

https://pchomeless.org/ - info@pchomeless.org

Chat from May 7th, 2021 Friday Coalition Meeting

00:24:53 - Janet Runbeck: - Can you hum a few bars?

00:28:09 - Maureen Howard: - I don't know the we're saying not to camp in res on the street - rather to have safe places where you can live in your rv

00:29:10 - Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): - Zoom Norms

Mute yourself when not talking.

Use Zoom's raise hand feature if you have something to say.

Limit distractions by turning off your camera if you need to take another call.

00:29:22 - Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): - Community Norms

Lead with a racial equity lens.

Be aware of power dynamics.

Challenge concepts, not people.

Listen to learn.

One person speaks at a time.

Speak from your own experience.

Make space, take space.

Assume best intentions and take responsibility for impact.

Be aware of time and agenda.

00:31:22 - Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): - Thank you for your work!

00:31:45 - Adam Reichenberger: - Adam Reichenberger - Housing Policy Coordinator (TPCHD) areichenberger@tpchd.org

00:31:47 - Verna Lilly: - Thanks Michael!

00:31:55 - Janet Runbeck: - Thanks Michael. Don't go too far away.

00:32:39 - Sherrilla Bivens: - Elijah Barrel Food Bank opened tomorrow 12 noon 4819 S 12 th

Tacoma Everyone welcome

00:36:26 - Gerrit Nyland: - I did three visits to the two City of Tacoma Hygiene sites. My notes: Toilets were clean. Saw some discarded needles. No water in handwashing station all three days at one site, and no water two days at the other. Garbage full all three days at one, and space available in the garbage at the other. Had some nice chats with residents, too.

00:37:20 - Benjamin McLean: - excellent

00:39:28 - Sherri Jensen: - Jenny-great news! Do we just call the local social security office? Do you know how quickly they are scheduling appointments?

00:40:32 - Laurie Davenport: - Thank you Jenny!

00:40:57 - Stephanie Schermerhorn: - I did the online method myself, and it worked very well.

00:41:35 - Jenny Lorton: - Just call the local SS office for an appointment - they can go up to 60 days out - but again, stress the 'need' and they will escalate our population for an appointment sooner.

00:41:42 - James Pogue: - https://www.piercecountyresources.com/mobile-clinic

00:41:54 - Jenny Lorton: - You can sit with folks and sign them up for a mySocial

00:42:23 - Jenny Lorton: - mySocialSecurity account and they can request a SS Card here and obtain the paper documentation for the I-9 process, etc

00:43:10 - Laurie Davenport: - Thank you for working with us James!

00:44:35 - James Pogue: - My email is jpogue@cmhshare.org if you are a provider interested in joining our mobile clinics

00:44:40 - CC Mendoza: - Awesome James Thank You!



- 00:47:42 Maureen Howard: For instance...CLR focuses on encampments of 20 or more. How do we reach sites with 1-19 people?
- 00:50:05 Jennifer Ammons: Maureen, is that 20+ tents or 20+ people?
- 00:50:32 Sherri Jensen: I have been on multiple presentations with Heather Moss lately, who is saying we need housing for 1500 unsheltered individuals, and that our current county has about 600 shelter beds CURRENTLY available. She said she was using HMIS and not PIT. Can you speak to those numbers? Seem quite different than the numbers you have graphed.
- 00:50:44 Sheila Miraflor: More financial resources to Supportive Services agencies to help reduce the barriers for driver's licensing/insurance reinstatement.
- 00:50:46 Maureen Howard: Which ever is below what CLR does
- 00:50:49 Richard Berghammer: Yesterday, there was a large law enforcement response to (?) at the encampment along the fence line on the west side of Sprague near the freeway entrance. Looked like a sweep, any info.?
- 00:51:43 Maureen Howard: Informal Food Not Bombs, Mutual Self-Help Collective
- 00:52:03 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): Homeless Humans of Tacoma is another
- 00:52:25 Janet Runbeck: McKinney Vento numbers of kids reported as homeless in Pierce County school districts as of Oct. 2020 = 2577
- 00:53:16 Dana Peterson: Dana Peterson danap@ccsww.org 253-278-1541 Community Homeless Resolution Partnership-CHRP
- 00:53:33 Maureen Howard: Also faith-based groups in the informal outreach system
- 00:54:22 Kathy Ryan: Would you be able to do this presentation to my staff in August or September? ED Social workers from St. Clare Hospital and St. Joseph Medical Center. ED Social Workers by default do "informatl" homeless interventions when patients are sent to the ER or walk in due to no other resources. Thank you.
- 00:54:23 Jeffrey Boyce: Like me
- 00:56:15 Maureen Howard: Whatever we do has to face the reality of COVID...some providers are moving totally to non-congregate shelter models
- 00:56:48 Al Ratcliffe: Tacoma will be doing a pilot guaranteed monthly income study. Any chance of having some homeless persons participate in that study to see if the guaranteed income helps get housing?
- 00:57:07 Maureen Howard: I think the program design is random selection.
- 00:58:17 Dionne Jacobson: I would love to hear about the ways that informal systems can partner with formal systems to make assistance and money going into the community more efficient.
- 00:58:48 Maureen Howard: We need to know how stable our formal shelter system is how secure is their funding and for how long?
- 00:58:57 Al Ratcliffe: will there be a way to select persons who have no fixed address?
- 00:59:05 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): http://www.pchomeless.org
- 01:00:23 Janet Runbeck: Ending Street homelessness by Nov. 1 is the goal. Not homelessness.
- 01:01:21 Sherri Jensen: YES! Sorry for my misspeaking!
- 01:01:23 Gerrit Nyland: Powerpoint
 - https://coalitionfiles.blob.core.windows.net/files/Presentations/HomelessSystemPrimer-2021-05-07.pptx
- 01:01:36 Maureen Howard: Do we have a current "by name list"? Both people who get housed, lose their housing, and return to homelessness and people in the system waiting for housing.
- 01:02:20 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): I don't think we do yet, Maureen.
- 01:04:11 Maureen Howard: What would it take to expand diversion as one of our options for ending street homelessness? More staff?



- 01:06:20 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): Low barrier clients can work with higher barrier housing options. High barrier clients may require low barrier to entry shelter. Our terminology sure can confuse folks who don't work in this arena.
- 01:06:27 Duane Parker: I think so Maureen and the training for the staff in Diversion.
- 01:07:46 Sherri Jensen: I would love a RRH specific to individuals who are able to transition into sustainability, such as permanent employment.
- 01:08:27 Maureen Howard: So if we expanded the eligibility for Rapidrehousing, could that help our Nov. 1 deadline? We have more money already in Rapid Rehousing.
- 01:08:46 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): This is all great stuff, Gerrit. I was not looking at my watch!
- 01:09:09 Theresa Power-Drutis: Some people are "diverted" and then give up on coordinated entry. We shouldn't take lack of any follow-up contact with the system as "success."
- 01:10:13 Maureen Howard: Where do we put the Oxford Houses, etc? The various kinds of "shared housing" rented rooms, etc. Are they part of the informal transitional housing system?
- 01:11:06 Sherri Jensen: RRH for individuals who are vulnerable but could, with comprehensive case management, remove barriers to employment would be ideal for Valeo. We could offer TEP, help assist with barriers (we coordinate with multicare for inpatient behavioral health when needed) and move them through the continuum to perm employment and RRH. Our TEP program is 12 months, so perfect timeline for RRH
- 01:11:08 Al Ratcliffe: Sherri's suggested pairing RRH and entry to employment makes sense. What would have to change in order to do that pairing?
- 01:11:36 Kristin Ely: Gerrit- would you be able to provide definitions of the vulnerability scale/barrier scale you're referring to? Do you feel these terms are interpreted consistently within the provider and funder communities? My impression is that community understanding of these terms is inconsistent so we collectively aren't able to effectively articulate where the service gaps are.
- 01:12:12 Duane Parker: Yes that is a great idea Sherri!
- 01:12:14 Maureen Howard: We're going to need numbers ie how many Valeo people could use RRH/month?
- 01:13:23 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): Is that the same ranking system that has been found to have systemic issues with how it is applied to people of color? Do you know how Pierce County's system has adjusted to try to fix that issue?
- 01:13:55 Sherri Jensen: We currently employ about 90 individuals/mo, about 80% are currently experiencing homelessness. We plan to be employing more in the coming months as we ramp up HIRE Pilot.
- 01:13:56 Janet Runbeck: Enhanced Respite Bed programs are needed, based on hospital discharge planning.
- 01:14:08 Colin DeForrest: The challenge with RRH is the lack of housing/landlords. We also need to be very careful with who we are putting into RRH. The worst case scenario is to put someone not ready for permanent housing into a unit and they are set up for failure. This is not good for the person and it also burns bridges with the landlords.
- 01:14:20 Maureen Howard: Does Pierce County track those returning to homelessness by demographics?
- 01:14:26 Sherri Jensen: Yes to what Colin said
- 01:14:43 Tony Lewis: I also agree with Colin as well my experience with LLP can speak to this issue
- 01:14:52 Colin DeForrest: I like Sherri;s idea of more supportive services/safety net for the individuals in RRH
- 01:15:08 Maureen Howard: Re RRH IF we had hotels, it would make all the difference
- 01:15:46 Duane Parker: Agreed Maureen!
- 01:16:28 Sherri Jensen: YES Maureen!
- 01:17:12 Maureen Howard: We need to try to get a better handle on the informal system...especially these informal transitional housing programs how stable are they? Could they be expanded? What do the providers need? What do the tenants need?



- 01:18:53 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): The cost of housing and supply of housing in the community guarantee that homelessness will continue to rise.
- 01:19:33 Verna Lilly: Great graphics, Gerrit!
- 01:19:34 CC Mendoza: I appreciate all your work Gerrit!
- 01:19:40 Maureen Howard: The fastest and cheapest way to get more housing units is acquisition...hotels, motels, apartments...
- 01:20:08 Sherri Jensen: SUCH a great presentation Gerrit. I have most of our Mission Services team on and this is helpful for them to learn. I'd love to schedule you for a staff meeting. Who is your booking manager? ;)
- 01:20:18 Gerrit Nyland: Presentation Information:
 - Powerpoint https://coalitionfiles.blob.core.windows.net/files/Presentations/HomelessSystemPrimer-2021-05-07.pptx
 - Shelter Information https://pchomeless.org/Facilities/Shelters
 - Day Centers https://pchomeless.org/Facilities/DayCenters
- Homeless System Model https://exchange.iseesystems.com/public/gerritnyland/pierce-county-homeless-response-model---2021/index.html
- 01:22:48 Sherri Jensen: Is there a timeline of every 90 days they have to contact CE in order to stay prioritized?
- 01:23:16 Maureen Howard: I think we need to think differently the continuum is something we created. If we really look at the data from Seattle the 700 people moved into hotels we could reimagine solutions. California also will have good data. Other jurisdictions using FEMA for hotel rooms will also have good data. It's hard to move the model away from funding directed solutions into person-based solutions but we have to do this.
- 01:23:55 Tony Lewis: What about potentially simplifying the system? One thing I'm seeing in my time at LLP and now at CTI is clients are having trouble comprehending how this all works
- 01:24:25 Paula Anderson: I've had people frustrated and giving up with the HEN program as well because they cannot find affordable housing
- 01:24:39 Maureen Howard: And it is nearly impossible for the folks we need the "community of good will" to understand and support.
- 01:24:57 Verna Lilly: It would be helpful if this PowerPoint, and other entry-level information (including a glossary) were posted on the PCCEH website. That would make the concepts and broad strokes of general information more accessible to the public and people who would like to help.
- 01:25:38 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): Thank you for that suggestion, Verna
- 01:26:00 Gerrit Nyland: Lovely thought Verna. I'll work on that.
- 01:26:10 Maureen Howard: We should have enough permanent supportive housing for people who require that but not every person experiencing homelessness does.
- 01:27:07 Theresa Power-Drutis: Yes to Maureen's point and to Colin's too
- 01:27:12 Maureen Howard: Even federal funding often has a breadth of eligibility. We don't always use the full range of possibilities. Or apply for waivers.
- 01:29:12 Theresa Power-Drutis: Al is trying to raise his hand
- 01:29:20 Maureen Howard: We have an opportunity to influence federal funding right now people at HUD are listening
- 01:29:24 Colin DeForrest: Another unique piece is people can actually transiton from permanent supportive housing.
- 01:29:33 Dionne Jacobson: Gerrit, thank you! This presentation just gave me such great and valuable information about how my organization can adjust our outreach to reflect reducing housing barriers



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(inreasing access), while not keeping people from accessing housing systems. The part about risk and vulnerability was especially helpful (ie, setting people up for long term success).

- 01:30:27 Maureen Howard: Valeo may not need use the current RRH.
- 01:32:22 Maureen Howard: Employed people experiencing homelessness might be tied to high cost housing markets...
- 01:32:31 Rosemary Powers: Thanks Gerrit. Very useful!
- 01:33:28 Theresa Power-Drutis: Not all programs need to be available to everyone in order to serve a diverse population. Fare start in Seattle as an example.
- 01:34:16 Gerrit Nyland: Good point, Theresa.
- 01:34:21 Theresa Power-Drutis: Thank you Gerrit you always get a good dialog going
- 01:35:12 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): Thank you again for all of your work on summing up the system as it exists today. We should do this annually at the very least especially to note things that change.
- 01:35:15 Maureen Howard: I wish we had a slide deck for unsheltered people ... exactly what we know now. There is a system -
- 01:36:22 Al Ratcliffe: Uber advertises on TV that it provides free rides for people going for vaccination. Dopes anybody know whether that service is available here?
- 01:36:22 Maureen Howard: Re vaccines seems like we need to use the census takers model person by person, "house by house"
- 01:36:23 Gerrit Nyland: My list of all homeless shelters in Pierce County, which includes their current unit capacity, unit utilization, and current bed utilization:
- https://pchomeless.org/Facilities/FacilityList?FacilityType=Shelter&FacilityStatus=Operational I update it every Monday, and many shelters also update it during the week.
- 01:36:52 Reanna Bettencourt: Most up to date Covid vaccine clinic information, blogs, data, community engagement messaging tools, Pierce County transportation information, call center number. https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/diseases/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-information

Private partners increase vaccine access by providing free and discounted rides to vaccine appointments. These partnerships mean that starting May 10th, people who face transportation barriers and need a ride to get a vaccine can call the state COVID-19 information hotline at 833-VAX-HELP and a hotline specialist will assist in coordinating the rides.

DOH News release (May 5th)

https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/NewsReleases/2021/21-117-

VACCSTransportationLyftUber-NR.pdf

Working on planning 2nd dose clinics at some shelters, will offer vaccine to anyone interested who has not been vaccinated (J&J or Moderna)

Conversations happening on possible vax events near encampments.

Four shelter clinics next week. I will not be here I will be at a vax clinic 01:37:09 - Reanna Bettencourt: - Will send any updates Thursday to Rob & Gerrit.

For vaccine education questions and/or resources: Reanna Bettencourt rbettencourt@tpchd.org

For vaccine clinic questions:



https://pchomeless.org/ - info@pchomeless.org

jschoeppe@tpchd.org

- 01:37:17 Maureen Howard: Uber and Lyft are free statewide to vaccine clinics...
- 01:37:53 Gerrit Nyland: if you want to chat more about the homeless system, or get a presentation to your organization, church, neighborhood, whoever give me a holler. Gerrit Nyland 253-304-5105 gnyland@pchomeless.org
- 01:39:05 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): Here is the link for Pierce County's rental assistance: https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7142/Rental-Assistance
- 01:41:38 TIEGAN TIDBALL: City Authorized Emergency Shelter Sites City of Tacoma
- 01:41:40 Jennifer Ammons: Pierce County Transit also offers free rides to/from vaccine appointments/clinics to get a vaccine OR to volunteer at the clinic.
- 01:41:40 Gerrit Nyland: List of committees https://pchomeless.org/Committees
- 01:42:11 Colin DeForrest: what is the needle disposal plan at the hygiene sites? I was there yesterday and there were exposed sharps on the ground around the portable toilets.
- 01:42:29 jo davies: is there someone from your staff or the security people who check on the hygiene stations regurlarly? it seems odd that you're depending on reports from Gerrit Jeffery ane others.
- 01:42:52 TIEGAN TIDBALL:
 - https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/neighborhood_and_community_services/homelessness services/city authorized emergency shelter sites
- 01:43:21 TIEGAN TIDBALL: https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/tacoma/jobs/3025862/community-safety-analyst-temporary-management-analyst-ii-neighborhood-commu?pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs
- 01:45:16 TIEGAN TIDBALL: Hi Jo, there is security and maintenance staff attending the stations daily. There may be a need for increase services, since supplies are running out. We will talk with the operator. I appreciate your concern. We are concerned as well.
- 01:45:51 TIEGAN TIDBALL: Study Session
 - https://cityoftacoma.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view id=4&clip id=4728
- 01:46:42 Colin DeForrest: someone called it SS4A yesterday. I really like that!
- 01:46:57 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): That was my fault, Colin
- 01:47:30 Theresa Power-Drutis: If anyone is already involved with a group that is aligned to our work (one that is not already on our list) let us know
- 01:47:31 Jeffrey Boyce: I thought it was SS4A
- 01:50:50 jo davies: I appreciate Gerrit calling attention to this issue as he no doubt has more clout than I do, but I have brought this issue to NCS and council more than once.
- 01:50:52 TIEGAN TIDBALL: Hi Colin, thank you for this need. I have emailed my team members overseeing these projects and brought up this concern along with what others shared.
- 01:51:30 Theresa Power-Drutis: I recommend we add the Tacoma Pierce County Community Partnership for Transition Solutions to the list
- 01:53:08 Colin DeForrest: Thank you Tiegan! I will follow up with Matthew also.
- 01:55:51 Gerrit Nyland: I've added CPTS to the committee list thanks.
- 01:55:58 Theresa Power-Drutis: If you are interested but that time doesn't work for you please let us know
- 01:56:21 Theresa Power-Drutis: Cynthia is on top of that
- 01:56:41 Theresa Power-Drutis: I mean candidate forums
- 01:59:38 Theresa Power-Drutis: Don't forget Lynda Foster who has attended every meeting too
- 02:01:42 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): I am not in favor of anything that criminalizes homelessness. It also makes no sense to levy fines against people who have little or no money.
- 02:02:02 Duane Parker: Agreed
- 02:02:28 RoxAnne Simon: Agree



- 02:02:46 Al Ratcliffe: Agree
- 02:03:16 Sherri Jensen: "The Eighth Amendment precludes the enforcement of a statute prohibiting sleeping outside against homeless individuals with no access to alternative shelter"
- 02:03:20 Theresa Power-Drutis: If housed people are cited for trespassing they can be fined up to \$1000 and/or up to 90 days in jail
- 02:03:41 Stephanie Schermerhorn: I like the idea of community service, rather than jail time. That said, I don't understand how a punitive measure is used as tool to make offers of shelter more appealing.
- 02:04:04 Sherri Jensen: Rob you can unraise my hand if you can answer how it's legal, when we've determined we do not have adequate shelter beds to offer the 1350 (est) unsheltered street homeless
- 02:04:38 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): I see your hand, Sherri, as well as Colin. You folks can speak next!
- 02:04:39 Gerrit Nyland: Ordinance has a clause that it can't be used unless acceptable shelter is available.
- 02:05:09 Sherri Jensen: Then it seems like the conversation is early. Much less the ordinance.
- 02:05:15 Theresa Power-Drutis: Opposition to adding a camping ordinance before we have safe sites for all has been our main (and unanimous) message from representatives from the coalition.
- 02:05:28 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): Yes, Sherri. The timing is a big issue.
- 02:07:26 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): I agree with all of you, that there needs to be shelter options in place. People who have not accepted shelter so far have not had those options. It feels like we need to be focused on a Shelter First approach.
- 02:09:03 Sherri Jensen: Can outreach teams go out with a survey to folks, asking what types of shelter they would take?
- 02:09:10 Duane Parker: Would this be like a civil commitment for the population? How is the motor going to work to move this?
- 02:09:30 Sherri Jensen: You can unraise my hand. My blood got a bit hot while you were talking. I've typed it all out now...
- 02:09:40 Al Ratcliffe: I support a community service option for both the current discussion and the already established trespassing law.
- 02:10:03 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): Thanks, Sherri
- 02:10:19 Maureen Howard: Al can you give us some community service language/structure?
- 02:11:45 Verna Lilly: This is another point where it would be useful to have some public-facing information, maybe online info-graphs, that show accurate information and explanations
- 02:11:56 Al Ratcliffe: The municipal court used to offer a community service option. What language /structure did they use?
- 02:12:10 Theresa Power-Drutis: I agree Verna
- 02:14:04 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): I will say that the conversation has felt worthwhile to have that there is a greater understanding being created on the part of some Council Members around the issue.
- 02:16:01 Sherri Jensen: But this isn't about having the options, because we don't have them right now. The timing just makes it feel as if punitive measures are wanting to be taken to instill some relief in the community.
- 02:16:24 Sherri Jensen: I could see that perspective if this conversation started after we had options to provide.
- 02:16:47 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): That is what burns me up too, Sherri.
- 02:17:11 Theresa Power-Drutis: The purpose (from Thom's) is to offer a light at the end of the tunnel for housed residents and businesses. The hope is also that the public will support development of new shelter options if they know that they will eventually have some way to negotiate about public space. They have not had that for a while.
- 02:19:10 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): Life is messy.



- 02:19:22 Theresa Power-Drutis: We are all against criminalization
- 02:20:30 Rob Huff MDC (he/him): It is an easy narrative to fall back on, but it causes real damage in understanding.
- 02:22:46 Laurie Davenport: People really believe the City's narrative, it has changed public perception.
- 02:23:23 Jeffrey Boyce: That narrative has hurt
- 02:24:49 Sherri Jensen: Community Service was a great option AL
- 02:24:53 Laurie Davenport: Fines and jail time are not a disincentive.
- 02:24:55 Jennifer Ammons: NJP can't take a stand on current proposed legislation, but generally, I also have a concern about people who are experiencing homelessness and have a mental health disability or cognitive disability that prevents them from making an informed decision to refuse shelter options.
- 02:25:07 RoxAnne Simon: People are telling us that law enforcement is telling them that they offer services to individuals and are refused
- 02:26:00 Sherri Jensen: Hopping into next meeting. Thanks for a robust discussion all!
- 02:26:10 Colin DeForrest: very important
- 02:26:51 Stephanie Schermerhorn: Community Service hours is awesome, idea. Or maybe offering an incentive like low barrier entry level training programs or some sort, of course that might require housing attached to it of some kind at the very least shelter/or safe parking.
- 02:26:52 Laurie Davenport: Law enforcement does tend to put out bad information.
- 02:28:08 Gerrit Nyland: Kevin isn't here, we can volunteer him.
- 02:28:19 Laurie Davenport: Michael was our board chair when he got the THA job, we lost him!
- 02:28:23 RoxAnne Simon: Gerrit, I second!