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Coalition to End Homelessness Provider Meeting - Friday, May 7th, 2021

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SPEAKERS

Adam Reichenberger, Verna Lilly, Reanna Bettencourt, Al Ratcliffe, Michael Potoniec, James Pogue, Reverend Boyce, Tiegan Tidball, Sherri Jensen, Rosemary Powers, Jeffrey Boyce, Maureen Howard, Colin DeForest, Jenny Lorton, Gerrit Nyland, Rob Huff, Theresa Power-Drutis

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Rosemary Powers

I will welcome everybody on this spring day, I'm looking at AI's background with the rhododendrons and it reminds me of things that are beginning to bloom in various places and I think about our work together and the long game that we've been playing for addressing the needs of vulnerable citizens is a game that has sometimes doesn't look like there are a lot of blossoms happening, but the seeds that are growing, are really pretty powerful. And we'll hear about a lot of them today and for any of you who are new, we are a loose coalition that's getting itself a little more firmly established with various things we're doing, we represent people from all perspectives that have to do with trying to provide opportunities for people who are homeless or who are vulnerable to homelessness, to be able to live full lives and so you'll hear a variety of updates about things we're an open table so we have a lot of meetings, people can come to and share their skills and gifts and we're looking for more people to participate with us in this very important work. We do have some norms for how we operate as a group together and I don't know if you have that ready Rob But I can post it if you don't. One of the main things for getting recognized because we do want to hear your voice is this zoom process has a raise hand feature it's different places on different machines but if you'd like to speak at some time during the meeting just do use that raise hand and Rob will recognize you, or whoever is leading the discussion at that time. So, for now what I'd like to do is invite anyone who is new, who hasn't been here before with us to participate in the conversation to introduce yourselves, just if, just your name and if you're



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associated with an organization or a project, just let us know what that is and then we have a chat. The chat function has been very good for us to use in providing information about ourselves, about events and and meetings that are coming up and in fact, since our meetings are usually very full, this is a good place to share your information so it will be there and people can use it later, they can save the chat or it's also available on our website. So with that, let me invite anyone new to introduce yourself just unmute and let us know who you are.

Rob Huff

I see Adam has his hand up.

Adam Reichenberger

Hi Adam rakin right here I am the new housing policy coordinator at Pierce County health work.

Rosemary Powers

Welcome Adam It's good to have you.

Maureen Howard

Thank you.

Michael Potoniec

Hi everyone, this is Michael pitonyak, with the Health Department. I'm not new to this group, but I've been working with the COVID-19 vaccine community engagement team, and I will be transitioning out of this role to continue with some health normal health department, responsibilities, starting on Monday, but Rianna Betancourt is here, she will still be continuing to continue that vaccine, education and outreach for this group, and also supporting Jenny sheppy who works closely with the outreach teams to plan some of these vaccine events as well. So I just wanted to thank you all, it's been a pleasure working with all of you in this capacity, and I know Rianna and Jenny will continue and do some great work. I'm very excited for what's to come. So thank you all again it's been, it's been a pleasure.

Rosemary Powers

Well Michael, it's been good to have you here and of course, the doors never closed so with all the free time you have you can join us in it. Anytime that works.

Michael Potoniec

Oh of course thank you so much.

Rosemary Powers

All right, and if you've come, if people come in late. We'll just have to let them know to put their name in the chat and so we know who they are, And Rob I'll give it back to you.



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Rob Huff

Thank you, Rosemary. All right, so let's get started with our regular portion of the meeting. We kick off every week with a conversation about what we're seeing changing on the streets with our this week on the streets portion. The goal of this section of the meeting is to hear about any changes, and what's happening with those who are living houseless right now, and any resources that that folks could connect to help serve those who are living without a place to, to get indoors right now so I open the floor to everyone. Feel free to raise your hand and we'll see if we can share some information this morning. Please don't everyone talk at once. Jeffrey I saw you unmute yourself, did you have something to share.

Reverend Boyce

Yes, I was out and about yesterday, got to four different camps, mostly along Yakima Avenue met up with Collin and Alice needles from Tacoma Tribune. That went well we got, she was able to get some good interviews, and the encampment there is open to me bringing more garbage bags to them. And some interesting starting some conversations about what do you want to see as a shelter. What is what's important to you. So I'm starting those conversations. And it seems to bring some hope, because I'm hearing the campers. Brighten up when we start talking when I start talking about what's next, you know, what can be next. And that was good. I also went to the 34th am Pacific encampment. And that one's morphing into a car and tent encampment. People who own the cars but they live in a tent on that property. I don't know how long it'll stay that way but it's kind of in a unique arrangement that I haven't seen before. And, and I found some of my campers from 38th Avenue opened on 705. And that was good. They're all doing well.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jeffrey, I see Jenny has her hand up.

Jenny Lorton

So I wanted to give the update on social security cards, so a few members of the permanent supportive housing team met with some folks at the local Social Security office here in Tacoma, because this continues to be a struggle, since the pandemic the office has been closed, how do we obtain social security cards um so they were able to have a meeting. So here's what I can share with everyone. They understand kind of the struggle that we have been having in the, the term that they used was the dire need for social security cards with the population that we're working with, so they have committed that if we call the local Tacoma Social Security office, they are doing in person, appointments, you have to make an appointment, you can't just walk into the office. And if you, if we as a service provider, let them know what the need is for. So obviously we were talking about permanent supportive housing individuals so hey they have a permanent supportive housing referral we need it for that. But if we say it's for housing, or it's for, you know, whatever the need is, they will be kind of escalated to receive an



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appointment. In the immediate, so we can help to escalate those appointments and get them in an appointment right away, so they have committed to assist us as service providers and working with the population that we work with, so that was really really great news and thank you to our permanent supportive housing providers for having that meeting and working through that collaboration. So that was very exciting news.

Rob Huff

Awesome. Thank you, Jenny.

I'd like to add to that as part of that meeting. Just so you know that so you can get an appointment but the appointments, go out, they can go out to like 60 days, and that is to get the card itself, but you can get the piece of paper that has their name, and the social security number, instantly. So, correct, and no and they'll mail mail it to you.

Jenny Lorton

And also just another thing I would like to share with the group. So my previous experience has been, you know it as a HR director, so if you're working on anything that's employment related with anyone that piece of paper that they generate that says the social security card has been submitted for here's the name here's the social security number, that works for I nine purposes. So that piece of paper that's immediately generated can be provided to an employer, and that works to get them employment for IE nine purposes. So just as a heads up to everyone. That's fine, they don't need the actual card, and Social Security males cards, so make sure that whoever you're working with has either an address that they can receive mail or they have mail services set up which associated ministries provides. So they have somewhere to receive the card when it's going to be mailed out by Social Security Administration.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jenny. So Verna has her hand up.

Verna Lilly

Um yeah I was gonna give a straight report I'm over in West Tacoma by Titlow Park, and we've always had the occasional person sleeping in their car overnight but there's been in over the last couple of weeks a pretty big increase tour now there's like, instead of one, once in a while it's like two or three there every night. No encampments but they're in the car spending the night.

Rob Huff

And that's just along the side of the park there on success right there's

Verna Lilly



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parking spots across from the tavern. Yeah. And on that side of the park, and then when I take my morning walk I'm seeing like two or three people sleeping in the car in the mornings.

Rob Huff

Thank you. Sherry I see your hand up.

Sherri Jensen

I just dropped it in the chat to wondering how long the Social Security appointments are being scheduled out. And if we just call our local Social Security Officers their particular number that would call,

Jenny Lorton

call the local Tacoma office, you can look it up on the Social Security website, and they can be up to 60 days out. I'll drop some additional information in the chat for some online options as well.

Great, okay, we did as an employer, one of our biggest barriers is getting folks that is documentation as you know Jenny So, one of our, our hire crew supervisor just she was doing some research and individuals can also register and make an account online and order their, their Social Security online too, so we have not tried that out but we just found that out trying to collect as much information as possible for our toolbox so thank you.

Correct. That's

Jenny Lorton

just what I was going to drop in the chat so if they do online My Social Security account, they can get the documents that they need online so I'll drop that information in the chat so everyone has it. We do that quite frequently with our clients, so

Rob Huff

awesome. James you have your hand up,

James Pogue

dude. Thanks, totally unrelated to Social Security, but I just wanted to send out some information to folks. My name is James Logan, I'm the executive director of Homeless Services at comprehensive life resources, we run, youth, young adult shelter we have a large homeless outreach team and do some case management support for employment and housing, and one of our biggest kind of activities that we do on our outreach side is our mobile clinic, which we've sort of put on pause, up until the last week



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or two, we had some staff turnover and other issues but I will put it in the chat, did a presentation or at least a brief conversation a couple of weeks ago but you can go to our Pierce County resources. COMM website which you can find from the coalition website and under the section mobile clinic, you'll see the locations that we've determined meet our criteria. Our goal is to find a campsite that has 20, or more structures or tents where people are sleeping and preferably that it's not set up to be relocated, or evicted anytime soon and our goal is to go every week and, and build support as we start to work with folks and develop relationships we do coordinate entry. We now have to como pro bono joining us on our first site, which is under the 509 bridge you can see on that, that list but we're, we're totally open to partnering with other providers and our goal is by the end of next week to have our next two sites, situated and determined and starting to go to three mobile sites per week so we have a van, we have about six or so, social workers and again like more pro bono has joined us on our current location, but again if you work for an agency that does outreach and brand or work or you want to participate and volunteer bring food, blankets, whatever, um, this is an opportunity we do ask that you're under the protection I guess for liability sake of an agency that has designated you know safe to do outreach and all of that stuff and we have some COVID requirements and we have, like, we don't support this time to be used to offer either religious or political services so we're asking today to be really be in line with just social services or or financial, medical, mental health support type stuff, legal support. So, If that's you, I'll put my email in the box so you can reach out, we can talk if you might be a good fit to join us on the mobile clinic, or if you're a community member who happens to be adjacent to evergrowing encampment, there is a link to request a mobile clinic in your area, we love neighborhoods that endorse the idea of bringing services on site to some of the camp areas so if you're in a neighborhood there's a camp growing. If you're looking for relocation that's going to be somebody else but if you're looking for support for these individuals please use that link, and request a mobile clinic in your neighborhood and they're anywhere in Pierce County. We can go anywhere in Pierce County generally we stick pretty close to Tacoma just because that's where the largest encampments are but we can go wherever that need is.

Rob Huff

Thanks, James. And Sherry You still have your hand up, Did you have something to add. No, I

just don't know how to put it down. I don't usually raise my hand I just talk.

Rob Huff

I'll fix that.

Sherri Jensen

Thank you.



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Rob Huff

No problem. Alright, so any last comments for this portion of the meeting. All right, well thanks everybody for sharing information that's the exact reason why we do this part of the meeting so. So, you may have noticed that we had a little bit of a lighter agenda than usual this week and we had a presentation cancel. So in brainstorming, a little bit. Garrett offered to do something that he hasn't done for I don't know, 18 months, something like that. An overview or a primer on our homeless system in Pierce County so I will turn the floor over to Garrett and we can learn.

Gerrit Nyland

Well, some of you know all this really well so I expect you to be chipping in with tripping tripping in with additional information in the chat, or sniping me or telling me where I'm wrong, because things change. I am going to go through in 20 minutes how our formal, and some of our informal parts of the homeless system operate, why is this useful to know, well, first, if you've got folks that are experiencing homelessness and need to engage the system it's good to know how to do that again I know lots of you know this already, but sometimes it's good to hear all the peripheral parts. It helps me to do the research on these before I do the presentations because things change. Another reason is we are putting a bunch of energy into designing the comprehensive homeless system for Pierce County. Our coalition has a really active role with that county led initiative. And in order for us to do a good job building a better comprehensive homeless plan. We need to identify the places there the system is working, or this system isn't big enough, and where the system isn't working so well so we can work on getting changes made so folks that want to add information into the chat, I would love that. What I would love even more is for you to identify things you think we can do better, or populations you think we're not serving well with particular interventions that I described, so I'm hoping chat is flowing with some ideas from you guys on what we need to be doing better or different or more of, while I go through homelessness in Pierce County, a primer by me. You're fine, Director of Operations. What we're going to cover today we are going to talk about the outreach system, we're going to talk about the shelter system, and we're going to talk about the pathways and programs around permanent housing. I can't do it without data. And so this is just to remind you, the flows we have into homelessness, and sometimes they get in little arguments about data but nobody argues with me about this data. This is every week, the number of people starting a new homeless episode and we average about 240. And recently, you can see it's dropped you don't really need to see the numbers but on the right, the numbers have dropped a bit, mostly because of the impacts of COVID-19, whatever those are eviction bans fewer social service workers on the streets, we're still doing 200 people a week. So our system has to be designed to provide great resources for 200 people becoming homeless a week that means we have to help 200 People get out of homelessness, every week to stay afloat. The number of people actually homeless is far more controversial, but we really need to build the system for the flow, and not necessarily for the size of the population, if that makes sense. I mean we need enough shelter for the population but you need enough interventions to help the people as they become homeless. And in the top we have the chart of our Point in Time Count, which shows a steady decline, although this last year was higher, a steady decline in the number of people we count, experiencing homelessness, which is a



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little bit different than what we see anecdotally, So that's probably not the most accurate tool for lots of reasons but still really good to look at the bottom one is a worst case scenario of how many people are homeless in Pierce County, and some of this has to do with increases in how we better keep track of people within the Homeless Management System, but, But really, I would just look at the growth, and I think this is pretty representative of the growth of homelessness in Pierce County, again, kind of flattening off in the last year I know that's tough to see in the slide, but that probably has to do with the effects of COVID-19, and lots of us think we're going to spike up once the eviction moratorium is lifted, or at least see a pretty steep incline in the, in six or 12 months following that. People come from all over this top map again, hard to see the details. This is a map of Pierce County, basically, and the dots in the top map, tell us where people were living before they became homeless. Right so pretty spread out around Pierce County, not so much on Mount Rainier, an awful lot more in Tacoma. And the bottom map. This is about the same time tells us where people spent the prior night right so where did you live before and where are you sleeping now and you can see, most people are coming into Tacoma to stay, although not everybody. Okay, that's kind of my background because I have to do data, and now I'm going to jump into the formal system outreach. So outreach is a big part of our formal homeless system, James Pogue was talking about comprehensive life resources, they are funded by the county or the feds, through the PATH program, and other funding streams, greater lakes mental health, to come a rescue mission. I'm an alum critical time intervention in here. That's work Jenny's crew does, and, and that's a lot of this is, is, case management, right, so we don't these folks don't necessarily have, you know, a shelter they run, or a housing program they run but they're, they're helping folks to get what they need to in order to get there right so Jenny's group obviously takes them from the moment they encounter the homeless system until they're permanently housed. But that kind of all exists. There's also a pretty good sized informal system, and this is groups that I can't think of right now, but they're providing lots of food like when I go to the encampments I see food being delivered right and so they're, they're doing outreach and providing basic life, you know, home sustaining resources to folks, and, and this is a big front door to our homeless system. So, James Poque mentioned they do coordinated entry, which we'll talk about a bit more but coordinated entry is our pathway into permanent housing. And so you can get coordinated entry through our outreach system in the formal part right so rescue mission can do that greater lakes mental health can do that, comprehensive can do that but not all of the informal, right, are really a good front door into the homeless system, and it would be great to change that. Programs like what Dan Peterson and Catholic Community Services are running the church program is an attempt to do that is to get coordinated entry out into the informal system so that they can get into the front door to get some of the resources we'll talk about later. And now would be a great time to put your contact information in the chat Danna Just sayin. Homeless Prevention is an interesting part that is new in Pierce County, or at least much bigger in Pierce County since COVID-19 So, what I hear a lot and I'm sure you hear too is wouldn't it be better if we just stopped homelessness from happening. And that's very true. But we have a pretty tiny homeless formal rent assistance system and homeless prevention in Pierce County, or we did until COVID-19 and that's changed pretty dramatically, but it's not a homeless prevention program as HUD typically designed some sort of homeless prevention idea is you provide rent assistance for someone, and case management, so that at the end of their period of



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housing instability, they're going to be much more self sufficient unable to remain going, and that is not what we're doing with most of our rental assistance programs right they're really just meeting immediate financial need and not providing any case management at all. And there's lots of informal systems to do Homeless Prevention to this is mostly religious groups, churches St Vincent DePaul, they provide a lot of these types of resources, and these stop homelessness, but they're incredibly expensive relative to how much homelessness they stop, that makes any sense so you get money into people's hands that needed, but you end up helping a lot of families that wouldn't become homeless. And so, it's been something that's frowned upon, through much of the formal homeless system across the country because of its really high cost, relative to how many people you actually prevent from entering homelessness, and I've got to dig up the research on that, but when I find that I'm going to send it out again, because it's kind of interesting, doesn't mean we shouldn't do it. It just, that's a little explanation of why we haven't done much shelters are a big part of our homeless system. And though and shelter. I mean, anything from safe parking on day centers, hygiene stations, up to, you know, the lovely apartment that Lhasa operates as part of its shelter system. Right so again shelter is usually in the world of homelessness is day center or night, shelter, and those things have been merged, largely in Pierce County, so things like Adam street shelter for families and nativity house, and the way WC as domestic violence shelter and Lehigh shelter says are 24 Seven operations. So there are a mix of de center for the overnight Yes, and overnight, but this can be safe parking, And again, there's a pretty big formal system, not nearly big enough but pretty big, that has, you know, Catholic Community Services Family Day Center or lots of and they vary right so there's congregate settings, like the rescue missions downtown campus or nativity house right people are sharing everything sleeping space loafing space bathing space eating space to what I call less congregate and that's where folks are, are, have separate sleeping and separate loafing spaces, but they're sharing hygiene and food spaces right so an example of that would be something like, Lehigh shelters or the stability site right and then we have non congregate and a good example of that's the YWCA, where it's essentially apartment right so they're sleeping bathing hygiene, and food is all happening in private space so that's non congregate, or our hotel based programs right Catholic Community Services has a number of hotel rooms, other agencies to to. There's also an informal system around shelters, and I will go ahead and call those encampments. So people sleep where they have to and if there's not shelter space, which there isn't, then they're going to end up anywhere, and so that can be in people's backyards, it can be with permission on someone's property, it can be without permission. So, lots of things we do informally, but those are still shelters, they're just not part of our homeless system. How are we doing, I haven't even looked at the chat. Guys can chime in with questions too.

Rob Huff

So there are a few questions that have come up in chat if you want to scroll back, boop, boop, boop.

Gerrit Nyland

All right. All right, can you read them to me I'm not seeing them here.



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Rob Huff

Yeah, let me see. One was from. Sherry Jensen, a while back saying she's been on multiple presentations with Heather moss lately, who was saying we need housing for 1500 unsheltered individuals, and that our current county has about 600 shelter beds currently available. She said that using him as she was using MS and not Pitt, not the point in time count. Can you speak to those numbers, it seems quite different than the numbers you have graphed. Sure.

Gerrit Nyland

I don't know why they use so shelter bed numbers, those are a theoretical number based on identified capacity inside the HMO system. And so it shows 167 beds in the activity house which don't exist right now because of social distancing from COVID-19. It shows shelters that no longer operate, such as the emergency shelter that operated by Sherry's team outside of ESA community center. It shows beds that don't really exist. So if you have, say, 15 rooms, and each one can hold up to six people, and your housing families, and you put one family in each room, you can have your shelter completely full because every unit is used. However, you have beds available, but you really can't put a three year old in the open bed and one of your bedroom as if it has three family members from another family and just one other bed right so it's kind of one of those things where, yeah I guess you could make the numbers say that but it's just complete BS, like there's no connection to reality. And I've explained that to the county, I don't know why they would do that, but there we are. And our website. I'll put the link in later but our website has my calculation of open shelter beds, usually about 40 in the county, and it's typically places that are difficult to meet the entry requirements. So you need to be clean and sober and veteran willing to live in order to use the Roosevelt barrack badge right so they sell a bunch of them, but not all of them, right or you need to be referred by Pew wallet in order to use some of the, you know, Salvation Army beds right well, while the police aren't referring people then those beds sit empty.

Yeah and I have just a brief follow up to that so that 1500 unsheltered that need shelter beds so if we're looking to end street homelessness by November of 2021 is 1500, the number that we are aiming to create shelter space for

Gerrit Nyland

another interesting question, and I don't know. I can get that number as high as six well as high as about 4500, if I look at everybody that has recent activity and hmm is, if I pull a bunch of stuff that's probably poorly maintained older data, not looking at you some providers on this call. I can drop it down to maybe 2500 How many of those really need shelter I don't know, I don't know how the county calculated the 1350 is the most recent one I saw that might not be a bad number to work to, I don't know that we, I've never had a number I felt was good for how many shelter beds we really need is you know I see so many people homeless in the system, but it's hard to imagine there's that many floating around. However, we'll never know until, or we won't know until November 1 When we actually have



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enough shelter bed, and we watch them fill up. Right. So, I think 1350 or 1500 is, is probably a really good number.

Rob Huff

Thanks, Kara, and Kathy Ryan made a request if you could come do this presentation, too, with her staff.

Gerrit Nyland

That's great, who love doing this presentation. It's my chance to be insufferable No at all.

Rob Huff

Okay, oh and Jan run back makes the comment pending street homelessness by November, one is the goal not homelessness. So I think that's an important distinction. All right, I think that's it for the main questions that I see right now,

Gerrit Nyland

through my PowerPoint into the chat there as well. So if you want to the PowerPoint, shelter, yes, shelter, huge topic for us. And I can go, we can go on and on about the challenges or the opportunities to shelter, but let it be known that, most of it is formally funded by the county and the cities, but not all diversion. So now we're going to get into our permanent housing interventions we use intervention, meaning time when somebody enrolls in a program to get something done. So this is our least expensive intervention, and it's terribly named diversion has got to be the worst name ever. The original purpose of that was talking about diverting people from shelter. So then one of the models that was looked at when this system was designed was a program that had folks at the front door of the shelter, and basically they had a conversation which was, we don't have enough shelter beds. What else could you possibly do, instead of coming into shelters, and our programs never quite looked like that but we still call it diversion. So it's financial assistance, and counseling, and just kind of problem solving in order to figure out what could possibly be a quick solution to get either temporary or permanent housing. So this is our only intervention where there's a positive outcome is temporary housing. And the thought is if we never have enough shelter beds, it's better to be staying with a friend or family temporarily than to be on the streets, and this is super successful. Lots of people take this program up. It's part of coordinated entry so anytime you have a coordinated entry conversation, you get offered diversion right and again it's really just it's strength based, working with what you've got available in your social net, right, and maybe you've got enough you've got a job, you can get into an apartment, you can sustain it with the rent but you can't afford to get in right so this program can provide that money, or you've got family and, you know, in Bellingham, that you can go live with he just can't get up there right so we can put you on a bus if we're sure that that's really a permanent housing destination so super successful. And again it's about 1200 14 \$100 per intervention. So it's not a very expensive intervention, relative to lots of other costs. And, again, part of coordinated entry, and that's why it'd be



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great to have this offer to everybody that touched any part of our homeless system right even the informal parts, because then they could get offered that question is, what would it take to expand diversion fund her options for any street homelessness. That's a good guestion. I don't know how close we are to having enough coordinated entry and diversion resources. And so that would just need some analysis, it's pretty cheap though, probably less than a million bucks, would, would make sure we had enough financial assistance and all that, it doesn't work for everybody, right. If you owe \$6,000 to your past landlord, this is not going to be a tool to get you moved in, right, if you can't sustain rent on your own. This is not you know and you don't have family, this is not an intervention that works for them so it's targeted at our low vulnerability, right, or low barrier clients that we can interact with and about half people give it a try, a little less than half, and a little less than half of those are successful, there's a high return rate. So you're probably looking at 15 to 20% but still, maybe a little higher, pretty good though. And there's an informal system that does a lot of this, again, out of churches, so people come to, to a church with a story they have a benevolence fund of some sort, and so they assist with that private individuals assist with this stuff too, right, so there's a big informal system, but also a really functioning right and this, this is sort of best practices nationwide kind of piloted by places like Pierce County. Our second big intervention in Pierce County and nationwide is called rapid rehousing and rapid rehousing as a formal program or basically, you cover rent for somebody for six months while they're an eight, so they've got to find a landlord willing to rent to them, and the program covers rent or a portion of it for six months. While that individual gets themselves to a point where they can be self sufficient. So, Rapid Rehousing case manager doesn't put somebody into an apartment that there's no hope of them sustaining on their own. Right, and so that's the challenge of this program is if there aren't landlords willing to rent to people, or if the rents aren't low enough Rapid Rehousing really struggles, and this is targeted at mid level vulnerability, so not people that need one little step to get going but somebody that needs to work on something, work on education work on employment, work on mental health work on substance use whatever they want to work on. So, this is classic Housing First, this serves everybody, right, it's targeted at mid vulnerability or low vulnerability data can help people that are highly vulnerable if there's pathways for them to be self sufficient. And again it helps everybody right where they are right it's not part of these aren't phases of your homelessness, right, this is an intervention that could be the only, you know, the only interaction you have with the homeless system right you do Coordinated Entry diversion doesn't work for you so you end up in Rapid Rehousing right you don't have to be in a shelter to use it, you can be right, but it's it's pretty good it's about six to \$8,000 per intervention, and it's very successful nationwide it's around 75 or 80% successful in Pierce County, it's about 60% successful because we give this intervention, using a system of prioritization and vulnerability. So instead of giving it to low and mid vulnerability clients, we give it to high vulnerability clients. And it turns out, they have a much harder time being successful. And because of lots of reasons. And there's really not a kind of a informal equivalent. And, and this largely replaced the I'd love to see. Yeah, and so that's one of the heartbreaks of rapid rehousing is that we do it because we prioritize resources to the most vulnerable. and that means that we waste a lot of effort on folks that aren't going to be successful with this. Right, so get them in an apartment, and they'll end up with an eviction because they are unable to sing right now cuz the case managers mad just because it's maybe not the right intervention for him. Some again



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does amazing things, but maybe not. That's how we do it. I know I'm taking them too much time, I'm just wrapping up raw transitional housing is what we've replaced. Almost all money that used to go to transitional housing and the formal system now goes to rapid rehousing and the reason is that because they target the same populations this mid vulnerability. However, transitional housing typically has high barriers to entry, typically have to have facilities, oftentimes a lot, they require people to be work ready, whatever that means they require people to be mentally stable they require them to be clean and sober. so it's not housing first and that they don't take everybody, they're a bit limited. And it's a longer intervention 12 to 18 months do you live someplace typically you bank money while you're there, so that when you exit transitional housing you have a little nest egg to help you get established in your own housing, so it has the same independent outcome at the end where you're self sustaining rental on the, you know, in the marketplace. However, because it's a long program and they're living on a site, it's expensive, so you're looking at an 18 to \$22,000 per intervention. So, again, 60,000 for rapid rehousing same outcomes. And, and so that's why it's replaced transitional housing, but we still have transitional housing because it works for some population so it doesn't not work right, it works it's just expensive, but it's appropriate for some populations, typically, youth, and veterans, although we have a number of programs and there's a massive. And so that's the formal transitional housing program, there's a lot of programs that call themselves transitional housing that have a very similar model but are an informal system sometimes nonprofits run them, sometimes for profits run them. And so those are things where somebody buys a house or renting rooms out and they've got, you know, kind of, some transportation day, a meetings and they're clean and sober. Alright, that's a common model and those again can be very effective for people, but there's very little, like, set of common rules or practices. So, we often, I often think of them as being, you know, a little bit challenging to refer clients to because you don't necessarily know what's going to happen again, there's great programs that are run, but there's some that are a little bit dicey. And, but that's a huge thing and it's like, but if we didn't have them, we would have a lot of people exiting treatment, that wouldn't have any other options of where to live, the informal system so it's an important part of our homeless system. Next slide is where I put Oxford houses. My last slide, sort of, is permanent supportive housing, and this is the intervention that we use for our most vulnerable and permanent supportive housing is, again, it's a federal program it's housing first right so we take people as they are, where they are, and provide them with an apartment and case management for the rest of their lives, right, he has a section eight vouchers typically although not always, um, there's lots of models. The ones that are funded by the Feds require a documented disability for the head of household. And this is incredibly effective people typically either stay a few years and move on, or stay forever. And, again, it isn't guaranteed housing is for people that probably couldn't be housed, even with a section a voucher, unless they had case management. Someone's asking definitions of vulnerability so vulnerability is in Pierce County, we've got our own custom vulnerability barrier ranking. It's not known to me, it's kept secret in a black box. And we collect information about people, are you pregnant. Are you a sex offender. Do you have disabilities, although we don't actually use a disability in the prioritization, are you impacted by disabilities. How many, how many times have you been arrested. How many times have you been to the emergency room or seen crisis care right so impacts of disability. All of that gets kind of shaking into a big bowl, and then every



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day the county creates a list of every person in waiting for interventions right so they went through Coordinated Entry didn't do diversion, they're in what's called the priority pool, and they are organized by highest need most vulnerable to lowest need least vulnerable, and when there's an opening and a program that uses a referral system that am operates associate ministries that they look, they basically filter the list for people eligible for the program. Right. So if we're looking at, say, a program for veterans at the origin campus right we would be looking for people that, right, are clean and sober because it's clean its oversight and don't have a felony, are a veteran, and then we take the next most vulnerable. So that's kind of what I mean not really boxes right but kind of this linear list. However, people fit basically into three tiers. Right, very low vulnerability kind of this middle area and then our very high vulnerability like when you look, there's a score that it's given and so they kind of group in this way. Hopefully that was useful. There's also a massive informal system of permanent housing so not supportive or somewhat supportive, that isn't federally funded but kind of operates right and in the sort of affordable housing or, you know, Oxford house model a little bit there's acts as a place in Thurston County that's presented to us, it does some really neat stuff that doesn't get much federal funding, and even like the big providers, they'll have a mix like Catholic Community Services has stuff that it's not technically permanent supportive housing but it is right so there's a lot of things that are kind of on the edge. And an important and are typically known by folks that are working within them Rapid Rehousing system because those can be destinations for rapid rehousing question does Pierce County track those returning to homelessness by demographics yes they do all that informations in the HMS system how much they publish it, I don't know but that data is all there. Yeah and Collins, right, like Rapid Rehousing, you always want to ramp that up because it's so inexpensive relative to everything else and so beneficial but if you don't have a landlord, and you don't have rent rental right I mean, we, our population increases faster than our housing supply increases every year for the past decade, right so there's more pressure on the housing system every year. I've got this beautiful chart, I'm wrapping up now I honestly am wrapping up Rob, I lied about 20 minutes clearly. So, at 10 15,000, people a year flow into homelessness, the size of the arrows in this little chart are the number of people flowing through red homeless bad, right, lots of folks head into the shelter system, our most expensive shelters can be about 33,000 a year, that's crazy expensive you're talking 20,000 Probably for something like the stability site, a little bit less than ash for some of the Lehigh sites may tivity house and the rescue mission are much cheaper, again just because of the design of the program and how space is used. Lots of people come through coordinated entry, and then again, a big chunk of our arrow goes into diversion and rapid rehousing not so much. Very few people into transitional housing, again, this is our formal system, I don't know the informal transitional housing system because it's not centrally tracked right and that's actually one of the reasons I don't really trust it is not necessarily because I don't trust the people and the programs, it's, they're not publishing their data in the way that programs that are funded by the feds have to publish their data so we don't know either, you know, how many people are coming in, how many going out what their vulnerability is, what their demographics are, what their returns to homelessness are like we don't know any of that. And so it's hard to know exactly the performance, and then even smaller is permanent supportive housing because it's forever right half of those are typically buildings built by agencies, the other half are using, you know market rate landlords,



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and then lots of people get housed, lots of people disappear, and this is actually why it's hard to know how many people are homeless, because so many people self resolve or wander off or stop engaging with the homeless system, so I'm hoping in a world of shelter for all, that number will be known, because there won't be people on the streets, they'll be in places that they're willing to live that we can know where they are so we can build this system for them. I'm going to put a link into my super fun flow to homelessness, and these different interventions we talked about you can stick money into them. I'm not really, I guess. Oh, why not. Is this tool here and you can put money into it, and you can run the model like oh that's great, this is how homelessness is going to grow over the next five years red line is the total homeless population in Pierce County, you can argue with me on the numbers all you want but this deals with flows right so really, wherever it starts it's really all about flows and say well what if I put two, what if I put more money in diversion, okay I'm going to go from 1.5 million to 2.6 million and in my run my model. Oh, look at that, right, I'm still growing right I still have a higher number at the end of five years, but it's gotten smaller. I guess I need to put money into rapid rehousing. Well, I'm feeling rich so I'm going to go from an 8 million to an \$18 million system, what's that going to look like, whoo. Look at that bad boy dropping, but still rising some, there's kind of a baseline probably about 1000 People will always have homeless sounds depressing but that's just our, you know, that's who flows into homelessness every month. But I do need to put some money into permanent supportive housing because diversion and rapid rehousing only help low vulnerability and mid vulnerability, I need to help the highly vulnerable. So I'm going to put maybe, I don't know maybe it's another say 9 million a year into permanent supportive housing let's, let's play rich, and then I run my model right and I see a pretty dramatic drop right and there's weird stuff going on my model because it's so sophisticated Wow Garrett, but I'm happy to talk about that or any of these other things, and I think I took too much time but boy, it sure fun talking about this stuff.

Rob Huff

I don't know that you took too much time here. What I will say though is I'm, I'm sure there's gonna be some questions from folks that maybe they haven't put in the chat, so if you want to raise your hand and ask questions, this would be a great chance to pick Garrett's brain. Yeah, call on I see you raising your hand.

Colin DeForest

Yeah, I would, I was just writing something in the one thank you Garrett This is always really good information to see on paper or just see the data because I think none of us, that's what we're always wondering about. I do think that there is space with, you know Marines come comment about transitional housing and what is this non traditional or whatever. I do think that there is a space for our community to transition from transitional housing what is historical transitional housing into something, call it interim housing, call it what you want but it's, it's temporary housing a longer term I think really it's it's really what we're seeing with the tiny house villages, or the micro shelters, I mean, to me that's something more and if you, if you know, Lehigh is programs, it is very, it's a lot more prescriptive, it's a lot closer to transitional housing than it would be to permanent supportive housing. So I definitely think



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that there's space in that area for something that is more tailored less restrictive, not these kind of hard timelines of 12 days, but really kind of that idea of six to 12, or even less if possible so it just seems like there's a kind of a gap in our system that used to be filled by transitional and. And there's, there's just a need for those people that may like marine was talking about there, they're not quite ready and hotels could be a great opportunity, I do think but they're not quite ready for that rapid rehousing jump yet, and they're there, they're there, they're ready to get out of the shelter, where they don't need to be in the shelter we're wasting their time we're rape wasting shelter space so I think that's just an interesting area in the middle.

Gerrit Nyland

Thanks calling it. And these things get put in buckets, but to your point, they're a continuum, right, is the stability side is shelter, or transitional housing, I would probably argue transitional housing at this point, right, even though it has a lot of shelter components right like, or, and there's actually a federally funded program that merges transitional housing and rapid rehousing together, and I'm a little obsessed with that model but it was, I've never been able to get one up and running. But no, again, it's an excellent things don't have to fit into one of these categories but they're a good way to think about how the Feds and how the state and how the county and city think about things.

Rob Huff

Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

I just, I always love it when Garrett presents and and his data is always much more entertaining than most data. I do want to just put this out there and I've said this before, when you see that someone stops contacting stops interacting with Coordinated Entry. People that I speak with who are on the streets, or who come through our program often say, I stayed on the bottom of the list, and nothing happened. And I know that it occasionally that list is purged. And if people don't come back and sign up again, it's more likely that it's because they don't believe anything's going to happen that they haven't resolved. So I just questioned the thing about this gets resolved by diversion, especially that one, because I know a lot of people have been diverted and never found housing, they just gave up. So, I know it's a kind of negative take on it but I just, it's not as neat as it may look.

Gerrit Nyland

Thank you, and someday I'll do something on the pathways people take through our homeless system, which is again what we know, maybe not their own reality yeah but so half the people that try diversion, aren't successful with it. Right. And typically, right, we've been under resourced and everything else. So yeah, We don't really know what happens to them, right, or they're just living out front of Teresa's house right because they're not vulnerable enough to get the intervention or they can't get organized enough. I remember there's I think there's a few people on this call that helped with a friend of mine, that



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eventually got a permanent supportive housing referral, and he you know he had magical thinking going on right he was not really able to take care of himself, but he was also unwilling to admit that he had a mental illness that could be documented, and so the process of getting him. Even with the referral from where he was into that unit required something that was really challenging and took a, it took a, you know, it took a village and we got him in and he still house there. But yeah, I think it Yeah, super messy, we don't know what happens to so many people and it bums me out because I can't improve systems, you don't know outcomes.

Rob Huff

Garrett I don't, you can see Tony's comment.

Gerrit Nyland

Yes. Yeah, I often hear that the system is really complicated, and, and I agree, I love the CTI idea of having a case manager that's with you your entire intervention, however, that goes back to something I really ought to be working on which is pay for our staff. Right, so it's really hard for people to stay in their positions when PE is so low and the homeless system. And so, a lot of times people are cycling in and out and so, but no to that point it would be nice if it was simpler, we we pretend it's simple, right, it all makes sense in my head because I've obsessively studied it. But yeah, what do you do differently, you can't even make programs similar because each one works itself to serve unique niches of populations that they identify. And so that's, it's an interesting question. And some of that problem is the failure of us to resource Coordinated Entry Coordinated Entry works great. It would work really, you know, if we had enough, permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing, but we don't right so Coordinated Entry feels like a failure because it gets. It's the airport model right, we build a huge waiting area, we just don't have enough planes coming into the airport right, so nobody has a good experience if they don't get what they're going even if you've got, you know nice, you know, charging stations next to the seats in the waiting room.

Rob Huff

I see Collins got his hand up.

Colin DeForest

And I know how to unraised it to Sherry So, maybe sometime I'll teach you. Ah,

Sherri Jensen

thank you I can't

Colin DeForest

figure it out I just did, um, I was just gonna say, I'm wondering what the thoughts are on, you know, I think with the safe parking Network One of the things that has been really successful isn't it with it is



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this flexibility of the funding. And it seems like, you know as Garrett was talking about earlier, and I know that's a funding thing, especially the federal funding that comes down through hood, but everything kind of gets put in this bucket right, and it just seems so often that if we were able to just look at individuals or households as households, and really try to tailor to that. Each households unique need without having to label them as transitional or permanent supportive is a little different, but I think you know rapid rehousing and just really adjusting, because to me, the idea of rapid rehousing. What it lacks as I said in the comments is that safety net right and there's areas that have done a better job than Pierce County, though I think that we've done a better job than most at creating that safety net, but I think it's that the ability to have an A what we often like with rapid rehousing is the ability for that kind of phone a friend button that people in Rapid Rehousing can hit when they need it, you know, so it's six months in, they're kind of on their own now, and something happens that month, eight, and rather than be able to just reach out. It's almost like our system. Basically, we have to wait for them to come back into the system again, which we all know is not the right answer. So, I just wish that there was more flexible funding and I'm just curious Garrett or others. If that seems like something that on the federal level, could actually be increasing or if it's just still needs to be in those buckets.

Gerrit Nyland

So, so the goal is to use the least expensive intervention. So we can help more people, and the one that gives people the most control in their lives, which is good for people. But I agree, like our ability to move people oftentimes has to do with programs having funding this not federally funded, right so Catholic Community Services has a couple permanent supportive housing units that aren't federally funded, or even county funded, which means they have control over who goes in. So if somebody's feeling in rapid rehousing. They can move them into an open unit, right, like that's a really healthy thing to do right like everything they've done, right, and with veterans we can often do this as well, right, we can shift them from Rapid Rehousing into permanent supportive housing right so you tried something it didn't work instead of leaving you with an eviction and homeless again, and at the front door the homeless system, right, like, I agree, like those tools need to be there into Marines point, not everybody needs permanent supportive housing, like we don't need to do that right. Some people are going to be most people are going to be completely self sufficient, but having a pathway to get from that self sufficiency, right, to something that has either a longer intervention and rapid rehousing you can keep doing it right, you can you can it doesn't have to be six months, it can be nine months or 12 months or some programs 18 months. But it's hard and it takes a lot of, I don't know. Yeah, it's, it's an interesting question how do we better build things for people as they are and meet their needs as they change because just because the program doesn't work doesn't mean you should drop out.

Rob Huff

I'll Why don't we take your question and then I think we better move on in our agenda.

Al Ratcliffe



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We want to go back to share a suggestion, a while ago and what would it take to try to pair entry level employment with access to Rapid Rehousing because you, you create a whole new set of motivations when somebody actually has a job. Then when they're on the street, I think that's worth trying to explore,

and I'll speak to that really quick, our we've, we've had that conversation with the county, previously, and we've talked to other providers even about accessing their rapid rehousing for our folks and it's just the prioritization right now so it would really take going back to the CDE model as it currently is, and seeing if there's any flexibility with it with the county and I don't know Garrett maybe now because of the plant and street homelessness by November maybe now, could be a time to do it. I don't know.

Al Ratcliffe

Well I know that a lot of funding sources lock us in but it's still worth trying to explore even if it's just done sort of informally as a pilot effort.

Gerrit Nyland

So tying housing to anything is something that sort of makes the hair stand up on the back of my neck, and so I might have to get over that a little bit, the sense because when I looked for predictors for success and rapid rehousing are predictors for success in diversion. Typically it's not whether you're employed or not, or whether you have characteristics of employment, increasing income is important but that can be done multiple ways. That said, you know, employments often an important part of reestablishing independence. So that's an interesting question. What happens in programs, is they can cherry pick people, to be part of their program and that's something we don't like to have happen right where we say okay well, people that aren't work ready, aren't going to come into the program and that's a good way to maybe prevent black people from being part of your program, intentionally or unintentionally, right where you put some subjective evaluation of somebody's potential into the entry requirements is that those, those can fall prey to our bias. Putting it not that that's a bad idea just those are the things that I think about when I, when I've read research on, you know, And, and the driving force behind housing first right which says, you know program should be available to absolutely everybody.

Rob Huff

All right. We took a deep dive there I think that was really good information, And thanks for the in depth presentation Garrett. Looks like you're gonna be busy doing the same presentation for a number of folks, so that's great, let's shuffle our agenda a little bit to squeeze in our updates from government partners. So I would like to turn the floor over now I'm trying to see if Clarissa is on the call from the city of Tacoma. And she is not but is Teagan. Yeah. So is there a city of Tacoma update for today. All right, so I'm not hearing anything maybe Teagan stepped away from her computer for a moment. I did get a



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message from Valerie, at the county that she was, she had a conflicting meeting this morning so she's not able to be here, but I can hand off to Rianna from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department for updates.

Reanna Bettencourt

Thanks. Hi, everybody. Good morning. So, start with posting all this and much, much that might be too big. Okay. I'll break it up in a minute. All right, so for updates. I'm going to drop our vaccine webpage in the chat. It has the most up to date. Vaccine clinic information for the county blogs data, community engagement messaging tools, infographics, that can be shared. Pierce County Transportation information to and from clinics, and it has our call center number that anybody can call and get help, getting to a vaccination clinic around the county. Also, this isn't asked but it's related to transportation so I'm gonna share it here. Deal H put out a news release. Two days ago, they're gonna be. Partnerships are starting on May 10 For people face transportation barriers, they need a ride to get a vaccine can call the state COVID-19 information number. And we'll have a specialist help and coordinating rides so like Uber and Lyft. And I think there's another one in there but I'll post that in the chat so you all have that if you don't mind can share it. We are working with Jenny sheppy on planning second dose clinics at some shelters, and also will offer vaccine to anyone interested at those shelters who has not been vaccinated and so if somebody hasn't been vaccinated yet, they can get a j&j or materna if they don't want the J and J. So we're

being flexible around that. And also conversations are happening on possible Vaccae events near encampments, we're looking at a couple of places. Jenny Michael and Valerie and I met with a larger outreach team, group, and got some great feedback so if any of you were there, Thank you for all that. So those conversations will continue to happen, and hopefully we can get some events out of that we have for shelter clinics on the calendar for next week I will not be here at this meeting on Friday. We'll send any updates on Thursday to Robin Garrett, I'll be at one of the vaccine clinics. I think at compre, I think our comprehensive. So that's it for my updates and then I'll share the contact information for Jenny and I in the chat and the rest of

Reanna Bettencourt

my message here. So that's it.

Rob Huff

Thank you Anna. Anybody have any questions for Rianna. All right, I'm not seeing any. We'll appreciate the information in the chat. I'm gonna circle back to, Teagan who is going to give some updates from the city of Tacoma.

Tiegan Tidball



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Hey good morning everybody. I'm working from one computer screen today so I'm struggling getting all my, my stuff working so give me one sec. Um, so today I want to provide a couple updates so the first one is, I think this was shared last week that we're hiring for a community safety analyst as part of our transform diploma work, and this position will look at how we prioritize not provide safety services, opportunities for to evaluate our processes and recommendations for what would be the new Office of Community Safety. I will put that in our, in the in the chat as well. I want to give some highlights on some of our special initiatives and programs. So last Friday. The Salvation Army performing center close the program staff and city staff were able to place everyone in a permanent solution or a safe location so that was a great success, and we really appreciate the Salvation Army did to support single men on. I think we also highlight the last week a hygiene station was set up at, I 705 in a street and opened last Wednesday so that is moving forward. Um, we don't have an update on our youth drop in center and overnight shelter but we're still working on it so hopefully we'll have something very soon to share with everybody. It's very exciting. I know the county will also discuss rental assistance so that link is still going. Please have people apply if they need assistance with that, I will also put in the chat, our census and outcomes for temporary emergency shelters that are also on our website and we presented a council this Tuesday so that was the fourth may 4 where we talked about different models to implement 69th a Proctor and how we can envision a model of implementation. And I will also put in in the in the chat, a link to the study session, and next Tuesday we will again be presenting the council so I will be sending those as well. And if anybody has questions I'd be happy to answer them.

Rob Huff

Great, so if anybody has questions, just go ahead and raise your hand or speak right up.

Tiegan Tidball

Hi Garrett.

Gerrit Nyland

So I've made a few trips to the hygiene stations, and they tend, never to have water in the hand washing station. Okay and so I did three last week, and there wasn't any water. And then, this week I did three trips to both of the hygiene stations and one of the stations had water on one day in it so that seems like an opportunity maybe to do a little problem solving. Yeah, I

Tiegan Tidball

appreciate that feedback, I'll pass that along. Thank you.

Gerrit Nyland

Yeah, and the garbage, the 705 site, they were full, and they're the garbage everywhere there, so.

Tiegan Tidball



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Yeah, and I think since it was the first week I know there was a lot already existing there so hopefully we if we need to pick it up a little sooner I'll pass that along as well. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Jeffrey.

Jeffrey Boyce

Yesterday I was at the eight deny, and there was a padlock on one of the, on the ADA toilet, and not sure where the bad luck came from.

Tiegan Tidball

That sounds interesting. I'll pass that along as well so we can we can address that. Thank you. Anything else if not happiest to Friday's everybody.

Rob Huff

Yep, looks like we're good and if folks do have other questions, feel free to drop them in the chat.

Tiegan Tidball

Absolutely, or you can email me directly as well. Awesome. All right, thanks everyone.

Rob Huff

All right, so let's shift back to our regular agenda, we have a couple items that Garrett wanted to quickly cover.

Gerrit Nyland

Thanks Ron, we have a number of kind of representatives that attend other meetings and kind of represent our group, and we would like to make these a little more formal. Alright, so things like the equity action network that the health department runs and continuum of care, it's a good example of a more formal one. But there's a number of these groups, and so I'm not going to go over them now because I've talked too much already today, but there is a list of them on our website. So if you go to the website coalition website I put a link in but on the top nav bar it says committees, and you can see what committees people have requested, someone to be part of one of them that we probably should be looking at in the near term is Chikwawa eldor with the city is looking for somebody on the Tacoma rental housing code stakeholders group. So again, if you are someone in your organization right these are super amazing professional development opportunities right I mean, you don't need to know things to be on these committees, you need to be able to commit to listening going to the meetings, right, and, and identifying areas that the coalition might be interested in and bringing that stuff back to the coalition, right. So really you're just, you're a liaison right you don't have to make decisions, you don't have to wear an official t shirt right you really just need to be listening to things of interest there and



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chaining in when they have things that might, that might be able to be, you know, moved along by having the coalition more involved, something like that. So anyway, we'd like to formally vote people into these positions, and so if you could take a look at those and volunteer yourself volunteer your staff member volunteer your supervisor volunteer a friend. That would be great, right and again the more, the more people we, you know, kind of get into these roles like, it's just, it's fun stuff for some people so hopefully we can encourage that. Marine. Oh,

Rob Huff

you're muted Yeah,

Maureen Howard

I know. No, I'm okay thank you are probably better when I muted. But anyway, in addition to these being great professional opportunities for people. Really think about if you're a frontline staff person, or if you're a supervisor or a manager, look around and encourage people to put themselves forward or you put them forward, big, and this is our chance to diversify our representation as well. So, there may be, you know, maybe we want to people that sort of thing. But I, in my career, these are some of the best professional development opportunities that I had.

Gerrit Nyland

So and you can suggest them there's a link on the website to suggest a committee we should be involved in like the, the county has an opioid Task Force, right, opioids, impact some people experiencing homelessness, wouldn't it be great to listen into those meetings with an ear to homelessness issues, and so it's once a month at that, you know you report back. Three minutes once a month right so it's not a huge amount of time for some of these committees, again, great opportunity. So, those are up there I'm going to send an email out but hopefully we'll be able to bring some to vote next week. Volunteer.

Rob Huff

Thanks Garrett, and did you also then want to cover the, the vote that we want to take related to the safe salts sites for all.

Gerrit Nyland

So currently we have two sort of official committees we have the advocate. We have the Housing Committee, and we have our steering committee. There's been another committee that's been peripheral although it's an awful, pretty much all coalition members, and it was started as a safe parking site that Jan and call and have been spearheading and Jeffrey joined on and it's, there's a lot of other people. And but it sort of morphed into what's now called Safe sites for all, and the coalition is doing more to support it and I just wanted to put out to all of you that I would like us to make it a formal committee, sort of joint committee, so not something that we're doing anything other than saying is that



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they're, they're doing work with a coalition, and, and kind of wanting to represent it that way. That sounds good. Calling. So our goal isn't to like take over their messaging or anything but really support them and just say, Pretty much everything they do is in line with what we're trying to do which is safe sites for all. So, I've got a little poll. And the question is should the coalition make the safe sites for all a formal coalition committee or joint committee. And we have big plans for this maybe to take on some more of the responsibility around the coalition's involvement with the counties, you know, safe shelter for everyone by November 1 So I think that this is kind of part of wanting to just prepare ourselves with some good structures to meet the need. And I forgot my harmonica again. I didn't make the pole though that's something. All right, we gave you 5432 ended early. So, 20, who I can share the results we have 26 people yes nobody no number of abstentions, and so we've got another committee, so join up all the information about it is, on our coalition website. So that includes meeting link, and I think they're listserv now too, I think there's a listserv, yet there's a list where you can sign up for on the listserv page, and thank you.

Rob Huff

Awesome. All right, so we've got, we've managed to more than fill this meeting and we've got a lot to cover still shift, looking at our agenda, Maureen. The next thing I have is advocacy updates.

Maureen Howard

All right, thank you so quickly. We've all been waiting for the American rescue plan, emergency housing vouchers to come, and they are coming the guidances out I sent that that everybody because I just, It's pretty clear guidance from HUD. And so, the most recent update I have locally. I don't know what the allocations are to either Housing Authority, I don't know if they know yet. I haven't seen anything published or received anything from my contacts in the guidance, it's very clear that the relationship is between the public housing authority, there's going to be regular housing vouchers, except that they are targeted to people experiencing homelessness, people at risk for homelessness, and people fleeing domestic violence. And so, the relationship in the guidance is between the public housing authority, and the local continuum of care. And so while we are waiting to see how Pierce County chooses to handle that because there are options that the continuum of care can can take, I think our question for the coalition is, how do we want to be involved in helping set priorities, or in whatever way, as the continuum of care, and the county and the housing authorities, work out their relationship so I'll stay in contact with my housing authority contacts and see what else we can find but those of you who are housing voucher nerds. It's all there and 40 pages or whatever it is. As far as I know, the home money the other specific homeless money in the American rescue plan that's coming through hide. There's no additional information today, and we're in contact with both the city and county who will have who already know what their allocations are, they're just over 5 million each. But what the guidance is the process we don't know yet, or at least I don't. The state's going to have the Department of Commerce. It's going to have a meeting on May 17 for all housing folks to talk about the money that's in the budget the programs how these are going to be handled and remember, there's about 125 million for rapid shelter acquisition. That's the hotel money, and we don't add, I don't know if there's going to be a match



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requirement or not. If there is, we're going to have to encourage the county council to reconsider its recent decisions about the ARPA money, I think. So there are with us, the county and the city there are two things now we're moving into and that, so both of these jurisdictions probably a whole lot of their fiscal year is a calendar year. So, they're in the process of revised making any budget revisions to their current operating budgets. All right, and they'll, they'll finalize those sometime later in the summer, they're also on the county side, they're stuck they've started their next biennial budget process. So, we're gonna have to keep an eye on both. Do we have recommendations for any reallocation of funding during the summer cycle of the current year's money, or do we have recommendations, going forward as well. I sent out to both county councils, as well as the staff, the appropriate staff on human services and NCS and community econ economic development because that's where housing is in the city. Notice this of both the webinar that the Housing Development Consortium out of Seattle King County's putting on Monday, on housing and health care. And I'm pleased that council member, Amy Groover got very excited about that and said that she plans to attend or hopes to attend. I think that is directly related to the presentation on the from the ad hoc committee, and especially to Courtney Chandler, being willing to tell her personal story in that meeting, and it was clear that Courtney story moved. Councilmember Gruber, and also councilmember Hitchin, said that she plans to attend the Department of Commerce meeting on May, 17, I think these are important because the county council appears to me to be much more. At this point anyway, kind of hands on involved in the funding and the programs around homelessness, than we've seen in, in the immediate past or that I've seen in the immediate past. I think that our issues going forward are following the money. So there's a huge amount of money as you know that's coming from the feds and the state some of its here. Some of it will be coming and it. Most of that money has wide eligibility, opportunities, and one of those opportunities is to be able to target by income. All right, at 50%, ami. That's 50,000, a year for one person in Pierce County. All right, those aren't the people that we're most concerned about we're concerned about those folks who are down at zero, 1020 30%, ami. and so it's, you know, everything's political every, you know, all politics is local if you're old enough to remember. Tip O'Neill, but we have opportunities to weigh in. And so that's part of what we want to be able to look, look into. I think we need to really prepare for these planning processes. And so this is where, in terms of how we end street homelessness or under the tree homelessness or wherever you are homeless. By November 1, and the better our menu of safe site options, the clearer we can be about them, the more cost information we have, the more success information we have from other jurisdictions, the better we can help these two planning committees inform the work that they're doing and get where we want to go. I want to remind everybody that our new Housing Coalition Housing Committee. I sent the invite out to everybody so please if those if housing is your thing. Please join us. It's next thursday from four to five, which was the best my poor Doodle poll could do, but that's where we're starting. And I'm gonna have a minder do anything other doodles that I do. And the other thing is there's a housing listserv now, so you can sign up for that housing listsery, even if you don't plan to be on the committee, and you'll, I'm going to start moving housing specific resources to that listserv. And then, yeah I think that's it. I think the other thing is, I don't know if Cynthia is still on it just to leave these calls earlier but I'm hoping that Cynthia, or somebody from the League of Women Voters will has got the candidate forums on their agenda for the



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fall because we will have city races. And I think that that the way that AI's friend passed on how to run a candidate forum is probably the best that I've seen in my life and certainly councilmember Walker when we met with her a couple of weeks ago, said it was the best candidate for him that she participated in. So, people from the league, hopefully. Check with Cynthia and maybe she can't do it maybe somebody from the Tacoma League, kind of put that on a sticky note so we don't miss that. So that's kind of it right now. Just thank you.

Rob Huff

I guess I should unmute myself. So Maureen can we shift gears and talk about what the conversations have continued to be with the City Council around the proposed camping ban.

Maureen Howard

Certainly, so those of you who may not be following this, the city council did prepare an ordinance, use of public property at a code change. In April, early April, and we, the mayor reached out and asked for our response or reaction to it and we did respond saying basically don't do this, and Councilmember Tom's was the prime sponsor on this ordinance, and he then reached out to me within about an hour of receiving our communication and said he'd like to talk. And so we began talking, he has met with the safe sites for all people. He's met with six of us from the coalition, and usually five of us are able to attend we've met three times now, and that group includes from the city. The city attorney who is there for every meeting, Council Member Tom's who is there for every meeting, the deputy mayor, who has been there for all or part of two of the meetings, and the mayor, who has been there for all or part I think of each meeting but to for sure. And from the coalition side. Jeffrey boys Teresa power Judas, Rob Huff, myself, Garrett Nylund and Kevin black and Callie. And what we have tried to do is move this ordinance, which just we I reached out to justice, Obama and from the National homelessness Law Center immediately also Jennifer Ammons with Northwest Justice Laurie Davenport and Casey Burton from Tacoma pro bono have joined our legal back office if you will, and we have used the assistance that they have provided and Garrett did some edits on the third, second iteration I think of the ordinance. And when we saw this yesterday. They had accepted our edit so we have moved this ordinance from being based in the power of the police. That That part's gone we've moved its implementation into the Office of Equity and Human Rights in conjunction with the chief of police, it was totally under the police. We have the deputy mayor had moved the criminal misdemeanor component and the \$1,000 fine and 90 days in jail he had already moved that to civil infractions for the first and second check it for camping on a public place, which is anything public. All right, any government. Anything government doesn't have to own it, they can lease it anything. All right, couldn't be broader. And then it easements even. And then there. He moved the criminal misdemeanor to \$250 Fine, and 30 days in jail. One or both. Oh and the criminal, civil infractions were at \$25 for the fines and I think it was I can't remember those jail time on that one or not. Excuse me. So, but we came back with, so we're so there are two big areas right now. All right. That, for me, and then other people that can weigh in. One is this issue of any type of criminalization and the six of us are divided. Oh, I'll tell you that and I suspect the coalition is divided and I know folks who can't attend this meeting are divided because I get their



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messages. Thankfully, the city of Tacoma already has a trespassing law, and it has a destruction of property law. So my question is Who does this use of public property or no camping or urban camping whatever we want to call this ordinance actually serve, what we are told is that it's a tool to get people to accept shelter, who would otherwise not do so. And it is also something that will please the people in the neighborhoods, and the businesses, because now there will be a way to force people off of public places. And I think that we've tried some things like, what could you have community service, instead of jail time. Is there a way to keep things off of people's records are there. What if we had a pot of money to pay the fines. I Laurie provided us Laurie Davenport provided us with an LFO report the legal, financial obligations. I think I have that right study that was done out of 2019, showing the disproportionality of people of color who have LFO obligation LFO, and have the impact the incredible impact on their ability to pay rent, that sort of thing that they've. If you work in this area, you know that \$25 Might as well be \$1,000 For some people that finds accrue interest. And then there is the ethical issue of criminalization at all. So, we, we have to deal with that we got, we got the city council to put a pause on this ordinance, they were going to consider this, like three weeks ago I think now, and they put a pause on it at the very last minute, not even in the study session that day. But before Council started, they put a pause on with a May 18 return date, hoping that by May 18 The coalition would sign off on a formal ordinance, we have not agreed to sign off on anything. What we have said is that we will keep working, as long as we feel that we're making progress. We have, I think we have for me. We are in a position where nobody from that city group has questioned, any information we have brought forward as factual information they have accepted what we've told them they have sometimes asked for suggestions that sort of thing. And the other besides a legal question, which I don't expect to resolve today but we've got to grapple with this, because I think there will be a point where we're the coalition is going to be asked to approve. And that's a second thing is timing. So we brought up timing of the reading of the final ordinance which the expectation had been may 18 And we have been saying that it makes more sense, we feel for the timing of any eventual ordinance to match up or to align with the county's plan to end street homelessness, which has right now, a proposed council approved date county council approved date on that final plan of July 12. And it also given the fact that the city itself is engaging in a five year homelessness strategy, and it just seemed to make more sense to us to try and align these, and the City representatives are considering that council member Tom said he is not wedded to May 18 What he wants is his progress. So I, it's, I see a couple of questions. But before we take questions. I want to invite Rob and Teresa Geoffrey Garrett, if there's something that you want to add before we take any questions. Jeffrey.

Reverend Boyce

This is was very hard, negotiation, because I've always believed that criminalization of the homeless, is the wrong approach. And I still believe this, but I also see the city's point where, and I've met some of these people, the point is there's a small number of people who just won't accept appropriate acceptable shelters. And this is, these are the people that. The city says they're most concerned with and that they don't have a way of dealing with them. I've tried to make the argument that you still have a trespassing law, which, unfortunately, has some very onerous problems 30 days in jail and a lot of



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money, or do we find a way to work with the city, in trying to find a way to make it less onerous, in a way that will help further our movement to a more equitable way of helping the homeless. I'm the fact that we have several stages, building up to a final is the part that satisfied me. Although we currently do not have in place. Those two steps that we need, and believes that as we move forward with the ending homelessness by November 1, those things will be in place. As those have been part of the conversations. I'm not saying that this is the right thing at this moment, and the timing is terrible. But think about how when we offer shelters to people, how are we offering those like kind of shelters are we offering, are they acceptable and appropriate for that individual. And this is how I am looking at this particular law.

Maureen Howard

I want to add just before to says to your hand. Following Jeffrey is that one of the other suggestions we made in terms of timing of extending this out farther, was to actually do some pilots to provide some new options for safe sites and see what people's response is, so that we are able to show ourselves, the city, the community and the community of people who are experiencing homelessness that in fact we can provide options that people want to accept. So, Teresa and then Robin Garrett if you have anything and then Sherry, I see you. Thank you, Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So, we have no idea how many of these people who would refuse any options even if we had a really wonderful menu of options we don't know how many of those people there will be, and we won't be able to say how many of those people there would be until we actually have those options available so that's been our main message that has been unanimous that this is, it doesn't make sense to to work so hard on tuning an ordinance that we can't enforce and they've acknowledged this too, it's not enforceable at this point. So that's one hand of this is that, even if it is adopted, it's not enforceable until there are shelter options. So, to me, our energy should be being spent on getting these shelter options available. And I believe, though, that the there will be movement to put an ordinance of some kind in place, because there are other people who really care about their neighborhoods or their businesses or whatever and they're there. They don't have the information that we have so I do think if we were going to do this right, we would work really hard on community interactions and not on being divisive at all within the community but really being good listeners and trying to tamp down some of the fears that are there some legitimate fears, some legitimate concerns, instead of saying these are the bad guys say these are legitimate concerns. This is how we can best solve this so I'm frustrated that the ordinance is even being considered at this point, but I think the work that's being done to make it less weird is good for one thing, right in the ordinance that says if someone is indigent, they are not going to be fined, they're not going to be forced to pay the fine it right in the ordinance, it says that there, there will be this expungement step that is possible. I think they're trying to do something that actually has some compassion to it, but also answers the concerns of the community, and I hope we don't get into a very divisive thing about this because, again, it can't be enforced, it doesn't make sense to do it right now because it can't be enforced. But if they do go forward with it. It can't be enforced



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Maureen Howard

Garita Rob, do you want to add anything before we go to other people's questions.

Rob Huff

I don't think so i Well i The one thing I would say is that, I think, in this whole series of meetings, my approach has been that it's worth spending the time talking with the council members about the ordinance, but I have a hard time imagining the coalition supporting or endorsing the ordinance. So I'll just leave it at that.

Maureen Howard

And Sherry, your hand is down, but I didn't mean to make your blood boil. I saw a comment in the chat, but. So if you didn't get all the questions answered, please I

did you were speaking and I just you know I, we haven't had the conversation or I haven't heard it it's probably been had about Martin V Boise, and so I wasn't. I was still concerned about the timeline and why is this happening now and why is it legal. So if you've answered the question. I'm still, I'm still angry and agree with Rob But I just, I don't support the conversation when we've just decided to move towards ending street homelessness and have such a robust call. Why do we have to complement that with okay and now we're also going to talk about criminalizing, you know, so,

Maureen Howard

I think, yeah, no, I totally. I think that it presents. The fact that it came forward, has to do in part with the frustration that the not just the elected officials in this city are receiving, but also staff. In response to this very visible street homelessness, that people are seeing in a way that they've not seen before, and I to mine, you know, these are, these have been like negotiations. And, and they have been hard but I really feel like they're listening to us, they're believing us, and we're seeing evidence of that in the new language. So, yeah.

It's frustrating because we're seeing it more, it's more visible, it's because the crisis is worsening, because there's less housing available and so I get it but it just seems to have a punitive measure when we're taking so much focus on creating robust solutions just seems counterproductive. Yeah, that's, um, I typed it out Maureen

Maureen Howard

going,



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Gerrit Nyland

Hey do you want to chime in marine I don't know if you want to do tree center on first though,

Maureen Howard

I get a call and he's been waiting. And then, Colin.

Colin DeForest

You know I kind of look at this from a different angle and part of this is you know when this ordinance was initially put in place I was the guy who was in charge of

talking to the individuals about this ordinance. And when I was in the city of Olympia, we had a similar ordinance, and I was in charge of doing it there also. And what I will tell you is, I totally agree with the criminalization piece, but I also I mean we don't have to look much further than some of the challenges that are going on in areas like Seattle. If there's not boundaries and if there's not like the ability to say, Hey, you can't be here. You can't be on Yakima Avenue, but we have, ideally, like I've said before, two or three other options for that individual right. And I think as long as, as we have those to me. I don't, I, in my time in Tacoma and although I don't think I've ever seen anyone get ticketed or arrested for not moving along. Right, I've seen, I've had to deal with many challenging situations with people that don't have to move along, but I've never actually seen law enforcement that I can think of arrest someone in either city the that I worked in in this area. To me, when I look at this, and I agree with reason they're not, they can't do anything with this ordinance so I think on some level, to me, I actually think that this ordinance is a benefit for us and for can be not exactly the way it is but I think some of the things Theresa said is if it because it actually holds the city accountable, right without this ordinance in place, there's language that says, kind of talks about the criminalization, they've already set themselves up with this ordinance that if they move someone along that doesn't and there's not places for those individuals to go, then they are, and they're arresting them, then they're criminalizing that individual right. So to me, I look at this in a totally different way. And I think that on some level, if you don't have some sort of big, because I will also say and I'm probably gonna piss a lot of people off. I've dealt with

Colin DeForest

hundreds of times individuals that until someone is there and like hey, we're moving, that's when that individual will move, and then they'll go, and then a week later they're turning and saying to James or to myself or to someone else is working with them. Hey man, thank you so much for moving me along.

You know I think that we need to meet people where they're at, but if we don't have some sort of accountability, and to me when I say enforcement 90% 95% of that enforcement is done by the Matthews from the city the tea guns the the outreach teams the path workers, it's just simply a



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conversation and move people along, but I don't know that's my say on it I know it's a little bit different. I totally agree with criminalizing that it can't happen but I don't see that as what this is and this is, it can be if we go to the extreme for sure.

Maureen Howard

Sherry We didn't pick the timing on the ordinance okay I mean, we didn't create it. We felt we needed to respond. That's an imperfect world we're in out there. Let's see Jeffrey.

Reverend Boyce

Yeah, I would like to add that the city attorney did agree that until shelters are in place, appropriate shelters are in place. And I've got him talking about adequate and appropriate shelters that this law will not be legal, nor going to be used. So, the city attorney is telling me that too. I think that it's the right tool for us to move with the city, in trying to end homelessness. It is a tool that's all it is not an intent to criminalize homeless people. It is a tool to help the city, and sometimes us in helping somebody get appropriate and adequate shelter.

Maureen Howard

So, we have different positions among the six of us. And I'm absolutely against criminalization in this ordinance. But we're all there with our perspectives. So, anybody else quickly.

Colin DeForest

I would just quickly say that I think we have different positions but I'm totally against criminalization in this ordinance also so I think that there is some areas where we are and I think Jeffrey is and I think Teresa's so I would say that there are some different positions, but there are also some areas I think more so we're we're all agreeing, I'm not seeing hearing anyone say, we totally want to criminalize this and arrest people that aren't following this, because that's nothing that I've heard from anyone.

Gerrit Nyland

It chime in to the city of Tacoma has created a powerful narrative that resources are available, and people are refusing it. You know, month after month we've heard this narrative over years, and even the county, putting out numbers that are not true about how many people how many beds go on used every night. And I think part of this, I would love us to see it is can we create something that creates good programs for people experiencing homelessness, again, cops aren't going to make the rules, human rights and equity, it's going to make the rules right those kind of things, give me hope. But I think bringing the public on board, in a way that can help sustain funding for shelter and programs in the long term has some benefit. And so, if, if, if we need to. If we can do this in a way that doesn't harm our, our, you know, most vulnerable but provides some help, and gets a little more public support for an effort like this than that, that could be magical thinking, I am not not immune to the fact that, that I, you know



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can be projecting the way I wish the world was. And I've got a cute little poll, if you want me to do that at some point, Marie.

Maureen Howard

Yeah, let's, let's go ahead we're bumping time here.

Gerrit Nyland

So I put a little poll together and then you can wrap up after that.

Maureen Howard

Sounds good.

Gerrit Nyland

So, these are, Don't start clicking, you can click as many as you want. Basically, my question is, what are some things we would need for us to not hate or to maybe support a camping ban and, and I'm with Rob I'm not sure the coalition will end up being able to support something like this although we influence it structure we may not support the final product but. So the question is what would it take for us to support it. And there's an option here that says ain't gonna support it. No way, no how. Just want to make sure that's at the end. So, I'd support it if there's acceptable shelter options for everybody, right, if there's social service outreach as part of the work we're doing. If police are an absolute last option. If no police are involved ever. That's the only way I'd support this or I'd only support this if there was no jail time period, or only supported if there's no consequences for camping when shelter is available, not sure what that means exactly. That's the problem with me writing this and not getting anyone to review it. I only support it if there were no fines available. Again, no camping ban no matter what. Right, that's an option on the list, and I'd only do it if there's no permanent record of consequences, again, how real it is to make these happen right is a good question. But, and that's the goal and you can abstain. And I think this will just maybe help us to understand the room a little better each one of these is mushy and so don't feel like we're locking anything in. And I hate the timing too.

Rob Huff

Did we mention that this poll, there's really nothing binding, it's just trying to help inform the conversation. Thank you,

Gerrit Nyland Ross. Yeah, that's

Maureen Howard him today.



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Gerrit Nyland

The uses are mushy. Yeah, we're not making it, I just think it might help us to be like, oh, you know, if nobody every everybody fine with jail time then wow, I guess I miss read the room right, although I'm looking at it and that's not the case so far. All right, I'm gonna go ahead and here in like 10 seconds 98765432 and one. So, I am seeing that acceptable shelter absolutely must be available, social outreach is important, police as a last option. Not many people said no police involvement ever, which is somewhat surprising only 13% of no jail time was very important, and having no consequences again was not very popular so we want there to be a consequence and we're okay with some police involvement. But jail time and fines were seen not as attractive. So someone's got to put in in the in the chat what the consequences would be if it's not a fine or jail time because the city was having trouble as were we coming up with things like community service, you know, things like that look good. And only two people said no camping ban no matter what, which again surprises me. And then, most everybody was interested in no permanent record of consequences. So, I will make sure this is in the minutes so you can see it later on. Thank you, everybody, I'm going to leave it out for another couple minutes.

Maureen Howard

Sherry Jensen, I saw your comment in the chat and Councilmember Hi, Tom's did suggest that maybe community service could be linked to the Realejos new city, hire program. So start thinking,

do it, Sandy, by the way is on the call Sadie's our new hire supervisor so Rob, I'll connect with you, maybe and get Satie on the schedule for next Friday.

Rob Huff

That would be awesome.

Maureen Howard

And Jennifer Thanks Jennifer Emmons I just saw your note. Yeah, people with disabilities. It was one of the flags on the original ordinance. And I don't know that it got spelled out in the most current draft Garrett maybe you could make a note of that to check the most current draft to make sure we've got that language, clear. Thank you.

Rob Huff

All right, so it looks like we have hit 11 o'clock.

Maureen Howard

Can I just add one thing for everybody. Before we go, first of all thank you for trusting us to do this. The second thing is, if you're worried about the eviction moratorium and the new ruling on the CDCs legal



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ability. It does not affect Washington State. We are under Governor Inslee eviction moratorium. Our moratorium holds until the end of June right now.

Rob Huff

I see your hand out

on this has nothing to do with anything we've been talking about, but Michael Mira is retiring and it strikes me as a good thing to write a letter on behalf of the Homeless Coalition, thanking Michael for really outstanding service.

Rob Huff

And we probably should in that letter also recognize and offer our support for the new interim interim director, April black.

Al Ratcliffe

Yeah and we could invite Michael to join the Homeless Coalition.

Maureen Howard

Absolutely, yeah, people may not know that Michael when he was with Columbia legal services, was the attorney who, with the Washington State Coalition for the Homeless, which I chaired at the time. We brought the children's lawsuit, and Michael brought that to us. And eventually, we won was brought on behalf of homeless children and their families against the state of Washington, and the first settlement on Christmas Eve of 1997 was \$27 million.

Rosemary Powers

That's good al Are you volunteering to draft a letter. No,

I never volunteer for anything. Oh, I have not well known to be serious, I have not in a leadership position in terms of having a leadership title yeah

Rosemary Powers

we are all leadership here,

Maureen Howard but a title, I can come up with

Rob Huff



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the title. Orange really good at that. All right, I want to thank everybody for attending. I know a few folks have dropped off already but we have exceeded our time we managed to fill two hours I don't know how we did that. So, everybody have a great weekend, and if you want to hang on the call and help planning for the next few weeks Friday meetings, please do. Otherwise, see y'all next time.

Maureen Howard

Thanks everybody.