



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

Friday Coalition meeting Chat – May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

00:07:38 - Sara Irish: - Good morning amazing humans!

00:08:25 - Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): - Good morning, Sara!

00:12:41 - Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): - Zoom Norms

Mute yourself when not talking.

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

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

00:13:08 - Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): - Community Norms

Lead with a racial equity lens.

Be aware of power dynamics.

Challenge concepts, not people.

Listen to learn.

One person speaks at a time.

Speak from your own experience.

Make space, take space.

Assume best intentions and take responsibility for impact.

Be aware of time and agenda.

00:14:15 - Alan Brown: - Hi Carol - Good to see you!

00:15:31 - Dana Peterson: - Hi Shoko, great to see you again.

00:16:05 - Gerrit Nyland: - The link and information about the Racial Equity Discussion that Cynthia mentioned is posted on the Coalition website - <https://pchomeless.org/> (it is labeled "Special Meeting") in the list of coming meetings and events.

00:16:11 - Verna Lilly: - Welcome Shoko! Thank you for being here and for the service you provide your community.

00:16:42 - Cynthia Stewart: - Thanks, Gerri. If anyone wants a specific email with the link, please let me know.

00:18:23 - David Pozolinski: - My name is David Pozolinski. I am from A Step Ahead in Pierce County. We are a birth-three agency based out of Puyallup and I am here because some of the families we serve are homeless. This is my first time. Thank you for having me.

00:18:42 - Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): - Welcome, David

00:19:27 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Great to have someone from early childhood services here - glad to see you David!

00:19:35 - Kevin Glackin-Coley: - [kglackincoley@pchomeless.org](mailto:kglackincoley@pchomeless.org)

00:23:25 - Maureen Howard: - Jenny - are you getting a ByNameList?

00:28:21 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Can you remove the menu bar on the right and enlarge the slides please?

00:28:33 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Can't read the text

00:28:50 - Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): - I will share the slides in the chat.

00:29:39 - John Cain: - My Name is John Cain. I am with Saint Andrews Church. I am on the vestry committee. Jeffery Boyce suggested i come to this meeting. We are interested in doing more outreach in the community. Something came up and I will have to leave soon. But I will be back.

00:31:23 - Maurice Lekea: - Hi everyone, my name is Maurice Lekea, I am a Tacoma Refugee Choir member

00:32:07 - Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): - Welcome to the meeting this morning, John and Maurice!

00:32:43 - Maurice Lekea: - Thank you Rob

00:44:51 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Saydey: Well done!



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- 00:45:17 - Paula Anderson: - What a gift Saydey is to this program! Amazing!
- 00:45:43 - Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): - Fantastic!
- 00:45:57 - Sherrilla Bivens APRI-Tacoma: - Fantastic
- 00:46:07 - saydey Spears: - thank you guys I appreciate it.
- 00:47:05 - Danyelle Smith: - thank you for sharing @saydey beautiful turn around and job well done helping the community
- 00:47:11 - janne hutchins: - do you hire out to do landscaping for individuals?
- 00:50:20 - saydey Spears: - I actually never thought about that I will see what that looks like if I could get your contact we could discuss that together
- 00:51:11 - saydey Spears: - here is my contact info: (253) 392-4014
- 00:51:26 - Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): - Thank you, Saydey!
- 00:51:45 - saydey Spears: - welcome
- 00:51:55 - Sherrilla Bivens APRI-Tacoma: - Is there a way to adopt a site to support
- 00:52:45 - Paula Anderson: - What a powerful statement "The reflection is still us". We need to have uninformed community members check their reflection...
- 00:53:43 - Sherrilla Bivens APRI-Tacoma: - Location please
- 00:53:52 - Verna Lilly: - I think it'd be great to have a quick interview on the street be a regular feature of these meetings
- 00:53:54 - Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): - This is at S. 34th and Pacific Avenue
- 00:54:25 - Danyelle Smith: - thank you for this authentic conversation
- 00:54:42 - Rachel Ahrens: - Kim, you have an encouraging and positive spirit. You are valuable to those at the camp. I admire your strong attitude
- 00:54:45 - Shoko Yoshikawa: - Just wondering if the city folks CMs ever attend your meeting?? I assume they are invited.
- 00:55:17 - Laurie Davenport: - Thank you Kim, you are a great spirit!
- 00:56:17 - Shannel Janzen: - Thank you so much for sharing! I also hope that this is something we can have weekly. This is so important.
- 00:57:28 - Danyelle Smith: - safety and basic needs met
- 00:59:06 - Dee-Dee Gethers: - Sorry guys, gotta go to my next interview. Thank you for what you all are doing.
- 01:05:24 - Greg Walker: - Was it recorded? Would she be willing to let us use it for a messaging campaign?
- 01:05:47 - Rob Huff - MDC (he/him): - Great question, Greg.
- 01:13:47 - Kevin Glackin-Coley: - From group 1:
- 01:14:09 - Cynthia Stewart: - Messaging – Group 9

Facts vs Myths: Not unsheltered because they are bad people  
People don't realize a lot are young adults, foster care, undocumented perhaps,  
Reentry, get lost in the system

Get TNT to do a specific article or series featuring people living on the street to talk about why they are homeless and what struggles they are experiencing to get out of homelessness

Individuals sharing own lived experience is best messaging

Stories about how some people did get back into housing



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Explain the barriers to housing vouchers; people who have them can't actually use them

Alternative economy; not crime; people do not have anywhere else to go

Drugs and mental health are not the primary reasons people are homeless; do not need to fear for your children in the neighborhood

01:14:12 - Laurie Davenport: - from Group 11? Andrea, Shoko, Kelly, Laurie

Sharing open conversations with unhoused people – open dialog has an impact, more people talking about their experience will demystify for people.

One person's story has a huge impact vs. dry data – need the human piece, these are people

Counter the narrative, people thinking that homeless people don't want help

More data, plans, realistic goals -- sometimes helping causes more problems, people aren't really informed – educate the public with data

Post stories on social media – share personal stories

We need hundreds of solutions – it's complicated

01:14:33 - Maureen Howard: - Re Kim - Colin is getting her signed ok for the Coalition to use the recording in a messaging campaign

01:14:48 - Duane Parker: - I do not know which room I was in: 1.) - What message needs to be given to the public?

That there are humans out there and they need help.

We lump them into a group called the homeless and this is not a monoculture. Each person has their individual issue. The public needs to know this.

Humanize the human labels make it an "other" issue.

2.) - How do we get it out?

One size does not fit all so getting the message out.

When working with systems we need to tailor the message so that they see the benefit. This could be money related we can save money if they are housed!

Let the people tell their own story and doing good propaganda for the population a counter narrative. News Tribune or YouTube channels with interviews could be a way.

A public fund can be put together that can be used to clean the public spaces.

01:15:03 - Al Ratcliffe: - I posted a study by the Frameworks Institute about how to reframe Homelessness. Solid, evidence-based info. Please read. Al Ratcliffe

01:15:09 - Kelly Blucher: - Thank you Laurie!

01:15:28 - Paula Anderson: - Group 4 Get the stories out. Rename homelessness by telling the story first,, such as this person is mentally ill and also happens to be homeless. Homelessness is the situation they are in, not who they are.,



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- 01:15:40 - Stephanie Schermerhorn: - Notes from Breakout also group 4: Humanize , through narratives and story telling (of the people persons) experiencing homelessness, through small groups (church, clubs, etc.) Add an ask... what can the public do what can individuals do to help
- 01:16:12 - Cynthia Stewart: - Site design should be done by people who might use the site, not just us
- 01:16:32 - Kevin Glackin-Coley: - Group 1 - What messages: 101/201 poverty presentations to community partners, businesses and organizations. Provide an outlet for people experiencing homelessness (or who have experienced homelessness) to share their stories. Family members of people experiencing homelessness sharing their stories. In short, creating ways to put a human face on those with a lived experience. Where: multi-media approach.
- 01:17:19 - Laurie Davenport: - Something like 'Humans of New York' on Instagram
- 01:17:20 - Carol Colleran: - Group 5 very much like Group 1
- 01:17:24 - TIEGAN TIDBALL: - [www.cityoftacoma.org/authorizedencampments](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/authorizedencampments)
- 01:17:27 - Janet Runbeck: - Rm 10: #1 = The message must address the stigma. All persons can contribute. Get close to a person who lives homeless. Have the passion to do myth busting & plant a vision. What is needed is the right support, for this group of folks who have no support. #2 = Disseminate message directly to elected officials. Use the new Speakers Bureau. Be aspirational & creative.
- 01:17:31 - Andrea Kelley: - YES! Laurie!!!
- 01:17:31 - TIEGAN TIDBALL: - <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7142/Rental-Assistance>
- 01:17:37 - TIEGAN TIDBALL: - City Authorized Emergency Shelter Sites - City of Tacoma
- 01:17:42 - TIEGAN TIDBALL: -   
<https://cityoftacoma.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4915056&GUID=D2AE7951-0BAD-46B9-B262-8C59A2DD43A4&Options=&Search=>
- 01:17:47 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Idea from Tiegan: focus on special populations. Idea from Rosemary: engage housed neighbors who care about animals in helping to make it easier for unhoused neighbors to keep and care for their pets
- 01:17:51 - Dionne Jacobson: - Laurie, what a great idea!
- 01:18:13 - CC Mendoza: - Our group came up with the following: 1. letters to editor. 2. Podcasts. 3. Testimonials from neighbors who support having the sites in their neighborhood who are were initially against it but now support the ones in their neighborhood, they have made the human connection and have empathy. 4. a Facebook page campaign. 5. Getting a local celebrity to be the face of our campaign like the Trufants.
- 01:18:42 - Laurie Davenport: - Those are great ideas! A podcast would be terrific.
- 01:19:00 - Verna Lilly: - Group 12  
Messaging
- - Other agencies want accurate data to inform their services
  - - Clear up misconception that people don't want help, that being houseless is something they choose
- Delivery
- - Have those on the street quickie interviews be a regular feature of these meetings and invite people to come
  - - Make a documentary
    - o - Interview people who are houseless
    - o - Interviewers model treating all people with dignity
    - o - Ask what they want/need from their perspective – clear up assumptions that outsiders make about them
- 01:22:39 - Carol Colleran: - Are these vouchers for Covid issues only?



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- 01:24:23 - RoxAnne Simon: - Breakout 7:Kim's messaging  
Public Safety \$ not safety for everyone  
How do we get elected officials to listen- getting people in front of legislative and local representatives- public comment sessions- share stories  
Educate and inform those who control purse strings  
Individuals experiencing homelessness to tell their stories- how it happened. Real experience- permission given to put on social media. Find a way to compensate individual who shares information.
- 01:25:07 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Carol: these voucher are not reserved for only people affected by Covid
- 01:25:10 - Stephanie Schermerhorn: - Personally beyond humanizing I think we need to really include change the understanding of housed folks that the living in encampments , cars etc. are their neighbors, they already are part of our community they are not other.
- 01:25:47 - Laurie Davenport: - I agree that's the basic message, these are our neighbors.
- 01:27:07 - Barbara Kaelberer: - Which organization is doing the continuum of care
- 01:27:50 - Danyelle Smith: - yes please prioritize the vouchers
- 01:31:55 - Janet Runbeck: - There is no receiving house for victims leaving trafficking. There is matching money for this need.
- 01:32:02 - Sherri Jensen: - Maureen- (my power died at my house so I had to run down to my office, sorry if I've missed this) Could a private developer such as Domatach or Alpine NW Properties purchase, with MOUs with providers to operate? Moreover, is there funding for for-profit developers?
- 01:40:30 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Thy: sorry you haven't been around for the conversations about the issues you bring up.
- 01:41:51 - Sherri Jensen: - No one here is an advocate for the criminalization of homelessness. Maureen and other leaders here have done a great job in creating an ordinance that does the least amount of harm
- 01:42:02 - Colin DeForrest: - Great statement. sounds like you should get more involved. Thy come out to the sites with us!
- 01:42:09 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - I think we can work with housed people and elected officials and people with a wide range of perspectives such as yours. Collaboration is our way out of this.
- 01:42:26 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Thank you for sharing your thoughts
- 01:43:27 - Lee Barker: - Colin, we are on the streets everyday. Thank you
- 01:44:27 - thy nguyen: - my comrades are out on the streets building with folks multiple times a week as a grassroots organizing group. we solidly stand against collaborating with oppressors. "least harm" is violent when this is a life and death issue. "least harm" has and continues to harm BIPOC and poor folks. anything less than housing justice is violent and upholds systemic oppression.
- 01:54:04 - Carol Colleran: - What about Larry Seaquist?
- 01:56:03 - Paula Anderson: - Congrats Maureen!
- 01:56:24 - Gina May: - Congrats Maureen!
- 01:56:35 - Maureen Howard: - Thanks everyone.
- 01:56:36 - Janet Runbeck: - Thy, we need your narrative of the collective story on the street, especially in relation to the journey into homelessness.
- 01:58:06 - Richard Berghammer: - nominate Mike Boisture
- 01:58:34 - Sherri Jensen: - Inominate Paula Anderson
- 01:59:49 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Thy expressed an important perspective. It is unfortunate that her visit was so brief and so critical of a group of people she does not know. Had she stayed she might have seen some commonalities and goodness in others. Thanks to Thy and her comrades for the good work they do and to all of you for the good work you are doing too.



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02:00:27 - CC Mendoza: - Yes human connection and engagement.  
02:00:45 - Colin DeForrest: - Collaboration and compromise is key to progress moving forward.  
02:01:24 - Paula Anderson: - Mike has my vote!  
02:01:33 - Sherri Jensen: - Mike will be AMAZING  
02:03:42 - Sherri Jensen: - I thought there was going to be 2. Sorry! :)  
02:03:45 - Gina May: - lol  
02:05:34 - CC Mendoza: - Congratulations!!!!  
02:05:56 - Sheila Miraflor: - Yes! Fearless Leader is back!  
02:05:58 - Gerald Daniels: - Congrats  
02:06:11 - Colin DeForrest: - Mike!!!  
02:06:21 - CC Mendoza: - Congratulations Kelly!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
02:06:30 - Colin DeForrest: - so much for retiring Mike!  
02:08:03 - RoxAnne Simon: - Online sales is fun. I worked there years ago  
02:08:30 - Kelly Blucher: - Kelly Blucher [kellyb@goodwillwa.org](mailto:kellyb@goodwillwa.org)  
02:09:05 - Gerrit Nyland: - We've created a new Workforce Development listserv - join it at -  
<https://pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>