.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Maureen. So the next item on our agenda is to talk about a report out from Courtney on the work of the Pierce County ad hoc committee. So Courtney, the floor is yours.

## **Courtney Chandler**

Hi everybody. Um, so let's see readjusted here talking about. Okay, so the ad hoc committee this week. We did a lot of reviewing what the document is this. So over the last four weeks. Together we've created this document that Heather moss has kind of typed up, she's typed up basically everything that we've talked about, into a document that says the action report. And so we reviewed the action report. And we, we are going to be presenting that to the might get this wrong, the Human Resources Committee for this council.

## **Rob Huff**

I think it's a human services,

## **Courtney Chandler**

services or Human Services Committee for the county council, myself, James, and Heather moss will be presenting that on May 4 at 930. In the morning, and it will be televised, and that is where we are going to hopefully get support from them in order to go forward with the comprehensive plan as well as the plan to end street homelessness by November 1 Again, those are two separate two separate. I don't want to say plans but to separate tasks right into separate task force that will be created. One will be working on the comprehensive plan for the next six months and one will be working on the plan to end street homelessness. By November, 1, and because of the because of how extensive that work is going to be. We are going to need more people on those passports and or committees but we're also have kind of like a steering committee and then we'll have those two committees, we don't know the exact structure of it yet or who all exactly is going to be involved, but hopefully we'll know that very soon we have to get this report approved by the county first before we can move forward with that. The idea at hand is that we will have. We'll take our universal goals which are the two end street homelessness by November 1 And then, to end homelessness in Pierce County, those are the two universal goals right and then using targeted universalism, we will take those out to the public, and in the different areas that work with the different targeted populations, get a lot of feedback around how to meet those goals, and then come back together to create a plan and then implement that plan. I hope that made sense, I can't remember if we talked about targeting universalism here on this platform, or if that was only at the steering committee. But the idea of that is that there's a universal goal that we tried that



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we're trying to achieve, but with the understanding that targeted that certain populations need different things in order to reach that goal. So you make policies based policies in those targeted population areas to get to that goal. And we did talk a lot about. We talked a lot about the. So there was a line item for enforcement that the carrier had put on their original sort of my backup Sorry. Okay so before this third meeting, the county sent out like a draft proposal of like a budget, you know, a line item budget kind of just to start with to show us where they were thinking money would be needed for this shelter project. And one of the line items on there was enforcement and legal enforcement, and so we're during our third meeting. I raised it well me, James, and we raised the question about why is there a line item for enforcement and the problems that could cause, because that's criminalizing homelessness, essentially, and giving permission for the county and police, and money for the police to arrest people who are not willing to move. So, the coalition met. They had a separate meeting to discuss how to address that in this fourth meeting that we just had and Garrett brought to the table what the coalition had talked about, which was instead of using police enforcement using, you know, peer support groups or providers to go in and do that work when people are refusing to move and to try and help mitigate that situation instead of it being police that show up but that situation is also quite frankly I don't believe that there should be a, any money that we're getting given to the cops to do this they already get paid to do their job. And if there's really a big issue they will do their job. I think that it sets up a can be really dangerous thing to include that money, it could lead to serious inequitable solutions around that. And so, I believe that the, I believe, they said they were going to take it out. So, because that was kind of the consensus at the last meeting. So when the draft proposed or when the draft comes out, I believe they said it will come out next week some time for us to review and get back to them before the Tuesday day. I'm definitely going to be checking to make sure that that's out of there. And if that is something that we end up meeting some form of funding for that can be done later down the road, I don't think that needs to be present right now. And I think the coalition was on board with that as well. Did I miss anything good. No, I

## **Gerrit Nyland**

think that's good. We talked a little bit at the at the last sort of emergency steering committee meeting about how the shelter work should really be focused on shelter, and that's one thing we brought back with some talking about having permanent housing sort of integrated into that so we kind of, we talked a little bit about just trying to make sure that we're obviously permanent housing. Our end goal and facilitating that's important but that that shelter by November 1 has to be pretty myopically focused on that.

## **Courtney Chandler**

Yeah and there's a question in the chat asking you who wrote that part in the county had written it in there but I do want to say though Heather Moss was pretty open to removing that like she was on board with that when we explained it. And so I was pretty impressed by their response they weren't trying to push it, they were just set they knew, saying it out loud, too, that they were being vulnerable and showing this this draft and that they were very open to hearing feedback on it. And so there wasn't much pushback, there was the questions to understand, and then there wasn't too much pushback in my, in my opinion, so I thought that was pretty prudent. And we have kind of like a draft timeline that



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was listed out in that as well, about when to do stuff but again we won't know much more until that draft is approved or sorry the draft will be sent out, I can't remember. Garrett Do you remember what day they said that it was going to be sent out to us.

### **Gerrit Nyland**

The deadlines driven by the May 4 Human Services Committee meeting, so it has to be completed in the package, you know on that, whatever Friday or Thursday prior so it's got to be within a few days before that which is early next week. So, yeah, they didn't catch.

### **Courtney Chandler**

So it's a really short timeline so they're going to get us the draft and we have to turn around and look at it and I believe that the Homeless Coalition is going to set up, please correct me if I'm wrong, this was my understanding from the steering committee that there would be an emergency meeting set up to kind of review that and to make changes. So if you want to be a part of that that will be available as well. And then when we, and then hopefully the work begins after that, today, perfect. Jamie Q Cordonnier anything,

### **James Pogue**

not even forget anything, only that the Human Services Commission on on that Tuesday that we're presenting is the only agenda topic is going to be a lot of q&a that Courtney and myself in the county will be part of we already know and Rob and I and some other folks have talked about we need to answer the question, if we're not going to have enforcement as part of the plan that what happens when we open up all these programs and somebody doesn't take those options like what's our recourse to addressing community complaints of a person who's not accepting a shelter option so we'll need to dive into having that answer because I already know that questions coming.

### **Rob Huff**

Great. So does anybody have any questions for Courtney and Garrett and James related to the ad hoc committee. Thank you, Courtney, and, and thanks to you, Garrett and James for all your work in these first four meetings and I. So, all three of you are going to continue on in some way in the creation, not only of the, the timeline and activities for the November 1 deadline but then also for creating the Comprehensive Plan Correct.

### **Courtney Chandler**

Yes, and, and obviously those plant those two committees are going to need more people involved, we know that there needs to be more people at the table, and that has been mentioned, and we just, we just don't know the logistics of how that's going to happen.

### **Rob Huff**

Great. We will stay tuned. Alright, so let's move on to our next item in the agenda and this is a update on what is happening with the city of Tacomas proposed camping ban ordinance so we'll start handing the floor to Maureen.



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## **Maureen Howard**

So just, thank you very much. And just as following Courtney but if you haven't attended these meetings. Courtney and Garrett and James even though he's there for the continuum of care, have really represented as well. So thank you to all three of you for that. So, as fortunately we have nothing else to do. And the city of Tacoma realized that it had let its existing camping ban lapse and that camping ban came out of People's Park for those of you who remember back to those days. So, the brief background for this morning is that the mayor reached out to me, asking for the coalition's response to this proposed ordinance, the time she reached out she thought that it was a week in the future. And the reality was that this ordinance, 28 756 was scheduled for the full city council meeting agenda, Tuesday of this week. So, It's on. It's on our first reading and emergency meetings around it. We were particularly concerned about the punitive nature. There was \$1,000 Fine, for camping on public property, and 90 days up to 90 days in jail. Either or both, and the authority to set this camping ban at all was rested in the power of the police and the chief of police, was a whole new code section was developed and the chief of police, was in the city code to develop all the policies and procedures and everything. So we called for a pause. We wrote a letter coalition approved at last meeting Friday. And in response to that letter councilmember Tom's reached out to me within like an hour by five o'clock I had a phone call and an email, neither of which did I realize at the moment, but anyway. And then another email that evening, about it and he apologized for not reaching out to us first, that he would hope we would support this. So we began a dialogue between the coalition and Councilmember Tom's part of what you had approved last week was to give me authority to speak for the coalition on this issue. Thank you, and Councilmember Thompson was also reaching out to other people who he knew, like Colin, and others. And so there were like multiple conversations going on, which culminated in the council, agreeing council member Tom's and the mayor and the deputy mayor agreeing to have the council. Pause consideration of the ordinance, with the understanding that would be back on their agenda by May 18 And actually I asked for a month. That's what I asked for, simply because it seemed like it was going to be a reasonable point it was certainly better than a few hours. And so, we then began conversation more earnest with councilmember Tom's, he would make a statement we would respond, that sort of thing. And then he asked, he said he would meet with anyone and it was the safe sites for all people the old safe parking network folks said, Yeah, we'd like to meet with him on Monday he said, Certainly I'll be available so he's going to meet with the safe sites folks Monday at their noon meeting. And then he had also said he would meet with our steering committee. And so we had an emergency steering committee meeting and talked about this and just really felt like it wasn't time to meet with him yet. So he then asked for a meeting with me. And then we expanded that to include Garrett, and other members of the steering committee who were available and interested, and so on. I can't believe it was only yesterday that we met with at two, we met, so that we as Teresa power Druid is Garrett Nylund Kevin Glackin Kohli, Rob Huff, Jeffrey Boyce and myself. And I know, I know it's not an appropriate representation, but if we went with the people that we had available who were available then and so we're doing our best to represent everybody. The meeting did not include any city staff out of NCS or any other part of the city, the city staff who were there were the city manager, not a designee, but the actual city manager, and the Linda Foster, who staffs. Councilmember Tom's and others,



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## **Gerrit Nyland**

to the Murray, sorry, the city attorney.

## **Maureen Howard**

Oh the city attorney Thank you.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Not the city manager.

## **Maureen Howard**

Yeah, right. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. City Attorney, so. So we began with councilmember Tom's making a pretty incredible statement that actually aligned pretty well with our principles. And what we are trying to do and regrettably the meeting was not recorded because my own feeling was that statement should be heard by everybody. Now, we have agreed to meet again. Councilmember Tom's we're waiting on him to decide if he wants us to meet without him. Deputy Mayor blocker did was invited, but not able to join the meeting yesterday, the mayor despite being in a fair amount of pain as she talked about needing to have a tooth pulled did join us for a period of time. So, this is all of which is to say, this is pretty high profile in terms of the mayor and city attorney, and we are waiting to hear when the next meeting will be no, what I've asked is the other five who were at the meeting to each give you something that they thought was a really important or an insight out of that meeting, and then we'll take some time just for open conversation, and then use the chat, please. All right. So, did I give the Deputy Mayor's amendment. Okay, so the deputy mayor by the time we got to the meeting had put forward an amendment, which reduced the fine to \$25 and reduced the time and jailed to no more than 30 days it was still either or both, and also made it that kicked in, on the third ticket that someone received, there were no other changes to the original amendment or the original ordinance or the city code proposed city code change. So, if you think about this, not as a no camping ban, but if you think about it as how we use public property is might be helpful to us getting someplace that we want to be. So, I don't know. Who wants to go first if you want to pop your hand up or wave at me. Okay, Teresa, and then Geoffrey.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

The main thing that I was struck by was how amenable, everyone seemed to be trying to get to something that was going to work. So, Tom said really explicitly that he would like to see the criminalization aspect removed. And that was a surprise to me because, and he also didn't seem to be certain about what they had control over, in terms of can we say that we're, we're not going to have this consequence, how do we make something enforceable. He was, I just want to say I was surprised by how much he was working to try to find some common ground, and that was a surprise to me and the other two city staffers also appeared to be listening to what was being said. Garrett was great in that he said, you know what's not in the ordinance, you know the whereas is and this was news to me all the whereas is, you can't enforce what's in the ordinance, you need to enforce and they really, I think they automatically made that change Garrett, did they.



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### **Gerrit Nyland**

Today we're that the matchup between their between their intent. And what they created in the ordinance there seemed to be a significant divergence in that, you know where their intent wasn't to have the police putting people in prison but that's what the ordinance said and I, again, like streets I really got the sense that they want to bring the ordinance in line with what their stated intent is, and so I'm, I'm optimistic.

### **Maureen Howard**

Jeffrey.

### **Reverend Boyce**

I really had the sense that compromise was on the table, and not that we have any firm answers right now, his concerns were the small percentage of bad actors who are in encampments and who might refuse. Appropriate appropriate sheltering and. And I have to acknowledge that that's a potential problem. But I was very pleased with the, the level of readiness to compromise in different places in the in this bill.

### **Maureen Howard**

Okay, Robert, Kevin.

### **Kevin Glackin-Coley**

What I was trying to see if Rob was happening, I would say the thing I would add to this, is that there is a sense from the city that they don't want this. Their intent is not to have this imposed before there are enough safe appropriate sites, and so we had a lot of conversation about the timing of enacting it so that it doesn't give people in the community, a sense that there's a tool to use which can't be used at the present time, so I'm not sure we haven't landed anywhere on that yet. And I think, on some level, at some point as we get further down there's going to be a hope for the coalition to support it and I think there's a long lot of conversation to have about, what is our bare minimum or maximum depending on how you look at what can be in there in terms of the stick approach without enough carats of appropriate and accessible spaces and timing.

### **Maureen Howard**

Thanks, Rob.

### **Rob Huff**

I don't think I have a whole lot to add that hasn't already been covered I'm kind of more interested in what the rest of the group thinks so. I'll turn over my time.

### **Maureen Howard**

Thank you. So let me pick up one minute of it and that that I came away with a couple of additional things one is that we need messaging, that makes sense to people who, not the people who are never



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going to be with us, who have already decided what they've decided about people experiencing homelessness but the sort of community what I used to call the community of goodwill who are trying to figure out what they can, what they can do they don't like what they see, they don't understand it necessarily, and they want to do something but don't know what it is. And the other thing that we need some quick wins. We need to be able to show that what we can offer, we meaning, you know the, all of us the providers in particular that we have, we have solutions that work. And the other thing is for everybody to really keep in mind with the City of Tacoma. The city council sets policy. The staff carry it out. And while they, you know, work together, and certainly staff can bring forward suggestions and things that in dealing with Councilman Tom's and the deputy mayor and the mayor, we're talking about policy so what is the policy that we want to see in any official city ordinance around the use of public property. And so, use the chat please we save it and rob you tell us when we have to stop if you would, so if people have questions or comments or thoughts or whatever, Please, now's the opportunity.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, some of you are using the chat. Thank you for that. But if we do want to have a little bit of live conversation about it. That would be great as well. So please use your raise hand function if you do want to say something. All right, I'm not seeing anything from folks right now Rosemary I saw you raise your hand.

## **Rosemary Powers**

I was trying, I was trying to find the raise hand thing. I just, I'm just didn't when when peach when you introduced yourself today and you were saying people in the area are somewhat supportive of this kind of ban. I just am really convinced about the timing question. And the idea that if a ban were to be passed soon. The folks in your community would be delighted to have a ban it sounded like. And yet the services and the shelters are not in the tiny homes and all are not available so I really agree with Maureen's point about messaging, and how we don't want to set up communities for thinking something would be enforced. That really is unconstitutional if we don't have appropriate shelter available to people so I just want to reinforce that.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, rosemary, James.

## **James Pogue**

For those on the steering committee, this is just to repeat the things that I've said that I just wanted to share for the larger group that I've been part of two other program changes with enforcement with the City of Tacoma one in 2017 when they declared the first state of emergency and opened up the mitigation site, there was mitigation site and then the stability site which made approximately 90 long term sanction camp sites or long term sort of transitional housing programs. And the goal was that at the same time there would be an enforcement piece with the same kind of feedback that what we do if no one wants to go but as I stayed at the steering committee, the, the stability site was full of all the sites that were built and they built more tiny homes outside of the original site to accommodate the influx as well as I had a waiting list that we were reviewing on the outreach teams daily that was well





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over double the amount of beds that we had and at a certain point we actually, we had a lot of influx of folks who wanted the beds from all over the, the city of Tacoma they weren't even being referred by law enforcement, the more people were self report furring until the the list included the waiting list like that that's what started to slow down people's fervor to get in is that they weren't getting in and then even when the most recent camping ban ordinance was enacted in 2019 around People's Park, it was the same thing we, we, I think our final count of People's Park was 84 people that were sleeping there the night of December 21 that before we moved folks over to the tiny homes that were, that were over a couple blocks away, there were 38 units available or beds I guess customers were doubled up, and of course we had 84 people who who wanted them so we filled it up, and then again had a huge waiting list. So, so my suggestion for Tom's or anyone is that, why don't we cross that bridge when we come to it, why don't we open up all the shelters, we can watch them fill up and then, like the band can be enacted at some time down the road. The community is going to see the response of a lot of people getting into these campsites more than they are the band, because the band will ultimately not give the sense of, like, not everybody on their streets are going to be suddenly gone is my feedback, they might be relocated or even arrested for 30 days or whatever but, but until we have the campsite, folks will return. And it's just my opinion and or my anecdotal knowledge from experience that if we open the sites up first, people will go there first, they'll be full and then we can talk about what to do when we have empty slots available.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you James. Collin you had your hand up next.

## **Colin DeForest**

Well I knew if I followed James I was gonna happen. He'd basically just sent every single dang thing and I was gonna say so, I, you know, being involved with James was I totally agree. I'm excited about the work that's going on. I'm excited that council is willing to talk, and I just really think that we need to, and I know that that's happening with marine and Garrett, leading the way, get our ducks in a row for what our asks are, and I think we need to be firm, and I think to James's point it's, it's real simple and I think I get caught up in the policy and the actual practice of actionable items, but I think there's, there we need both pieces we need that policy piece, but we also, to me, I just hope that this is the impetus that opens up more sites as James said we know what the answer is, so I'm hoping that the city will step forward and really just model something very similar to what we did in 2017, but now we're just gonna actually include more options we're gonna include safe parking, we're gonna see if maybe we can include some tiny houses. Some other things so that we can identify and quantify what is the need to James's point how many people are actually left on the streets after we have these opportunities, call them bad actors, call them what you want but those are the individuals, then we can roll up our sleeves and we can really focus on if we have 10 people that refuse all the services, great, that's where outreach workers come into play and let's start talking to them and figure out what is it what will work for you, what is best for you. What do you want, and, but until we have the opportunity to move the ones that want to move. We're just kind of painting them all with the same brush which is really unfortunate. So I think this is a huge opportunity. I'm excited for the upcoming Conversations. I'm also really interested I just throw out there what I mentioned earlier, I really think this is an opportunity to



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engage the larger community, the business owners, the residents like Teresa that are have been screaming for years like let's have a safe place for these people to go right so engaging them, having them in the conversation what that looks like moving forward I think will be super important. So, I don't know I'm just very excited about it so thanks for the work.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Collin. I'll go to Gerald next and then we'll wrap up this section with a comment from peach oak.

### **Gerald Daniels**

Okay so features before me. I would just kind of add a couple things. I'm always kind of skeptical, and I've learned in these few years we've had the ride center and dealing with the city. I'm always kind of skeptical when I hit the elected officials, right. It seems to always be something that's coming behind it that they never put out front. I agree to save good and it sounds good, but also look at the timing of the conversation and then reaching out, you know there's another law that's coming down as I understand from state legislation or even from Supreme Court. So, I hear where they try to maybe not decriminalize what's going on. If James remembered during the Tim's project. The law enforcement found another way to come in and criminalize what was going on. And I see this same law tiny and if we don't watch the other laws and legislations coming down, we get one answer saying we've got to make sure that we do it this way and we're going to make sure it's safe. But when we talk about bad actors versus law enforcement, they find a way to come into their store but I would suggest before we even think about putting our toe into the bedroom to get in bed with this conversation. Let's make sure we know the other things that are going on because when we talk about those things legislation is coming down and I'm always hesitant when I hear that, and I look at the full things that's going on all the legislation that's coming down to ties into one thing when the city says we're going to do one thing, but there's something else happening in the county and the state. Also I agree with what Carlin and James was saying, you know, getting shelter getting people in the house and and all of that but I recall, I want to recall the James what really happened here in how we got into people's Park. When we got ready to do the town's project. It happened because of the tobacco loans Eastery of all the folks that was from the hilltop that was on G Street. We organize them got them into people's Park, organize People's Park. The rest of the city heard, and then people came into people's Park. We started the team's project, and only four people from this community, out of their original 50 got into the houses, you know, so we have to really understand what we're doing and how we do it because I agree we need more places. We need more area we need more, you know shelter for people who want to be in, or shelter for those who don't want to be in, but we really have to be careful as we look at it we have to look at it from a holistic standpoint, because it's not, you know, we will get the politicians that will jump in and will offer things, but they know what's already being discussed. So that's just kind of my take on it because those bad actors will be there but they will use the bad actors to get after the people, and to harass the people that we really want to help and who really want to help. So that's just kind of my comment.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Jaron and peach, can you wrap us up.



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## **Peach McDougal**

Okay, real quick on the, I just wanted to respond to Maureen and say that my eighth and I neighbor associations delusion is that the campers already are refusing to use existing shelters, that's, that's the, that's their operational assumption when they're, when they're looking at the camping ban and Kate. The second thing I wanted to say was that some groups that I'm following, including Tacoma housing now are asking, what's going on with city and county properties that could be used for places that people can camp and why are we talking about a camping ban. Instead of talking about, you know, opening some public some county public spaces for people to be safe, everybody has to be somewhere. So I'm wondering whether, y'all are working with those folks at all or talking to them. And the third thing is the very basic, you know root problem for me is the text structure that keeps pushing our city officials to incentivize market rate housing because they can't tax wealth. We just had a capital gains tax passed by the Washington legislature is very close to being passed, you know that opens up an opportunity that I think we would do well to talk about, you know, because that's leverage when we're talking to the city about what their options are. So right now I understand they're they're pushed up against a wall, you know, if they take, if they take away market rate housing and subsidize cheaper housing, their tax base crumbles. And right now, their budgets are already, you know direly squeezed I know I work for the city. You know, so, can, can we, I know that we need to focus on, you know, getting everybody inside by November 1 But can we also keep that sort of big picture goal of, of making sure that our policies aren't driving the problem.

That's all.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, peach, Maureen, did you want to kind of close this out then and then we'll move on to another topic with you.

## **Maureen Howard**

So thanks, everybody, and please do email me or info at PC homeless, and we will our immediate response to the coalition is to the steering committee. And those meetings always get posted they're open, and will continue to report to the full coalition, and we will try and find answers to as many questions as we can. And as to the question peach of, do we work with, Tacoma housing now and other groups. Anybody that, that it this is an open table. Everybody can be on the listserv. So that's, that's where we are, and how many people from Tacoma housing now we're on the listserv, I don't know. But our process has been that, you know, as long as you're committed to ending homelessness, as long as you are respectful, then you are welcome in this coalition. And the same with a steering committee, and we understand everybody can't be at every meeting, this is right now this is the best we can do. So, and we have tracked public space, public property and across Pierce County and in this, including the city of Tacoma. Since the legislature ordered them to identify all surplus property. And I think we're a couple years into that, and we have multiple on more than one occasion had a list of all public properties in the city of Tacoma. So, yeah. Thanks everybody.



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## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Maureen. And before you turn off your mic. We have another topic. So, this next one, may or may not be a little quicker. We need to determine who will be a representative for the coalition to the continuum of care. So you're queued up Maureen.

## **Maureen Howard**

Alright, thank you. So as you remember, we voted on a process for people who were going to represent the coalition in different situations. And the, the selection of Courtney and Garrett, to the ad hoc committee preceded us actually having anything that we had agreed on, but now we have something. And so, that we have a seat on the continuum of care the coalition does, and that seat has been vacant for several months, and we have fortunately we have James pokud chairs that continuum of care, who can answer any questions that we need answered, but we are hoping, we've gone out to the coalition, we know that some people are either willing to be nominated or to nominate themselves. We would like to fill that seat today with a vote. So what we'd like to do. And Robin gonna let you handle the process but we'd like people to either nominate somebody or nominate themselves to give the nominee, like, a minute to tell us why they are our best option for representing us. And do remember this is a public meeting. So even if you are not selected, or if you are interested but don't know enough, you can always as a member of the public, attend the meeting. So, alright, So who would like to either nominate or be nominated. I'd like to see some hands.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, and Garrett can you and I work together as we get people people's names to kind of put together a quick poll, and we'll do it that way.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Perfect, that's the pool made with the two people that have already indicated an interest that is Gerald Daniels. I'm not sure if he was volunteered or God volun told, but he is willing to represent the coalition. And also, Laurie Davenport. And these are both folks that have been spending a lot of time with the coalition and our weekly meetings and our steering committee meetings, so they're definitely in the room, regularly with all of us.

## **Maureen Howard**

And thanks to Valerie knight who reminds us that it's a two part process. So, the coalition select someone that we put forward as our representative and then that continuum of care has a process of a membership selection and so they make the final recommendation as to whether that person is put forward for membership by the continuum of care, every process is different. We will learn them all over time. So thanks Valerie Jerell, you want to give us your one minute elevator speech about why you should represent us. Oh,



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sure. Well thanks for letting me get in for this one minute and now I'll do my elevator speech real quick. I think I want to represent because I'm passionate and I really enjoying loving this job that you're here for the ride center, and I probably wouldn't have voted nominated a vote of myself but since Theresa said yesterday, she's gonna nominate me so I might as well nominate myself, and I've been, I've become a little bit more passionate since I've been hanging out with you guys. And so I think, you know I have a drive for the committee I want to be on for the youth, homeless, and I see that indication here that they're the ones that's left out very, very much, because we really skip over that age group, because they, they become young adults, and people forget some of them age out of foster care system, and no one's there to advocate for them. So, in order to be an advocate for them, so we can remember that because most of those are the ones that are on the street because they get skipped over yesterday when they were 17 and today they turn 18 And now they're a young adult, and no one ever thinks about them and if they're left on the street. So I have a passion for that and I have a drive to want to make sure that we give them a voice.

### **Maureen Howard**

Great. Thank you, Laurie, your elevator speech. Oh right.

### **Laurie Davenport**

Oh man, it's, it's already too long. Um, so I feel very passionate about this work because I've been working on legal aid for 20 years now, and before that I just did a whole bunch of other stuff, technology stuff. And having really gotten to understand why the legal system does not work, especially for people who are black indigenous color, people who are in poverty. The system is designed to oppress those people, the system does not work, the homeless prevention system does not work, and so I'd like to get in there and see what I can do to make a difference in that I've been around the coalition long enough that I don't, I can't possibly bring the experience that a lot of you have, but I've been listening I've been paying attention, And I think it's just essential so. So I mean, I'm interested. Thanks.

### **Maureen Howard**

Thank you, Laurie, I want to those of you who can see the chat. I want to call your attention to the fact that, as James reminded us yesterday at the steering committee and they're listed out now and Valerie has reminded us, there are many other empty positions on the continuum of care. So just keep that in mind as well. Is there anybody else who would like to be nominate themselves, or anyone who wants to nominate someone. Going once, looking for hands. Going twice. Alright then, Let's vote. Thank you to both Gerald and Lori, do we have a poll a vote.

### **Gerrit Nyland**

We do have a poll.

### **Maureen Howard**

Okay.

### **Gerrit Nyland**



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If zoom knew its audience at all, they would automatically place the Jeopardy music. When you bring up a cool.

## **Rob Huff**

Missed opportunity, isn't it.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Oh I didn't put an abstain and this time sorry folks who have to abstain by simply abstaining.

## **Maureen Howard**

I'd see Carolyn's hand is it related to the voting Carolyn.

## **Carolyn Reed**

Yeah I was just wondering if we can have a primary and a substitute, or both, they both seem really good.

## **Rob Huff**

Well, there may be an opportunity to fill one of those other positions as well.

## **Valeri Knight**

So what I would suggest is this the coalition I'm sorry i i seat. I staff the CSC so multi jobs here. So my suggestion would be for everyone on the coalition to look at that list and if there is something that you represent our seat that is missing. Let's propose that to the CFC to create a new seat or think very broad and what your level of work is and how we can fill those gaps because you have a very this coalition has a very powerful voice, and you have a lot of you have a lot of drive that I think is lacking from the current CSC, and so I think having more of your folks on the CFC will bring a lot of push to what the CSE is trying to do and the achievement, they're trying to make so I encourage all of you to come look at that list, see who's missing, because there's a whole list of proposed seats that have actually never been voted on, and that way we can really feel the CSE to be what it is supposed to be.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Valerie,

## **Gerrit Nyland**

you can see, sorry, you can see the poll results there. We had 30% for Laurie and 70% for gerald, so congratulations Cheryl, you are our designet and as as Valerie said, Right. Nothing is set. But But will our feelings will be seriously hurt, they don't take her recommendation.

## **Maureen Howard**

And it so congratulate

## **Valeri Knight**



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him I think you'll be okay.

## **Maureen Howard**

Thank you to both of you, in response to Carolyn's suggestion of an alternate my own feeling is no that were stronger if people do as Valerie suggested and as James had made us clearly aware of. There are lots of open seats. And if we don't have a seat for on the CSE for legal right now then let's get one. So, let people take this seriously. All right,

## **Rob Huff**

thanks. All right. And then, real quick announcement Maureen, did you want to talk about the creation of a coalition Housing Committee,

## **Maureen Howard**

and I hope you have a vote. Did you make a vote

## **Rob Huff**

for this item.

## **Maureen Howard**

You didn't make a vote did you

## **Gerrit Nyland**

making one right now,

## **Maureen Howard**

right now, okay, all right. So while our technology gurus. There are just so many moving pieces right now folks. I don't know. I thought retirement was supposed to be different. So, for the past years. I have danced around with the best way for the coalition to engage on the housing end the permanent housing and and how a very selfishly how to bring the experience that I have on the housing end into this conversation and I've tried several different ways. And what, what became clear a couple of years ago is that just like homelessness is everybody's issue housing is now everybody's issue. And there are lots of groups, and that's a really good thing. And they have very specific agendas and purposes, and that's a really good thing. But what the, if we're really going to do this built for zero. And we've got permanent housing options for people when we engage them, then we've actually got to have those permanent housing options. And so, I, after a fair amount of of frustration and frustrating the committee that we had jointly set up with a continuum of care around housing. It just, it, it felt like it was the right time, just to have the coalition have a Housing Committee, and everybody who's in the coalition can be in as many housing groups as you want to be. That's great. And we will put energy into the commitment we have made to the Chamber of Commerce, to have a housing. Working Committee with them, and there may be some other formal kinds of relationships we want, but my vision is that the coalition's Housing Committee will have the breadth of the permanent housing options, whatever they are, it will be a place where people can learn can get information easily will have a page on the website, and can respond to



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opportunities. Like right now, it looks, looks like HUDs ready to give out guidance on those vouchers that are part of the rescue plan. So, you know that we need to be able to respond quickly sort of thing so what I'm asking for is for the coalition to set up a Housing Committee, and I'll chair that committee initially, and then we can figure out how it goes forward, but yeah, So that's my request. Questions, thoughts. I see Roxanne.

## **Roxanne Simon**

Sorry I needed to put my hand down, and unmute myself, will the coalition's Housing Committee be separate from the continuums. Housing Committee.

## **Maureen Howard**

Yes. At the last Continuum of Care meeting, Amanda Deshazer who chairs that joint committee suspended it. She canceled so further meetings. She's going to be talking with the continuum of care, executive committee about how that housing strategic area should go forward.

So you and I need to talk because there have been changes since then that she and I are talking but yeah.

## **Maureen Howard**

Okay, no, no, that's funny. I'm not this is not in response to the to Amanda's decision. This is okay, in response to my recognition that phrase, quite frankly, if we are going to do built for zero. There is nobody out there who is covering the breadth of housing options permanent housing options for zero to 30%. Right, we're out of them. All right, lots of people doing lots of good work. Thank you. So that's, that's where I see and I see people who would who were already engaged if if Amanda and the consumer of care, want to, you know, set up a continuum of care, housing committee again subcommittee again, or if they want it to be a joint committee. That's all possible. But, but we can't wait on what other people are going to do, because we got to do this now and this group is going to meet, and people are going to work. And you ready yeah, Carolyn.

## **Carolyn Reed**

Um, would you consider it being housing and revenue, cuz you can't get housing without money,

## **Maureen Howard**

revenue comes under it. But, but it's, we've got to have the breadth of it, not a specific source kind of thing. I mean, I see you're not,

## **Carolyn Reed**

I'm not suggesting a specific agenda, I mean there's a lot of revenue possibilities out there and it'd be nice if you know we put some energy into, you know Liske programs, binding. Land Trust you know ways to, to make it more cost effective,





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### **Maureen Howard**

and these are all things I've been working on and doing, but never with the opportunity to make this available to anybody who wants to participate. I mean right now. Well, I'll just advance. We have a ton of money for homelessness and housing in the state capital budget that got agreed to last night. Some of that's competitive. How are we going to make sure that the proposals that come out of this county, align with what we're trying to do to get people off the streets by November 1 How are we going to track the county's commitment to using part of their relief money for homelessness and affordable housing. That's, I see this as an overarching, so we don't lose anything.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Maureen, so do we want to call the question.

### **Gerrit Nyland**

There she is not exactly a marine said but kind of a marine said, should the coalition create a housing committee to focus on zero to 30% Ami permanent housing in Pierce County. Yes. Give Marina an inch and she'll take a mile.

### **Maureen Howard**

I, you know, several years ago I met with someone out of the community of color in Pierce County who wanted to learn about housing, and I said, You know what, I will tell you everything I know. And I never heard back.

### **Gerrit Nyland**

All right, I think we're gonna wrap this up and 54321. Looks like a pretty loud Yes, with one, no and seven abstentions.

### **Maureen Howard**

Thanks, everybody. We're, we're gonna do this, In part, those of you who are old enough, have like, you know, estate planning or, where's my password when I, you know, die sort of thing. How you get in my computer, well this is going to be things you need to know about housing.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Maureen. So moving along quickly. Next in the agenda is coalition announcements so Kevin, do you briefly have some coalition announcements, Ally saw you raise your hand, did you want to speak first.

### **Al Ratcliffe**

Or I just want to say that we clearly should connect with both of the housing authorities as part of that process.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Kevin.



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## **Kevin Glackin-Coley**

So I'll give two updates one is I've been providing or through the coalition I've been providing snacks and water at the vaccine sites that have been happening at the rescue mission activity house. Little House village and other places, health department's very grateful for the, the coalition support it's one of the things that with all the funding they have for this they can't provide snacks and so it's just to have something there for folks who are coming in. This weekend I'll be putting together some with through funding that uh, that Garrett got for IDM supplies putting together, hygiene kits that will include socks, a mask and that's in a trade with Irene Morrison she had extra masks and I had extra socks so we're swapping those out. Hand sanitizers soap toothbrush, toothpaste, etc, and it'll have a message on it about how people can access, or find out where they can get vaccinated and it'll be for outreach workers to use as they're going out and talking to folks. And then we're still waiting for the money to come from the Department of Health, but we are going to be getting phone chargers which will also have a little messaging on them, and we were looking for gas cards, it'll probably be a Safeway card that can be used either as people are going out to talk to folks, or at the vaccine sites, whether it's the first Johnson and Johnson if they go back to that, or the sites that had to go use one of the other two for their return one has an incentive for people to come and, and they can either use the card for their own gas or if they can use it to partner for a ride with somebody else and everyone could use a phone charger to work on that this weekend. I will have a group of high school students and if the weather's nice, we can actually do it outside to do the packing because not their nerf Wars team is out of it, and they don't have to worry about being shot by Nerf guns while we're outside, which has been my reality for the last two weeks on. Yeah.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, so thank you for that Kevin. Let's move on to government updates, so we'll start with City of Tacoma.

## **Klarissa Monteros**

Hello everybody. Our update today. We are here to say thank you to Colin and Kevin for your work on safe parking, and we are excited to meet with you guys next week on Wednesday to learn more about your site design. We have no encampment cleanups at this time, the rental assistance portal is open and accepting applications that temporary hygiene station on Eighth and Yakima has been extended. We expect additional hygiene stations located at 705 and a street. There'll be set up on Wednesday 428 and six an owl is still in the planning process and being evaluated for site design and vendor contracts. We will inform you when we have a concrete start date for those sites. The updates for current sensors and outcomes for temporary and emergency shelters are on the website. I'll put it in the chat. The winter warming shelter at the Salvation Army will be ending on April 30 The city is supporting them with locating other shelter options for single men, and is in it's been challenging to individuals in the shelter who are prioritizing our medically fragile, please let us know if there's any resources that could support that transition. And then Council updates FTS will be presenting at the study session on the 27th, and we'll be presenting on our own updates on process and outreach regarding the temporary mitigation stabilization sites and also our draft homelessness strategy. And that's all I got for today.



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## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Clarissa. Next we have updates from Pierce County Valerie and morning,

## **Valeri Knight**

so I have better internet today because I'm at, I'm in Port orchard. What happens when you have to live in the community so so updates from the county so we received word from the American, the American Relief Act, we're getting approximately 16 million more and rental assistance dollars for Pierce County and then we will also get \$1 \$1 amount from the state. So we're working on what that looks like those funds do go through 2025 which is pretty exciting. So we're really looking at a long term plan of how to get those dollars spent with a primary focus of how to ensure the 58 million we haven't, and current doc spent, we are in the final stages of updating the portal, so that you can have the live data on the dashboard so as soon as that's out I will send everyone a link, and we will get that to you ASAP. And then just working very closely with the health department to work out the vaccination and testing sites, I'm not sure if the health department's here but they've got some pretty cool the numbers of how many folks have been tested, vaccinated in shelters in the last week at all of the different nine events so great news all around just really working through trying to figure out. I think the county is going to be hiring some more staff so if anybody's interested in working for Pierce County, it's a great place to be. It's a good time to be a county employee, you can see on our website. I'll send you out that information as things open I know there's some data positions open now as well as Id positions, but we will be growing so feel free to apply if anyone's interested so thanks for having me. I always love These meetings, and I appreciate it, but if there's anything more that y'all want to know about, there's specific areas of updates you want. I am happy to collect those and report out each week.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Valerie,

## **Valeri Knight**

you're welcome any

## **Rob Huff**

quick questions for Valerie before we move on to the Health Department. All right, Not seeing any. So updates from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.

## **Reanna Bettencourt**

Morning everybody. I'm gonna try something different here and paste this information in the chat before I go over the updates. Um, Okay, so I wasn't here last week I was at the comprehensive life resources, vaccination clinic. And I actually attended all the clinics last week, as a community liaison. And so, the health department vaccinated, all the providers and guests that wanted to be vaccinated at these clinics. I don't know the exact number, but I want to say out of all of them, it was around 300 That's not exact, so don't quote me on that, but, um, you know, we were learning some things. There's something that could have been better, there's, there's things that went really well. Everybody was super grateful



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for the snacks and bottled water, so thank you for running those out, and I know they were appreciate it. Oh thank you, Valerie. I was close. Also, something that I learned while attending these events and doing like a vaccine experience, sort of a after people were vaccinated is that even with people that weren't living in the shelters like just people that showed up for some of the events from the, from the community is that many people are familiar with the Department of Health, the State Department of Health, and the CDC but there's many people that aren't familiar with our local public health website and also our vaccine webpage, and so. So really just sharing about that with people and telling them to pass it on our website is where we have all the Clinic Listings. In my update here in the chat, we have two stat clinics that are up and running. Three days out of the week, they like what one has Pfizer, so if you know any 1617 year olds that need to be vaccinated with Pfizer. I would recommend going to that place. We're still working on mature minors, that, that don't have like a parent to consent for the vaccine, there's lots of conversation going on about that right now. So these two static clinics. There's a registration form, but there's walk up, there's 50, walk up available anybody can just walk in and get a vaccine, if they're available that day, so just so people know that. I also posted the call center number for Pierce County and the Health Department. This number can, you know, Anybody can call, get help scheduling an appointment, be directed to maybe transportation assistance. So we're just trying to get the word out there. Also, just Valerie touched on it a little bit. We're working with Valerie and Jenny and some of the outreach leads within the county to talk about maybe some, maybe some different types of events, maybe like a vaccination in the park day, or things like that where tossing around ideas on how to how to do this better, maybe like near encampments or something so there's conversation happening, where we're trying to figure this out. I just thank you all for the work that you do and our community, and my contact information is in my, in the chats, and I think that's it for right now.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Rana. And then, is anybody here from Pierce County Emergency Management that needs to do an update today. All right. So since we are not going to have the conversation with Tegan from the city. This morning we will shift that to next week, we don't want to rush that here at the end of the meeting. So let's move on to advocacy updates.

### **Maureen Howard**

So, quickly at the federal level. Remember, if, to make sure that your staff yourselves, your clients, the people that you interact with have all received that economic impact payment that stimulus check some other folks may have to file 2020 federal income taxes in order to generate that payment, even if they don't normally have to file that's the mechanics by which the Department of Treasury, the IRS is getting this money out. If your folks already are on SSI, or if you're on Social Security. Your you've given the your bank account information to the IRS already, you should have that check in your account. All right, and they don't tell you if it's coming, you have to look and see that it's there. So, people have to have a social security number. [irs.gov](https://irs.gov) is your best source their FA Q's are clear, get my payment is an easy portal. So, remember Seattle credit union will do an online account setup. As long as you do not have fraud. And we know that sound credit union. And, oh dear owl remind me of the other is at Wells Fargo Bank. We'll do a count, but you have to make an appointment and and go in. Alright, and I understand



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there are barriers, but we're just not going to go through them all today, but just get that money out there. And this is, go ahead now,

## **Al Ratcliffe**

BC, BC,

## **Maureen Howard**

thank you so, so that's, that's what we want everybody who's eligible for the money to get the money. The second thing is that on a meeting Monday, one of the National Low Income Housing Coalition money, meetings, the appropriate assistant secretary from Hyde will be for the first time discussing how these housing vouchers, Out of the rescue plan are going to come. These are the housing vouchers that are going to come by a new allocation method to housing authorities, they are for people at risk of homelessness, people experiencing homelessness, and people fleeing domestic violence. And so that's an issue that our new housing committee is going to take out soon as we have some more information. And I've talked to appear to come a Housing Authority have not been able to find the right person in Pierce County Housing Authority. The other thing on the federal level is that the this relief money that's coming to every jurisdiction, right down to Ruston, yeah right down to Reston, and states and the county. So half of that allocation is in their bank accounts on May tamp. And remember that money, That's the money that we put the priority list together to for. And so in our meeting with councilmember Tom's yesterday, he waived, our list, and said we basically hadn't asked for enough money, it was only 110 million or something. And I said why when a lot of those are to be determined. So, anyway, that that was, you know, kind of exciting, actually, to see that he read the list. Excuse me at the state level, about the jobs will back to the feds, a jobs bill can pass under the same process as the rescue plan, the continuing resolution process, and, and probably ended should and but we don't know exactly when and we don't know if it'll go as one package, or if they'll break it up. What we do know is there's still over \$200 billion dollars in there for homelessness and housing. So, we're just keep an eye on it at the state level, the two things and thanks to Jennifer Emmons for sending out the notice that the governor has again funded the immigrant relief program so that folks who are, by virtue of being undocumented are not eligible for many programs, although they are eligible, or it does not preclude their eligibility for the Pierce County rental assistance they Pierce County is not taking social security numbers, but they are, by virtue of not having appropriate doc legal documents are not eligible for many other relief items and so, just like last year, the governor has again appropriated a chunk of money to this statewide immigrant coalition, and so if you have if you are working with folks who are not documented. Talk to Jennifer. She'll give you the right website. And then the other thing is the capital budget has been approved. Well, the Budget Committee has approved the capital budget, and I apologize for not knowing. I think it probably goes to both houses for approval but at this point, it's not on top of the process but on on top of the dollars. So there's \$175 million. This is a biennial budget in the housing trust fund. And some of that is line item set aside. There is 174 point 9 million, and additional investments in housing and shelters, and that includes \$93.8 million to provide provide competitive financial assistance for rapid capital housing, acquisition, for the purpose of or rent of real property for quick conversion into homeless or emergency shelters, permanent supportive housing or affordable housing for low income people. So remember, we've been saying, it's the time to get ready



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to buy that hotel, actually I was thinking of a chain. But, and you know, that's me. Excuse me. There is also, there's an additional 26 point 6 million for rapid capital Housing and Homeless projects and 42 million for grants to local governments, and public utility districts to assist in the cost of utility improvements or connections to new affordable housing projects, because sometimes those are the real barriers on new developments or even on on changes so there are other items in there, including, there's a line item for a new emergency shelter in the Parkland Spanaway area. I think that's Lehigh, I'm just checking with Sharon. Sharon Lee, and congratulations. Losses money in their for their expanded community service, Asian Pacific Center shallows, housing project up in the hilltop to my housing authorities got 5 million for acquisition dollars. Just an I did, there's a whole chunk of behavioral health, and on health and on other issues that are of concern, I know. To those of you who are working within those particular areas that I just know that there I don't know what it means, but the budgets online. And we'll just keep following the process. So let's say I think 5160 I know it went to the, that's the right to counsel, and I, the governor signed it, I'm pretty sure somebody's back me up here, Jennifer Laurie are glorious

### **Laurie Davenport**

as of yesterday they hadn't. As of yesterday haven't signed up.

### **Maureen Howard**

I thought I saw it early this morning but maybe anyway it's on his desk for sure. And it might be signed and 1236. They just cause is on its way to his desk. The last time I looked, 1277 which is the increase in the document recording fee is still in play or was still in play it early this morning with because of the relationship to the budget, operating budget comes out, possibly today. Hopefully, and everything's done by April 25 So think about those hotel folks, if you don't want to buy one. Remember bridge housing was looking for a partner, they would buy it. If somebody would operate it under that model emergency shelter now and permanent housing. Eventually, so let's get it. I mean, let's get every room we can. So, thank you.

### **Rob Huff**

thank you, Maureen. And to wrap up the time that we have today, let's turn over to Jan and Collin for an update on the safe sites for all. I see. Can you hear me meeting, yeah we can.

### **Colin DeForest**

I'm on my phone so you can't see me, which is pretty good thing. So safe size for all, you know, this is and I think it was talked about last week this is really the transition from the safe parking network we have expanded, we have a new name. We haven't been eating at the same time so this group will still be meeting on Mondays at noon, it's definitely open like so many of our meetings open to anybody who wants to attend. But, you know, with, with everything going on and the energy around the conversations that are happening with the city, this really kind of just falls into kind of more catches what we really want to do, which is just provide safe sites for all it's really that simple. And also that challenging. But what I will do right now, so one, I would just say, if you have any interest in that earlier conversation that we had around some of the strategies and the conversations with the city, please. And I'm not exactly



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sure how you get on the, the email listserv or the meeting invite for that so I don't know if that I know it was just updated maybe Garrett or rob could say how you get invited.

### **Rob Huff**

Sure. Garrett.

### **Gerrit Nyland**

Yes, so the safe sites for all listserv, in a couple hours, he'll be able to sign up for the listserv just like he do for the coalition listserv so go to the coalition website, go to listserv and to attend the meetings, all of the meetings for the next few months are listed on the main website, it just says safe sites for all committee, and there's a link to register. So, easy peasy.

### **Colin DeForest**

Perfect, thank you. And then so a quick update on what's going on around safe parking to you you see so Tahoma Unitarian Universalist office 56 We moved our first resident in yesterday so it was quite exciting. Quite an event. We got an individual place there we have another one, another individual that is committed to the site we're just not there in Seattle right now so it's a matter of getting back down here, and today from this meeting I may have another meeting but then I'm heading out to east side assembly to move in a elderly lady who is working with vallejo to try to get some work but she's also living out of her vehicle she was. She had a shelter opportunity at Bethlehem, but she said I don't want to take it I want to give that up to a family. And I can live in my car so just sounds like an amazing lady, I'm excited to meet her. So I'm going to go out there and we're going to be moving her into the East Side site we still have a few openings at the East Side site. We got an opening at the sell till site but um, things are going great. We have a meeting next Wednesday with Christ Lutheran, and I know we've all been wanting a site out in Lakewood so this is Christ Lutheran and Lakewood so that is quite exciting. They're very interested this is the, the lady who's been kind of conversing with us and we weren't exactly sure what church she was from so she's from Christ Lutheran and Lakewood, so that is very exciting. Outside of that, I will look to Jeffrey, or Jan if there's any other updates or any anyone else on anything.

### **Janet Runbeck**

I remember Tom's is joining us tomorrow. I'm here on Monday.

### **Rob Huff**

Oh yeah, yeah,

### **Julian Wheeler**

that this is Julian I had my hand raised. But, um, thanks for this opportunity, this is my usual plug for the Pierce County accessible communities Advisory Committee. I have the chat box message in there so the plugs are in. We meet on May 11 At nine o'clock on Zoom. We help expedite funding for accessibility projects, anything that whose scope can include people disabilities, you can bring that to us as a project proposal, and the Garrett's gone through the experience recently, and ultimately the



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accessible committee, subcommittee of the Governor's Committee, makes a final decision on whether to provide funding for a project but, nevertheless, please take advantage of our committee and the potential funding that can come from the this fund that is replenished by fines for parking tickets. If people are when people park illegally in disability parking spots. Thank you very much.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Julian, there is a question from marine in the chat. I'm not sure you can see it about what the average grant amount is for that.

That number has been requested from the accessible community subcommittee of the Governor's Committee, but they haven't provided that information. They do have a meeting in June, where we could do questions and answers. So, I wish I could have had a better, a better answer to that. Thank you.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Julian, Carolyn I see you have your hand raised as well.

### **Carolyn Reed**

Are all of these safe sites on their website so we can see where there's availability for safe parking.

### **Janet Runbeck**

No, they are not there, you find out about them by contacting Collin, or, you know Jeffrey and I can help with that

### **Carolyn Reed**

too, can one get a list of where they're located,

### **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I think the issue is that if there were a list that had all the same parking sites there people might think they could just show up, and in fact there are several of them that have really specific communities they're aimed at so it right now it feels like the best way to manage it, is to have Collin, or Jan be the contact people. Does that make sense.

### **Carolyn Reed**

Yeah, that's fine. Is there any way I can get a list just to know which communities are working on the C 14 I'm not so here's,

### **Colin DeForest**

here's what we can. Here's what we can, I mean it's just, it's just as simple as this, you know, it's all of Pierce County, and then there's, we have multiple sites in Tacoma. So we have, you know, There's, there's specific cities it's Tacoma. And then it's just the county, so it's unincorporated Pierce County we





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have sites so outside of that for the end. I mean it's not, I have no problem telling you, but really, I mean, as far as if you're talking to anyone. That's really all you need to tell them it's safe sites safe parking sites throughout Pierce County we're open to opening any new sites, anywhere in Pierce County, including the Kenai Peninsula, or anything like that but to Maureen's point and Carolyn obviously I don't think you're going to put the word out. It just to put it out there, it's simply we've already had people that have shown up at sites just from getting referrals from case managers that I've worked with, and they thought it was okay and it's not done in a bad way but what we find is cars show up in the middle of the night and it scares, our existing campers and it just creates it, it just takes away from the control that we have over the site so that's really the reasoning behind it.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Colin. So, we have reached the top of the hour. I want to thank everybody for joining us today and hope everybody has a good, safe weekend. If you do want to stay on the call, we will just like every week have a group of folks who will be talking about the content for next week's meeting, but we will do so after a five minute break. Thanks everybody. Have a good weekend.