



# Coalition to End Homelessness Provider Meeting Transcript - Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

landlords, coalition, meeting, vouchers, tacoma, day, encampments, site, chat, community, maureen, great, juneteenth, county, cmr, folks, shelter, pierce county, people, email

## SPEAKERS

Christine Lindquist, Ben Miksch, CC Mendoza, Emma Seal, Gerrit Nyland, Laureen Tomich, Kevin Roberts, Laurie Davenport, Mark Melsness, Rob Huff, Keith Helmka, Kimberly Ellefson, Rosemary Powers, Wolf, Paul LaKosky, Colin DeForest, Kristen Ely, Jeffrey Boyce, Janet Runbeck, Maureen Howard, Alan Brown, Valeri Knight, Jenny Lorton, Theresa Power-Drutis

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## CC Mendoza

All righty. Good morning everybody. Glad to see you all. Welcome to the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, I always stumble over that I'm CC Mendoza, I work at MDC I'm the manager of community engagement. At this point I'd like to welcome anybody that is new, who has not been here before, if you would please introduce yourselves.

## Laureen Tomich

Hi I'm Doreen Thomas from elevate health. Hi Lorraine welcome. Thank you. Glad to be here. How did you hear about us, actually I've been on your distribution list for. Since you guys started it. And Jan runback invited me today, wonderful welcome. Thank you.

## Wolf

I am Wolf. I'm here to represent Food Not Bombs today.

## CC Mendoza

Hi. Well, welcome. What brought you to us today.



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Our other boats who usually represent at this meeting, have are going on a hike today. So I'm one of other folks from the organizing team, who they asked to show up in their stead. To let y'all know what's going on with our work and to come up.

## **CC Mendoza**

All right, thank you. I like your cat.

## **Christine Lindquist**

Hey there, I'm Christine linquist and I'm with Washington healthcare access Alliance, we're the state's free clinic Association, and I am here on invitation, also from Jan Ron Beck,

## **CC Mendoza**

welcome Christine We're glad you're here

## **Kevin Roberts**

for everyone. I could wait. Okay. Good morning my name is Kevin Roberts I work with CMR community health clinics. I am the program manager for the chat team, the Community Health Action Team that provides the homeless outreach, medical, behavioral health and care coordination services and I was invited by General runback as well meet everyone. One of my team members has been faithfully in the meeting Marilyn new thingies that are in that works on my team, and I'm just excited to meet everybody and just see how we can all collaborate,

## **Paul LaKosky**

wonderful welcome. Hey everyone, I am Pawlikowski I'm not actually new to this group. I just haven't attended in a while, I am the Executive Director of Dave purchase project and we run the Tacoma needle exchange.

## **CC Mendoza**

Welcome back. Nice to see you. We have a lot of new people today, anybody else.

## **Emma Seal**

Hi, my name is Emma, I actually also previously joined. I switched organizations and now I'm back at here through pioneer Human Services.

## **CC Mendoza**

Welcome back, Emma glad to see you.

## **Ben Miksch**

Good morning, I did. Oh, Ben, Ben mix with United Healthcare I had been previously attending sopro in a while. And Jen asked a document coming back today. All right.

## **CC Mendoza**



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Glad to have you back. Jan you need to get some gold stars today. Anybody else. Welcome all of you newcomers returners and all of you that are here, we, we glad to have you. I wanted to just read something really quick before I hand it back over to Rob. Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts. Happy Friday, everybody.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you so you see Thanks for welcoming everyone this morning and hope everybody's having a good Friday morning. Let's get started like we do every week with a quick, a few minutes of quick updates about what's going on out on the streets, this week, so does anybody have any updates needs, I see Jeffrey's hand go up first, I'll get to you, Jeffrey.

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

Good morning everyone. Yesterday I spent about four hours out visiting about six different camps. For those with Food Not Bombs and Jan. the one gentleman that we got down to American lake was told to go to the Seattle hospital, he ended up back in camp. So, oh, probably a little frustration. Also on the encampment 14th and Yakima saw a new tent there that was more tall, and out, spread out, were two people, one woman was sitting in there and I asked how they were doing and she says well I might need a midwife here pretty soon. And I said, Oh, what is your situation, have you seen a doctor at all. No, not at all. I'm only guessing she's probably second trimester, possibly third could really use a nurse to check in on her. She's at the Campement on 14th in Yakima. I did run into on seventh and karma, A woman who had been at the 509 and counting. And she bailed out there. The night of the shooting, and other Nat, everyone is just hoping and praying so hard that we can get some movement in the city in the county and get safe places for everyone. I hear that consistently out of everyone. They just want a safe place to be. So for that we'll pass this on to the next.

## **Rob Huff**

Well, if I see your hand up.

Yeah, so to update on what's been going on for us and since the I guess the last meeting which was last Thursday, and Medic teams have been at camps, almost every day of the week. And we've been doing follow up care five times to change the bandages repack the wound of the gunshot victim. Yesterday we deployed to kill up land, to take care of a woman who had suffered a machete injury from a DB situation, and overall we've done other various treatments over the week for infections and wound care management because a lot of these people, you know don't want to go to the hospital and won't go to the hospital because of how they treat them in the hospital. And yeah, we get calls, and we have gotten calls this week from people who we don't know but we have that reputation now where people know to call us and they get our information through their friends and whatnot. So that's how we went to PR but we didn't know those people but they had gotten our information through the grapevine and they gave us a call and said, going to the hospital. And that we've been continuing our programs for distribution been bringing food and water to the camps regularly, which is certainly a help, are a big part



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of our health management programs, and also doing needle exchange and all of our harm reduction work. So yeah, Lots of work going on in the past week.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you for all that you're doing Wolf and further report. Kimberly, I see your hand up as well.

### **Kimberly Ellefson**

Hi, I'm with the Tacoma rescue mission outreach and we've been out to the 69th in Proctor, about three times, trying to get in texten, and we have offered shelter. The problem is, is that there are couples that are unmarried without children, and they don't want to be separated, which I understand when your home is when you're being taken out of your home and the last bit of support that you have is the person that you with. So that's been a difficulty.

### **Rob Huff**

Kimberly you said that was at 69th and proctor so the city site that they're looking to make another encampment, yes. Okay, thank you for that update and we have time for one more. If anybody else has anything to share. Okay. If you do have additional information to share and you'd prefer to do it in chat that's always an avenue and as a reminder, we do use the chat, save the chat, and use that as kind of a repository for information that's used to be reviewed after each meeting so please use that if you have additional information or needs to share. Alright so I'm going to move to our first presentation that Jan worked so hard to get folks here for, and that is, I'll hand it over to Laureen Thomas from elevate health, to talk about the health care needs of those who are currently homeless and what elevate Health's doing in the community right now, Laurie.

Thank you Rob. And thank you everyone, I'm glad to be here. I was just going to share the work that we're doing, I am the manager of clinical integration for elevate health. I started there in February so I'm fairly new, and prior to that you may know me. Some of you may know me from my 21 years at Virginia Mason Franciscan health and their care management department I had various roles there. And I'm sorry, several years ago, even before elevate health was in existence we are a, I may just share what elevate health is, we are in Accountable Communities of Health for Pierce County. There's nine in the state of Washington. They were kind of constructed under the Medicaid transformation work that was going on. It's a five year project where our goal is, we're to be neutral conveners, coordinating body and connection point between the healthcare delivery system and the local community. And our mission is to build and drive community coalition's that transform health systems in advance whole person, health for all and so we've recognized that the homeless has been an issue here in Pierce County for a while, long time actually, and even prior to elevate health the hospitals were very interested in developing a medical respite center. And we MultiCare in Virginia Mason Franciscan health had many discussions with different people, and it never really went anyplace. When elevate health came, they brought people together, and we formed a group and designed a medical respite center, it was a pilot, it was for hospital discharges. It was focused on the IV drug use, substance use, a person who had severe infections like osteomyelitis or an infection in their heart. They needed long term antibiotic course which



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needed to be given IV to control their infection. And we also wanted to give them wraparound services because we really felt that their disease process is a kind of a reaction to their true problem which is their substance use history. So, elevate health again brought many people together, we ended up designing. We like the circle the city model that's in Phoenix, some of you may be aware of that. We knew that that would take two years or three years to get a true center going so we wanted to do something quicker. So we did develop a program that we call the pilot it we had several partners. See Mr Kevin Robins team with chat was there in Virginia Mason and MultiCare with referral systems, Pioneer Human Services was the housing coordinator, and transportation. And then they also provided case management as did Kevin's team, and we had Corum home infusion involved. So we were looking for patients in the hospital who were medically stable needed to finish their treatment were able to take care of themselves, they had to be able to shower, they had to be cognitively intact to give their IV antibiotics because we took the concept as this was their home, and we were applying the home infusion concept. So we started off good intentions, we learned tons from that the pilot is officially closed. What we realized is we needed a respite center that actually had providers on staff, we had a lot of patients who were higher acuity they didn't quite have the concept of how to give the IV antibiotic, they were weak they retired from being in the hospital, some weren't really interested in going but it, it didn't quite work, we just couldn't get the providers on site like we wanted to, and the arrangement that we had with Pioneer with their other populations in the center that we used on the tide plants really limited who we could, who they could take was so when I came to elevate health one of my tasks was to resume the discussion about medical respite, and I have done that I send out a community survey to many of you. And thank you all for those who took my calls and my emails and chatted with me to get more ideas. And so, so far we've had two

meetings, what I proposed and still propose is a true medical respite center, it's a building, but we have an open door entry policy. What I learned from the Pioneer program, and also with Catholic Community Services nativity house, the hospitals had an arrangement with them. We had a lot of people from the community calling us going, I want one of those beds I need a bed we had outpatient surgeon's office Cognis going. I'm not going to do this person, this homeless person surgery until you make sure that he can have a bed at the respite center to recuperate and primary care offices called we had Ambulatory Care Management calling is with someone they were working with in the community needing a bed. So it really opened my eyes to we needed to do a bigger project, have a bigger vision. And so through the last two meetings, everybody likes that idea. But Jan and others who have joined us really opened our eyes that there are people out in the encampments that will never come to a medical respite center, you just described some that won't even come to the hospital. So what we're looking at and this is all pie in the sky yet, is a medical respite center. Plus, continuing the homeless outreach that everybody is doing to work in tandem, so that the people out in seeing somebody in the encampment, they may not go to the hospital or need the hospital, but maybe they would be willing to come to the medical respite center to get treatment. So it again, works in tandem works in collaboration. What we really want to do is provide wraparound services that was always one of our goals, we would like providers on site we realized we need some of these patients are very weak from just being in the hospital. We'd like a little bit more hands on care from like nursing assistants, if possible, nurses or nurse practitioners actually



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being able to give the treatments like wound care and IV antibiotics. We definitely need behavioral health I did a lot of research and that was one thing that all the respite centers said was, I asked him what was on their wish list, they said more behavioral health specialists because they need this. We need case management for resourcing, navigation, there it's, it's huge. We were hoping to get even physical therapy involved for some of these patients too so. Where we're at right now is, we're continuing this work, I'm the convener, As far as elevate health. We have started a small steering committee that was one of our last decisions and we have several people on that committee that we'll be bringing together to really guide the work and pioneer wants to continue to be the operations manager for the center which is great news. A lot of this is going to be based on finances and that's why I reached out to many of you who have much more knowledge than I do about the funding that's available right now, but I also learned that at the Edward Thomas house in Seattle, and the one in Yakima the net neighborhood clinic shelter there, the managed care organizations are actually contributing funds to some of their enrollees who are at the respite center which is a big plus we never had that before. This was totally hospital funded before so our goal, I guess to is also what we shared at the last meeting was to really build a partnership. We don't want to discharge these patients back to the street. We really want to have a smooth transition for the next set of care, but we do need to consider that patients can't stay at the Medical respite center we have to have people going with throughput, in order to get the next client. In who needs the care so, but we don't want to drop anybody and we want to make sure there is, as I said a smooth transition. So, you know, possibilities of, you know, even if it's going to another shelter, going to a tiny village going to some supportive housing or permanent housing would be great, but also some of these patients that we've seen really need more of an assisted living, type of care. They just, I've been shocked to see that how people are surviving on the streets, I've just been amazed. So, we have talking with Cascade. They're interested in seeing if we can maybe partner with them for some of these patients who, who need that level. So we're building it. And I know we're going to need to do probably some blended and braided funding to keep this going, that's always a big threat for any new project for sustainability. So that's where we're at.

Any questions I'm happy to take any Rob I don't know if we have time for that, before our breakout session.

### **Rob Huff**

Um, we probably have a couple of minutes here and there has been some content coming through in the chat with people thanking you for the work, and offering some more links to related information. Any other health care partners who are on the call, would you like to speak at all about the work you're doing to serve this population briefly before we get into a breakout discussion.

### **Keith Helmka**

Hi, this is Keith. Social Work manager at Virginia Mason Franciscan health. I'm more of a listener than a speaker at these meetings and I turned on every other Friday cadence. So I don't I don't know if anybody's always wondering why I'm popping in and popping out. I am working with Lorraine and representing our healthcare system as part of this work. I just see one of the chats from comments from



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Haley. Haley if that is one of our hospitals sending patients and gowns to the mission. I would love to hear about it I can't claim, I can't take any responsibility for anybody coming out of multi care but any just in time opportunities for any of that kind of treatment we really want to, we really want to correct. Anyway, we're, you know we're appreciative of Lorraine's stewardship of this work and collaboration. I'm certainly grateful that the coalition is an integral part of her design. So, that's about it.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, thank you. Thank you, Keith. So we are running a little bit tight on time, I want to hand it over to Jan to set up our breakout discussions and what we're hoping to learn from the expertise of folks in the room today.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Thank you Rob. And thank you everybody for attending. Um, the reason why you're all here is because your lives, somehow touches the lives of those who live homeless here in Tacoma Pierce County, and I don't do anything unless I got data. And the only way to get data is to talk to everybody in the field who knows their bit of the subject. So today we're going to collect qualitative data. We're going to go into breakout sessions. And I want everybody, if you're a, a, outreach worker, if you're a provider of any sort, whatever your experience has been, as far as those who live homeless here, and the medical needs that you either treated perceive or anticipate. We want to know what is going on here in Tacoma and Pierce County, with those who live homeless, and are not availing themselves of health care since Obamacare passed, everybody that is on the street qualifies for at least Medicaid. So the big barrier up until 2014 was actually coverage, nobody would pay the bill. Right, so they couldn't go to the hospital because you couldn't pay the bill, you, you go to bankruptcy court after that. This population has a different issue with accessing care we've already somebody already talked about it. It's trust, it's transportation, it's not leaving your partner at the after shelter, it's not leaving your pet, it's whatever The way you're treated in the big box systems, it's a variety of reasons, we need to know this. I am thrilled to see that we've got Kevin here from CMR, we've got all kinds of Paula here from the Puyallup area Keith is here from Franciscan Ben is here from United Healthcare, a coverage provider. Dr Makowski is here from Tacoma needle exchange, every and all of you outreach workers, you've got these stories, Jeffrey just talked about a few of them. So we're gonna break out into a go into breakout sessions. I want two things answered. What are the medical needs that you have seen or heard, in your experience with those who live homeless here, either in congregate setting encampments, cars, however the setting is, I want the stories, quantify as much as you can. And then the second story is, what are the second question would be What can we as a coalition do. There's already a lot of movement Laurie thank God for Lauren and elevate health that can kind of aggregate the stories because when the big boxes say well we don't want to pay for people being in the hospitals because we don't want to pay for IV infusion since Medicaid is not going to reimburse it there, all of you in the room know that there are other urgent medical needs, besides the PICC lines, right. I mean the PICC lines is just one aspect because they're hospitals and they have loud voices they get the attention, Lauren is talking about an opportunity for us to have an all door open access to a system. So, when, when Rob does his magic we're putting us in rooms, somebody in the room needs to take notes and put it in the chat, because the breakout rooms are not recorded, so take notes, talk about what you've



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seen, talk about what you think the needs are and then take to whatever extent you can, maybe some ideas, so I'll shut up and carry on.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you for setting that up Jan. And so what I'm going to do is set everybody up in rooms of five to six people. These are randomly assigned. So, you know, it's going to be a diversity of folks and a diversity of voices but as Jan said just have somebody capturing the notes in a qualitative manner and we will move forward and look forward to seeing that in the chat so we're going to do this for, why don't we do this for roughly 13 minutes to stick with our agenda. Here we go. And as always if you end up in this room, it means you didn't go to the breakout room I know some folks are multitasking so they can't, so that's fine. And I will be here and this, this non room with you for the time that we're in breakouts. We'll probably be in breakouts until about 940 Yeah.

## < Breakout Sessions >

## **Rob Huff**

Welcome back everybody. Hopefully that was a productive conversation in the breakouts. Look forward to compiling this information as a reminder, please put the information that you gathered into the chat just paste it in as plain text, that allows us to, to be able to look back at it if you send us an attachment. We have to grab that during the meeting because we, that doesn't get included in the chat log. So, it's easiest just to cut and paste it into the chat, so that we can gather all that information. I do want to thank Jan again for pulling everybody together for this topic, and any last words before we move on to the next item in the agenda Jan

## **Janet Runbeck**

healthcare for all.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Jan. All right. So the next item in our agenda and I'm trying to see, Alan, are you ready to do a walkthrough for us. I see you on camera there. We can hear you.

## **Alan Brown**

All right. Yes, I'm ready.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay, Great. So Alan's gonna do a walkthrough of the family day center that's been remodeled and we'll see, we'll see how this goes.

## **Alan Brown**

All right. And this morning, I have a camera person. So hopefully this won't be like a Blair Witch Project tour. But here we are at 5050 So, Home Away. Our Family day center, our family, building looks like.



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So, other things we did with the data center. Since we started doing drop in coordinated entry appointments, prior to the pandemic, our lobby was getting pretty full for drop in coordinated entry. So one of the things we did with this project was to expand our lobby space, so that we had more room for people to come in and also so they can space safe. Well, we added a coffee bar to the lobby. We're not quite finished outfitting that but, so people can be comfortable when they come in or if they're waiting for an appointment. New reception area. Mr day Senator Cruz. Robert, and Daniel and Chalon is here as well. So, anyone can drop in for coordinated entry, whether their families or singles, Monday through Friday, and we have just added weekend hours as well for our coordinated entry. Now the day center is reserved for families. We've also expanded our day center hours. So Monday through Friday from 9am until 7pm. We, we, we close to late on, we fall asleep on. I'm sorry we opened late on Wednesday mornings at noon. Let's come into the data. and I'll see if we have to, one of which people with babies. This is the data center space where families can be. We have a kitchen, refrigerator, so families come in to come in and make their own meal, lunch, or dinner, or we also have food delivered. Often, usually sack lunches every day, Monday through Friday. I didn't mentioned, we're also expanding to have weekend hours for families, nine to five so families can come in on Saturdays and Sundays and holidays as well. Now in the file. So this is the data center space. As you can see we have some separations at the table. We also require masks in new frequent cleaning and space over in this corner, we have a couple of computer stations, can you mention who runs. They're asking. Oh, who runs the data center. Who is it belong to Catholic Community Services family housing network services family housing. Thank you Amber person. We have a case manager, addiction, patient manager here to help families with resources. Now the day center, you know, for families experiencing homelessness, who may be in a situation. They may have a place to be at night they may be in their car and need a place to be during the day, in order to take a shower, do laundry, get connected with services. That's our case managers job, if they're looking for shelter. Our case manager will try to run with evening shelter like we have a relationship with Adam screen Salvation Army, and, and try to figure that out. Also, again, they can get an immediate Coordinated Entry appointment as well. So let's look at the rest of the facility, laundry, as well. This is our laundry room, three washers and freeze dryers. And that's a popular need. Now since the pandemic started. We had a drop in the number of families that have visited. And then,

### **Rob Huff**

just so you know Alan here video her your audio is cutting out we're seeing the video but now the video went away. I think you may be in a spot where you don't have great Wi Fi coverage,

### **Alan Brown**

temporarily relocate. We lost some of our constituents. Oh, okay. Do I need better.

### **Rob Huff**

Now we can see you again.

### **Alan Brown**



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Okay. Yeah, we've hooked up Wi Fi in this space. This is the other big part of the project, We had this space that we created to provide capacity for our walking Coordinated Entry appointments, and also meeting spaces for our other programs that we provide like rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing, but also our intention with this space is to have a place where other related services can come in and have some time and some space that will be available to our families that come in, for example, employment services, mental health services that VA has scheduled a weekly time to be here and available to veterans that we serve. So we've created. Eight, meeting rooms in this space. Somebody's been there. This is, this is filming on the fly. Live coverage. This is comfortable as possible. So if there are other providers with related services that for families. Talk to me, let me know. And again we can try to provide provide space for that, as it's available. So that's our, That's our new space.

## **Rob Huff**

Awesome Alan, thank you. Did any questions come in through the chat. So Maureen asked if if you folks have any Spanish speaking staff to serve clients who

## **Alan Brown**

do. In fact, the person holding the camera are rapid rehousing SSVF manager, Patti Spaulding fluent speaks Spanish. And we have other folks on staff as well speak Spanish in VR. And we are at 5050, South Dakota way. And again, open from nine to seven. Noon to seven on Wednesdays at nine to five on weekends.

## **Rob Huff**

Fantastic, thank you so much for doing a walkthrough Alan, it was part Blair Witch Project, but it was better having an actual camera person so thank you Patty for doing that as well. You're welcome. All right. We will keep innovating, you know, at some point, here we are going to be able to get these coalition meetings back in person. That's the goal. But until then, and maybe even after we're doing that, I, this is a great opportunity to do a little beam ourselves from one place to another and I know it's not perfect but it's cool to see what other organizations are doing. So let's move on on our agenda. The next item that I have is, Maureen. If you could give an update on the first meeting of the comprehensive plan to end homelessness group at the county level,

## **Maureen Howard**

love to thank you. So those of you who are new to the coalition, or to our meeting so I represent the coalition on the steering committee of the Pierce County comprehensive plan to end homelessness, and that's by order of the Pierce County Council that we exist, as does the shelter work group that Mike moisture represents the coalition on. And there are other people who are active in the coalition who are in both of those groups, but Mike and I represent the coalition that's our job. And part of that is to report to you and to ask you for input, all that sort of thing. So, the first meeting was held, of the steering committee was held last Friday, and there was no public access, there was a glitch. We had a link that the county had provided, but they made a technical change prior to the meeting and the structure of the meeting and the link didn't work, nor was the meeting recorded. Apparently, there are different public access rules for Pierce County departments, then this is now shifted to Pierce County Human Services



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and before that out an ad hoc committee was a county council staffed project. So, we are continuing to request of Pierce County Human Services, that the meetings be publicly available and that they'd be recorded. We were told that staff did take notes, but I haven't seen any notes, they may be on the website, the website shifted from the county council operating it to Pierce County Human Services and I just forgot to look. So, the Public Access is important. Usually when this happens, the public is not allowed to actually participate in the meeting, but you can watch it, you can, and you can listen to it so. And I think that they have to be recorded, because I think that they have so many conversations take place and people always hear things differently. And I think it's just, you know, incumbent on them to do this. So, as far as staffing for the, for our meeting last Friday, Shawn Danner line whom some of you know from his work with the county, just now with providence and anyway he volunteered as the facilitator and did a really nice job. Garrett, as you know is in conversations with the county, about a project manager role. Once that is finalized he'll let the coalition know, and we'll sort out his responsibilities with the coalition, so he doesn't have any conflicts that, that we can see. And then the county has made some internal staff changes we assign people to staff. These committees for the, the length of these committees. And then they're also doing some hiring for three year positions or up to three years. It appears to me that with this steering committee, we're only going to meet for two hours once a month, we'll meet the Third Thursday, Friday of each month from now, through December from. I have to look it up. From 130 to 330, and we will end it appears to me that this Pierce County staff is going to do the bulk of the work. Our communication is through Garrett, as the presumed project manager right now but that's being sorted out. Some of you who have had to set up a new email address this for my emails will appreciate that Heather Boston, the director of Pierce County Human Services did say that we would receive no more than 20 emails between meetings so as not to clog our boxes. The, what else. A couple of interesting things process wise one is, so we adopted the norms principles that the ad hoc committee had set up for how they would operate, and ask for clarifying. I asked for clarification on consensus, like like, how do you, if consensus is how you make decisions. What if you can't come to consensus. I've been in those groups before. And so, there is a process the simple process to work through, but ultimately, there could be a minority report on something so I thought that was a reasonable solution that doesn't stop things from moving forward. Our report is due to Pierce County Council the end of November, our plan, the buckets that we set up, shelter, medical, I brought that one, housing, and prevention council member Ned wedding from Puyallup is extraordinarily strong and forceful on prevention and on housing. Also data and funding. And with respect to the data. Some of that is I think asking the right questions, so that the county can provide answers that maybe they haven't given us before because we haven't had the right questions to put to them, what else. Oh, that continuum of care, and the city of Tacoma representatives, both stated that they will align their existing and coming plans with the comprehensive plan to end homelessness, that we develop. So, questions, comments, you can put them in the chat. We might have a minute right now you can always email me, and you can always call and I'll take whatever you give, especially, there's going to be. So the way this is going to work, We're going to have a draft plan, fairly soon. All right. And then we're going to take that out on a broad spectrum of community engagement that all of these things are listed in the ad hoc report. And after the there's community engagement on this plan, then we go back and finalize it based on what we hear. So, this is not going to be like an injection, you're not going to get a final plan kind of thing, it's a process that you can be involved in, With through the coalition,



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through your own organization through your own associations, through yourself as an individual, so plan for that over the coming months and plan to take advantage of those opportunities.

## **Rob Huff**

So Maureen I do see al asked a question in the chat in the proposed budget will medical include dental,

## **Maureen Howard**

you know I didn't call it out, but I certainly will. We call it out, physical, medical, and then people add it in behavioral health, but I just wanted to make sure that we got the physical, medical on there. So thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Great. And we do have a few moments for other questions if folks have them so please feel free. You can drop them in the chat or just raise your hand and I'll call on you,

## **Maureen Howard**

probably include vision with the Dental. Okay,

## **Rob Huff**

well thank you for the update, Maureen. I'm sure there's gonna be a lot more to come. Mike, I believe the shelter workgroup meets again next week. Is that correct. Yeah, and what Maureen brought up, we're right in line with what she's talking about. We'll have the same process going out to individuals for shelters and so on so forth but next Thursday. I believe it's the 24th. And our meetings two to four. And I think there's a function for guests on that one as well. And let me think that was, that's it. Our very first meeting and I think I reported last week was more of getting together and going over the goals, objectives and so on so forth. And then I anticipate more of a working group this week. Yeah. Great. Thank you, Mike. And hopefully, some of us can tune in as guests to, to get the lowdown on what your work is going on with the workgroup as well, your timeline with the workgroup is much shorter so. All right, so let's shift to the next item in our agenda which is government updates, I will drop a document in the chat that was sent to me an email yesterday afternoon from Teagan at the City of Tacoma, she is unable to attend. So I don't believe we have anybody from the city on the call, if we do, if you'd like to say, say a word or two. Yeah, I didn't think we would necessarily have anybody on today's call from the city after getting that email. So let me drop that into the chat and I will do that while I hand things over to Valerie who I don't see on screen you still here. Yeah. Thank you, Valerie. If you could give us the county updates, that'd be awesome.

## **Valeri Knight**

Sure. Sorry, my, my screens all went out to I have my laptop. So thank you everybody, rental assistance update we are still going strong and working very closely with Tacoma pro bono and Dispute Resolution Center. We have just under 11,000 applications over 6000 of them are referred to providers which is pretty awesome number and over almost 2000 have received rental assistance just from department transportation and eat trap funds. We served in many, many more with IRAP dollars in the



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beginning of the year so still just working through those as quickly as we can. We are making some changes with the portal, so we're trying to just speed things up as we go and we are doing lots and lots of updates to both the tenants and the landlords, tenants stay in your home, landlords, if you evict anyone, they are no longer eligible for these funds so if you could share that message out with anyone that's calling you. Please do, we are processing as fast as we can but with Treasury requirements, there's folks that are just going to have to wait. Unfortunately, and I don't love it any more than anybody else does. But all nine of our providers are really doing a fantastic job under very extreme circumstances right like we are all impacted by COVID and yet we are all being asked to do even more so just a public shout out to those nine provider agencies who are really just taken kicking butt and taking names. Other than that, we have a funding cycle that closes today at 430 The American rescue plan, emergency response 1.7 million so if you haven't had a chance please take a look at that. And our voices that matters, applications, did close last Friday and have been forwarded on to the document recording fee. We received three applications two are being forwarded for processing. And so we are just working through that and trying to get a contract start date of July one, so that will be green paid stipends to folks with live expertise which is fantastic. That's the husband in the background. We're getting ready to go camping, um, other than that we're here if anybody has any questions comments concerns complaints or compliments we take all of them. And if there's anything we can do to support you and your agencies, just please let us know.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Valerie, Laurie, do you have anything you would want to add related to the eviction moratorium, and the work around that you're doing right now.

### **Laurie Davenport**

Yeah, absolutely. Um, we just, first of all want everybody to know that people who owe rent, or otherwise may be in danger of eviction, are not going to be out on the street, you know 12:01am on July 1 That is not going to happen. The legislature put a lot of tenant protections in place over the last month or so, and when the moratorium ends. Those things are going to be there, and that means nothing can happen. Nothing can happen through the legal process for quite a long period of time, probably because any eviction is going to require as of July 1 When the VRP becomes mandatory that anyone who wants to process an eviction go through the Center for dialogue and resolution and obtain a certification that at least you tried that you tried to have a conversation. Once you get that certification you can proceed with the actual eviction action and that's gonna take a while as well because eviction actions now are subject to just cause I can't remember the exact name. The bill right now it starts with 12, they're all confusing, but just cause means they're like 16 and possibly 17 different reasons why you can evict a tenant and you have to have one of those reasons or it's not going to happen. So, again, that makes it a little more landlord has to go through a little bit more, at least thought about what's going on in order to actually make an eviction, get started. The other thing that's huge and huge for our program because, you know, we've just hired three attorneys over the last couple of weeks and are doing more interviews, we're staffing up for right to counsel that means that anyone who actually goes to court, gets a notice gets a hearing scheduled, is if they can't pay for an attorney, which is most people who are in that situation, they're going to get an attorney, and that's going to come through our



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program. Whether they come through, Center for dialogue and resolution whether they come through our program whether they come through the court whether they're actually standing in front of the judge and looking at an eviction, The judge will say, okay, you know let's let's screen you let's see if you're eligible, if they're eligible that eviction is going to take at least another week because they need to confer with their attorney, so that's a lot of delays, right, weeks, I mean, call that center for dialogue and resolution right now let's see if you can get an appointment. You know, this takes a while, call our program, we're switching over to zoom phone so that hopefully we don't have any more, you know mailbox full stuff going on and we can be more efficient, but this is really huge. And there's a lot of agencies involved and a lot of changes happening. We're working with superior court they are not going to process anything through the court that hasn't been through all the right stuff. I realized this fear out there that you know landlords and tenants may do things that are illegal. We have tenants who have been non compliant with their lease for a long time, we have same health and safety issues going on. All that stuff is in the mix and people are scared, so, you know, we just want people to know bottom line, stay in your home landlords don't evict anybody what Valerie just said, rental assistance is out there, they're actually getting it out, it's not a huge bottleneck it's gonna happen, landlords will get paid tenants will get their back rent paid, they can stay. That means, stay, stay where you are, don't panic, don't, don't get scared if, if there's something going on. You can call us anytime, email, H GP at tickler promoter.org We've got our uploaded in the chat as well, but we'll respond. We also we're here to give advice to landlords, we can't we just did some of that last night. We can't represent landlords because that creates a conflict with our basic mission which is to provide representation to tenants, but we can provide education on the law, the law is all new, it's, it's confusing to landlords it's confusing to tenants, people didn't understand it in the first place and then we had the moratorium. And now we are looking at the end of the moratorium so it's all up in the air. So, we're here to educate, if you need help, ask us. I'll put all their contact info in the chat too.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Laurie and thanks for being, being willing to kind of answer when I spring it on your plate I see Mark with his hands up too.

### **Mark Melsness**

Thanks Rob. And thanks for that information, Laurie, I really enjoyed our conversation earlier this week because I, you know, as representing housing providers in the world, There's a lot for us to understand and for you, Laurie, and for Valerie for you guys. I mean I just as a housing provider in the conventional world and who is somebody who's transforming, affordable housing in Washington State. The two of you and Valerie, how the heck do you even go on vacation to camp, you just continue to amaze me. So, taking my laptop. So, thank you for everything you do and you know I, I try to influence my associates in the industry that just be patient because, as, as we're all kind of frustrated and working through things, you and your team continue to do your job, which didn't exist 90 days ago. Right, so well done. Thank you and Laurie, ie the avalanche has come in for you guys and I just hope that you and pray that you get the resources and the team members, you have to set that up because from again from my point of view as a housing provider, you know, we are still trying to figure out how to navigate through the new laws and through the systems and the release, if the release or the COVID



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moratorium happens, and work and support with you work with you and support you to work out plans to keep families in homes, right. So, you know Laurie pointed out that not everybody is a landlord and not everybody as a renter, you know have the best interest as a partnership. The most of them do and, and Laurie you, your team is really going to help educate you know the the how though housing providers and the renters to come to a resolution before they come to council with the judge. and anything I can do, again, please reach out, use me up. I am here for that.

## **Laurie Davenport**

There will be a q&a session was a presentation from from commerce for for landlords in particular that's going to happen on the 28th I don't have the link yet. It's TJ is putting it on but I'll send the link to everyone when we get it.

## **Valeri Knight**

Yeah, and then to add to that Rob we, as of last week we did a report and we had already got out 2.4 Or sorry 9.4 million of the 58 million so that's that's pretty good. We do invoice every single week. And so all nine providers invoice or all eight providers invoice every single week so we will have that number again on Monday, so I will have a new fresh update on next week for you and then also do another plug for the youth homelessness demonstration program which I'm also working on, and it's due to HUD July 27 But we had a meeting from 6pm to 9pm last night with an amazing group of young people who are all currently or have recently experienced homelessness five of them actually went right back to the shelter after the meeting, so like fresh in the in the trenches right and amazing ideas and suggestions and recommendations and then just true need for collaboration amongst this group and all other groups was just, it mean bring tears to your eyes and realize this world is going to be in such a good place. With these new young people in charge. And so we are busy busy writing that grant and will submit to HUD the last week of July, to bring potentially three to \$5 million to the community for youth and young adult homelessness. So, just a plug if anyone is interested in participating in that please let me know, because that is the other. The other part of my work, that is near and dear to my heart so just just know, we're still working on all of those things as well as a community.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Valerie and thanks for all that you're doing. So other government updates I saw Rianna say that she was not going to be able to be here for the bulk of the meeting in the chat so she sent information about from the health department in the chat earlier. I will. I'll scan back through the chat and see if I can find that and cut and paste to put it into the chat once again. So I think that does it for our government updates for today I am going to now hand the reins over to Maureen Howard for an advocacy update.

## **Maureen Howard**

Okay folks, so here's the list, we're going to talk about local policy opportunities and advocacy opportunities and challenges. And so here's my top. A, here are my top 11 with the City of Tacoma. The ARPA projects the American rescue plan Act projects, as well as the ordinance on the use of public property are headed for the council's CVS community vitality and safety committee, And I don't



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have dates for those. When things well happen yet. If you missed the news. They council did set aside that ordinance the use of public property 28 756 generally known as the no camping ordinance for 90 days, and we had asked the sponsor taunt, a council member times, the mayor and the deputy mayor and city manager to agree to a timeline that would align with the county's shelter work group, because we just thought it made sense and so they'll come in now the middle of September, 90 days out from the middle of June. So, gives us time to see what else we can do to either end, or make more changes to that ordinance. With respect to the Port of Tacoma. And the 509 sweep that safe sites for all folks, agreed to do a initial debrief of that sweep at their Monday meeting. You do have to register for the meeting on the coalition's website they're there. And it's clear that out of one of the outcomes is that we need to develop relationships with the Port of Tacoma justice we have with the City of Tacoma. And with Pierce County that with the port staff from the executive on down and I know I had suggested that we invite the executive director to one of the coalition meetings with port security, that's their equivalent of law enforcement, and then with the Port Commissioners. The third thing is encampments. A few of us started talking about can we, can we set up from the coalition, can we come up with some sort of a working protocol, a bit about encampments that aligns with everything else that's going on, but is there a strategy, Is there an agreed upon response when there's 110, to 10 seems to be a different situation because two draws more and now we've got a community forming established encampments are another creature organizational creature and then obviously the sweeps and so rather than just trying to respond to sweeps, but rather, see if we can understand and shape the sequence of what we've seen really seeing. Number four is to take a look at land by the public lands by the type of lands, and the ownership, and the potential current or potential uses of vacant public lands and the county's got a good inventory, and we're trying to get the City of Tacoma and others to follow that model the county's land inventory includes the current zoning and the also comments on the land, what might it be available for number five, is that, and we are committed to getting this into the comprehensive planning process, both on the shelter workgroup and on the steering committee, but a significant investment in our people. We spend a lot of time focusing on the folks that we are serving and trying to help people who are experiencing homelessness are at risk. And we need to spend an incredible amount of time and resources on you all. All right, we've talked about this before, but this is an opportunity I think to make this much more meaningful, and to also recognize and figure out how to support this broad band of volunteers who are also engaged, not trying to change what they're doing or change them or their organizations whether they're faith based or politically based or whatever but just trying to figure out how we invest in all of our people. The next one is, housing, the end we did as a coalition. We did send out a formal letter to the Department of Commerce, about reducing the match requirements for projects that are outside of King County, the Department of Commerce did respond saying that they are reviewing our request and that also, they have made everything except in kind, eligible for whatever match might be required. Now as you remember the hotel acquisition money the easiest hotel acquisition money that Nova will come out July, 8, right now, So, but if you are a small organization and you have never competed for Washington State Housing Trust Fund money this is not the one you want to respond to you want to find a friend and a larger organization that has successfully competed and talk with them about maybe you can have a floor in a hotel that they're trying to buy and I know there are some of those conversations that are going on right now. And if you need a friend, let me know and I'll try and give you some suggestions. Watch the Novus. If you haven't put in for the one



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Valerie just talked about that 1.7 That's the seasonal shelter, starting this summer going through winter, you better be fast and be proactive with the City of Tacoma, as well. If you are a small program, and you have never contracted with the City of Tacoma, or with Pierce County government, ask them for a copy of a blank contract, while you're beginning your conversation so you can see upfront. If your organization can meet the contractual requirements, which are different from program requirements. Okay. Number eight, hotels, remember if you're interested in leasing a hotel yourself, and you haven't reached out to Jeff Rogers, or to Brian Schmidt or John Barbie at the county, you want to do that. They're going to county will get the notice on that particular funding source that 20 million. Now, the emergency housing vouchers, and we're not going to spend a lot of time on this. But fortunately, Jenny has offered to fill in whatever gaps we need. These are the 196, emergency housing vouchers coming through the American rescue plan act, they go to the Tacoma Housing Authority and Tim Pierce County Housing Authority. Each of those housing authorities must sign an MOU with our continuum of care, those housing authorities are available to the those vouchers are available to the housing authorities on July 1 Hyde wants these MO You signed by July 1. As of the end of the day, yesterday, I was told that it looks like there will be an MO you to go out to the continuum of care who can vote by mail, early next week. Once that happens, and then we'll begin to get information on what the process is for referring people to these vouchers, but it isn't like other vouchers, don't think about regular section eight vouchers. The federal legislation and the HUD guidance is very clear. They want these vouchers. They want the people who receive these vouchers to get all of the help they need. And HUD is funding this, so that they can use those vouchers, this is not going to end with, while only 50% of vouchers get used in this community, or all people get us a list of names of phone numbers, no that is not how this works. So stay tuned because we're all going to learn more. There is some confusion out there about the dates on these vouchers, this is how it works. Because of the way HUD is funding the housing authorities with these vouchers, it is clear that HUD wants these vouchers in people's hands, within four months from July 1 Because HUDs cutting their money back. All right, that extra money that the housing authority so getting from the first of July until a date in 2023 that I didn't write down, if, if I get a voucher or one of these vouchers, and I no longer need it, I lose it for some reason, than if Rob is the next eligible household, it can go to rob. After that data 2023 It can't go to anybody. It'll stay with Rob, as long as he needs it. So when you hear that data. That's what it means. It means that they can turn over, internally, along the same rules people who are homeless people who are at risk for homelessness, people who have recently been homeless people who are on the domestic violence continuum, up through sex trafficking. So, they are wonderful, if we get them out, and fast, we stand a chance of getting more, because everybody won't get them out. And we also set a precedent for ourselves, about how to get more, there is a ton of housing money in the jobs bill still at the federal level, and there is a ton of housing money in the Biden administration's budget proposal for 2022. So it behooves us. Number 10 The Coalition, I'll come back to Jenny. Number 10 The coalition housing committee will meet June 24 at four, I'll put a notice out to the whole listserv, you got to register on the coalition website, and number 11 Is that I'm looking for an RV park. I don't want any more horror stories out of hoarding so I am looking for a decent RV park, I am looking forward to an organization or an individual wants to buy an operated decent one. I'm looking for places we can lease slots for people and I am looking for folks who are interested in upgrading some of these awful RVs that people are living in, so. So, I want to thank you for the time that you give me for policy and advocacy work. This is



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extraordinary in the coalition's that I'm part of that are not just for policy work, but I really believe you've heard more than once, I really believe we're going to end homelessness when we've got public policy that ends it, and it's going to be good public policy, if we are in it. It's just like that medical conversation earlier this morning. You're the folks who know you're the closest to the people that we're trying to help your voices have got today heard. So, I just I thank you Jenny is there anything you want to add about the vouchers. Jennison,

## **Jenny Lorton**

yeah just a couple of things. So, the date in 2023 is September, Marine. Yeah September 2023 Just a couple of really important things about these vouchers, I think that's super valid is HUD has waived, almost all of the standard requirements for federal housing vouchers for these. So if you owe money to a public housing jurisdiction, doesn't matter if you have criminal history. Doesn't matter, with the exception of two things. If you have manufactured methamphetamine and a public housing unit that matters. If an individual has, has to register as a, as a sex offender for life that matters. Outside of those two things, nothing matters, that is literally like the only two knockouts. So they have waived, everything else for these vouchers. So I think that's really important for everyone to know as soon as the MOU is signed, I can let everybody know what the referral process is going to look like. But what I can share now is more than likely, what we're going to utilize is our current prioritization rules because HUD has very clearly stipulated that we must be fair and equitable in assigning these vouchers, and so we did a pretty deep dive at our current Hemis data, to ensure that, however we decided to utilize these, we were doing that. And so we're going to use our current prioritization rules, and we figured out a way to do that so as soon as the MoU signed I can talk to you all about what the referral process is going to look like and how we're going to get these into the hands of folks, so I can update everybody on that as soon as the MO You sign so hopefully if it's next week, I can tell you all about it on Friday.

## **Maureen Howard**

Excellent, thank you Jenny has some of the best technical assistance, online, on these vouchers that I've seen. So if you for some reason really want to become an emergency housing voucher person. Then, just go to HUD, type in emergency housing vouchers and it'll bring up the website for the vouchers and the technical assistance opportunities that they have provided, and will continue to provide. And so, yeah, the more that that we can free beds. So somebody else, somebody gets in the bed gets vouchers. Somebody else gets into that bed. The better you know, so, yeah. Nice work. Um, what else. Oh, I know one other thing. Number 12 I guess, is that I did reach out to the city and county this should have been under housing, and ask them for two things one, to consider a capacity building program of some sort for small organizations that are either doing some kind of housing like one house to house three house shared housing, and want to make that sustainable, maybe move from a market rental to something they own, or want to expand, or want to begin. So if your organization falls into one of those groups, let me know i all i have back right now is well, tell us how many we're talking about. And I've reached out to the two common ministerial alliance as well and Pastor Gregory the President said that he will make sure that the other ministers in the black community are part of TMA will have this information, and then the other one is also asked the city and county if, if they had any kind of program, I don't think they do, but it's how you get there, about working with the faith community, about



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their property. And so, Reverend Christopher said that he tells everybody don't sell your property. But we know that private developers are coming to the faith community, looking for land, looking for buildings, and so it just seems to me that part of what we want to do is hold on and help organizations help members of the faith community and the nonprofit community, hold on to, as much land as much property as possible, even in the face of what are going to be some incredible offers I'm sure, just based on what I'm getting every day for my house in a fairly modest part of Tacoma. So, so that's, Yeah.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Maureen for all that work.

### **Maureen Howard**

Thank you. All right, I mean that's the reality of it is, thank you. So,

### **Rob Huff**

alright so if anybody else has questions about advocacy items, feel free to use the chat for those, and we're going to shift gears and go over to Collin, to talk about updates from the safe sites Frogger.

### **Colin DeForest**

Thanks Rob. So, yeah, thank you marine for all that information that's good stuff safe parking network, not a lot of change from last week, or sell till Baptists site is full. To you, you see is we've had some challenges with getting a functioning sync to their sites. So we are waiting on that if it's not there yet, then hopefully it will be there this weekend. And as soon as that's there and they are ready to use the staff I didn't see Cynthia on this but I thought I saw, Sarah. She may have an update but their staff has just really been above and beyond from a voluntary standpoint, They've been sleeping overnight at the site, basically every night, we're spending long hours there to try to get up an idea of what an average night's gonna look like there what it looks like with people coming in and out of the property. What adjustments need to be made so I think I don't want to speak for them, but as soon as that sink gets there we are good to go. So I think we will be hopefully by this time next week we'll be talking about the new campers at that site. Um, yeah, so the Porta Potty also is full, somehow with nobody at the site, so it gives you an idea of the community is using that Porta Potty. So we are waiting there was some confusion with honey buckets. Getting the Porta Potty top dumped it is. I'm hoping it was dumped. Now, if it's not that's something that should happen today. I let them know that it's full, and you can smell it. So anyways, we have that going on. Rise center. We've been doing some work on their site prepping it for opening up soon. All of the work at the rise center is done their fencing is all cleaned up, they had some holes and some challenges with their fencing, so we are good to go there we have a portable toilet there we're also waiting for a sink there. And on top of that, we're also waiting for the finalization of the, we have a community letter that Gerald is just kind of touching up, Gerald and Eric from the rise center and then that will go out to the community, we did have a tentative community meeting set up a Zoom meeting for today at three, but I'm under the impression that that's going to get pushed back because I don't think the letter has gone on out yet, so I want to give it, you know, three days for the letter so hopefully it will be going with the rise center next week, possibly two so, um, it's things, things



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are going great at the South Hill Baptist site, you know, he said, as you guys have said is completely closed, we actually had a really good meeting with the county. Earlier this week, or I did with county staff kind of inquiring about just some of the stuff about safe parking so I think that's exciting. I'm optimistic that the county may be interested in funding this program in the future, or funding some sort of safe parking in the future and hopefully the city too so things are going well, though, as far as safe sites for all. Lots of work, I think a lot of this stuff Marines talking about really gonna lay into this 509 Clean up whatever removal, whatever sweep whatever we're going to call it, and just really try to figure out how can we get to the bottom of this and how can we avoid this happening in the future. It was, it was terrible. Anybody who was down there it was it was a terrible situation. A lot of people lost a lot of stuff. I don't know what the site looks like from last time I was down there was last Friday, and it was packed with people's belongings still so most of them left and walked away. And I think that they took what they could, and I think they were allowed to come back though was set up in a way where it was very prison style he had to go through a checkpoint to get in and it was intense right so. And the reality is those people move to another area on the port so they're in another camp along the port now. And so they'll probably be there for a month and then they're going to get moved from there and they'll end up right back where they are right now so we'll watch, we'll all get to watch this and roll and play out, and hopefully, the safe sites for all in some of this group can start talking to these entities like the poor and say hey how can we make a site like this work because anybody who is underneath that site. When we talk about low impact areas in our community 509 bridges, outside of as I've said this before outside of the tribal and understanding, you know, and being very respectful of tribal property and potential, you know, lands that they have that area is affecting nobody, and those people under there. It was, it was pretty rough spot but I think if it was set up in a nice way, in a in a better more strategic way we could really serve a lot of individuals in those areas so I'm excited to have conversations with the port. What we know about the port is they have a whole heck of a lot of property down there so yeah, it's more to say if you want to be involved, or if you have anything to say, regardless of where you're at. It would be great to hear your voice in that Monday meeting, even if you just want to hop on for a little bit and and rant and rave about what you saw on or there because I know there's people under their Food Not Bombs did some amazing work under there, it would be great to really hear their voice from what what they thought of under there, you know, and then any others that were involved too so that's kind of what I got for that. There's a lot of other stuff going on, but yeah, I know Jeffrey if anybody else has anything to add, Jan.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Uh yes we talked about our how disappointed we were on the city of Tacoma only transferring a tiny village from McKinley and 66 over 269 to proctor. In effect, not increasing the number of units available to those living homeless, And we were going to draft a letter and escapes my memory Marine, are you going to talk about the letter that we can send to the city of Tacoma, to express our disappointment we learn more from the neighbor, Habitat for Humanity, than we did from the city, so I'll jump off here,

## **Maureen Howard**

it's on the agenda later. Um,



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### **Colin DeForest**

last thing that I would say to him, you know, I think one of the I was really hoping that the city of Tacoma would be on here so we could ask them about the, the 705 parking lots on both sides of peolpe Avenue. It's my understanding that those are was properties and was not is allowing for people to camp in those areas for the next 90 days or so, that's nothing that the city has shared but I'm going to be referring people down to those sites, because people are not getting removed from those sites and. And so, I was hoping that we could ask the city if those are going to be sites and if there are going to allow people then let's, let's do what we can to set them up so they can be successful, because right now, they're not doing that they have a couple portable toilets but they need more than that we need garbage services so, so let's get, I mean, that's exactly what we need those sites on check a box that this community, this group is screaming for so if they are used for that, that must be transparent until this community that that's what they are. So hopefully we can hear that Jeffrey.

### **Jeffrey Boyce**

Oh, yeah, I've been talking to 30 fours and Pacific encampment. And they really want to set up, you know, work with people moving in. They want to be a low barrier, but they really are focused on, no heavy drugs, and no bad behavior. And as a group, they have moved out several people that were bad behavior and using heavy drugs, because that did not fit in their community. And so, this is a community support. This is a community that are self managing and they're self managing very well.

### **Colin DeForest**

Um, thank you. I just want to I see in Kristen is from the city of Tacoma unless she's changed job so let's

### **Kristen Ely**

Christine calling. Yes, I am here today and the are you referring to the 705 in a street where we have the hygiene station.

### **Colin DeForest**

Yeah, there's two, there's on either side of Yelp Avenue, there's two parking lots that are was that park parking lots that are filling up with individuals and have for a while.

Right so that hygiene station right now is our is scheduled through I think the week of July 19 So we've committed to being in that location until that date, and then we'll see what happens. Beyond that, since the original hygiene station was set up as we're pursuing this mitigation site and you know that project has changed course to be attempt site itself 16th In proctor. So I'll continue to share updates on that but there are not immediate plans to clear that area.

### **Colin DeForest**

So we can refer people to that area.



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The area is not going to be cleaned immediately and if that changes I will let you know.

## **Colin DeForest**

Okay, so we can for people so what I would say the outreach workers start referring people down there because we got to say, All right, thank you.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

All right, thanks for the update, calling in Jan and chiming in from the city and Jeffrey, we are going to flip over into committee appointments, so this is our attempt to kind of formalize, some of the roles, different folks have and really offer up some cool opportunities to develop your understanding and liaison skills and whatever else you want to work on. This week we are going to look at some of the national groups that we monitor and take part in. And I'm going to hand it off to marine Howard to talk a little bit about those opportunities I know of at least one person in volunteered for one of those based on the email marine sent out to the coalition last night, marine.

## **Maureen Howard**

So this went out on the listserv yesterday and Garrett I don't know if you can bring it up, or if you want I can meet to everybody started gasps when I show my desk so basically what these are, we're calling these liaison positions, and they're coming from us, they're not coming from other organizations. These are not requests to the coalition. These are requests from the steering committee to the full coalition, saying, Look, these are six national organizations that we participate in some way we monitor them we participate in, in meetings that they have that sort of thing. And we'd like to invite other people to do this work. All right, so, and these are not like one person sorts of things. And so it's the National Coalition for the Homeless, these are the folks who are closest to us. They are led by and by people with lived experience, and a combination of people with lived experience advocates, and others, providers and others. The National Law and Housing Coalition, the National homelessness Law Center. That's where Christina Bauman is those of you who have been part of our conversations, the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Healthcare for the Homeless National Council and the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, and in full disclosure, some of these organizations I've actually staffed and or been on their board so they're national boards. Over the years, but so what I did is that I broke out individual components from these different organizations like if they had multiple meetings, or, you know, that sort of thing, so that you weren't signing up for you could sign up for the organization like to monitor its website or be on its general kind of distribution list, or you could just focus on something specific. So like the National Coalition for the Homeless, we're going to vote on becoming a membership in a minute because, and it won't be 25 we had more money than that, Garrett told me, so it'll either be 50 or \$100 cost for our membership. So they've just started a campaign to try and get every how person experience homelessness housed. They have a strong policy committee. They have an amazing civil rights work group and a racial equity work group, and I've left these things as they put them in Eastern time. But, So you just subtract, you know, three hours, and that some of these are just once a month, you want to scroll down a little bit more national Thank you, National Low Income Housing Coalition. They've got targeted calls that their website is amazing, as is the National Coalition



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for the Homeless it's got enormous resources. National Low Income Housing Coalition has a broad housing campaign. They've got a tenant focus the tenant talk, folks, a legislative working group now this is all federal policy. A disaster recovery group which includes FEMA, we haven't been able to get local governments to use FEMA, hotel rooms, even though female pay 100% of the cost, and a state and local implementation working group. And these are groups that I learned a whole lot about a lot of information and then I passed on to how we were doing things, beginning with COVID. And now we're actually in position because of Valerie's work and Lori's work and Jennifer and others that we're at a position where we're leading a good part of the country and our emergency rental assistance, which is wonderful. National homelessness Law Center. They get involved in individual lawsuits, but they're the ones who, you know, monitor Martin V Boyd, the Boise justia works closely with us whenever we have questions, she's been helping us with the city ordinance. And then also the housing not handcuffs campaign. And we've got actually. Kim Ellefson from the mission is interested in, and national homelessness Law Center and housing not handcuffs, which doesn't mean that somebody else can't as well. All right, these are just great opportunities, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the more mainstream, nonpartisan organization works absolutely it loosely, together with the other organizations that are more progressive in their policy, and has really good training really good information really good advocacy alerts, and let's say Health Care for the Homeless, I know less about this than other organizations, we, we don't have the funding to actually join them, they're like, \$500 a year, but I presume CMR belongs and maybe some of the others. And you can always monitor what's on the web, that's free. So, and then the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. Again, we don't have the money to actually join, but these folks are a combination of fair housing and income, equity, and where they work primarily with the financial institutions, and they're the result of actually a member of commerce about or of Congress about 1990, maybe earlier saying to a number of organizations from around the country. We want to hear one voice, So get your act together people. And so we created the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. So anyway that's the offer on the table. The only thing you have to be careful about. I put in the email is, you need to check if you're a government employee, or if you're working in a nonprofit, you need to check with your organization to see if you can use your existing, you know internet infrastructure to do this or if you need to use your personal computer, your personal phone, your personal time, you sort that out. I'm not going to worry about that. So, if you are so inclined to. It's not a lifetime commitment. All right, you can try out something and if it doesn't work for you. And then as we get people who are willing to do this. I will work with you to figure out how we're going to report back in some way. I don't know what that is right now.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

I have a question in the chat so the group is looking for people to liaise with these groups and Teresa said yes. So in a way, this is asking, we're just creating a structure to help you fulfill a commitment that you may want to do for this it's not, not much more than a tool, this voting process, to, to help us keep tabs on what's going on with these national groups to help support them, figure out ways they can support our work. And for us to develop our own personal skills, Marine,

## **Maureen Howard**



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and it's free. And I see Cynthia has volunteered for the National Low Income Housing Coalition, and all of its pieces. Thank you.

### **Gerrit Nyland**

All right, and I don't really think we need to vote on this I just think if you let Marino with the advocacy committee that you are interested in being that liaison, then that's great, and you can certainly talk to pretty much anyone on the steering committee, if you've got questions but Marines a good person to ask. Again, the more people that we have doing this, the better informed we are as a community, and hopefully the better we can serve our clients. Okay, I think you are next on the list, we, we, marine put a letter together, advocating for the Sydney icon proctor site to be a. In addition to our children instead of a relocation Do you want to talk about that I'll get it on screen here in a second.

### **Maureen Howard**

Yeah we had, we didn't send this out to the listserv because we wanted to, that the steering committee saw draft, but we wanted, anybody on the call to see this first before we went forward. So there is a couple of things. One is a procedural issue which I didn't really address in the letter about our expectations for the city reaching out to us. And I think that's probably a larger conversation than just 69th in Proctor, but, but this is specifically about the fact that the city's plan, and this is they, this is an administrative decision Neighborhood and Community Services made this decision, and has the power to make this decision. All right. And they, what they're doing is that they're going to move the tiny houses that are at 16th and McKinley over 2/69 in Proctor and then add 20 more. And what we're saying is, no, don't move those houses at 16th and McKinley. Put all new tiny houses into 69th and Proctor, because we need every safe site possible if we are really going to get everybody off the streets, by the first of November. And when the city's decision on using the 60 of the McKinley site was made. The Tacoma, that's on Tacoma housing authority property that has, has a development schedule that development schedule has changed, it's delayed, and Michael Mira, the executive director wrote a formal letter to the city saying that tha would make that property available until December of 2022. Because, you know, moving tiny houses in the middle of the winter doesn't seem like the best move. We're saying we're asking that you maintain that site at 60 at the McKinley, at least until next summer, summer of 2022. So, and then offering, you know, to meet with NCS in any way that they would like to do so that's neighborhood, and Neighborhood and Community Services. So this would be a formal letter from the coalition to Linda Stewart as the director of Neighborhood and Community Services. And the one thing I thought after the conversation today is that we might want to add a sentence that any current residents at 69th in proctor be relocated to other safe sites before any development site development begins, if that would be agreeable to people that was information I didn't have when I wrote the letter so I'll just add that if so if what I'm asking is the coalition approved this letter, with the addition of a sentence that we request that the current residents be relocated to a safe site prior to any site development at 69th in proctor.

### **Gerrit Nyland**

Awesome, thank you Marine is there any discussion around this before we put the poll up for the vote. I'm not seeing any hands up. Work to digest really quickly, but time is ticking. So I'm putting a pull up



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right now. And the Polish coalition sent a letter to the city of Tacoma advocating, adding a new shelter to 69 from South Park, your site will also retaining the shelter at 60 in McKinley. So give us all a few minutes to fill that out. And the letter will go as written with the addition marine just mentioned. Alright, give it about 10 more seconds here. And we have unanimous.

## **Maureen Howard**

All right. Thank you everybody.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Right. That puts us to the question of should the coalition, join the National Coalition for the Homeless so this is going to be really just a tool for us to get a better conduit into the work that they're doing to support it and so they can hopefully support us. It'll be funding that comes out of some of the general funding that we have we don't have much we've got a little bit, and then we'll be able to cover our annual membership costs so I'm going to do one more poll asking if we would like to join the National Coalition for the Homeless and would be nice to have discussion but it's 1159 or 1059, times a ticket. You know when folks vote no for this, I am always interested in why. So, if you don't mind, you can shoot me an email, I don't know, an anonymous way to do it, but so if you're comfortable with that I would be interested in kind of those reservations so that we can make sure that when we do join with agreeing a lot of yeses, that we can keep those hesitations in mind. So, I'm going to give another three seconds. And we have 34 yeses one no and four abstentions. So, looks like we're going to be taking a formal role with the National Coalition for the Homeless So thanks everybody. And we are now a one minute over, but we have two parts to the agenda left, and one of them is good in the order and the other is a little reflection on today's meeting. And so I'm going to stay on so we can do both of those things, but today to understand if people need to dart off so good if the order I see your hand rosemary.

## **Rosemary Powers**

So I have a quick announcement, the governance work group that's met a few times, is meeting on Wednesday the 23rd of June at 2pm. We're going to be spending the initial part of the meeting, looking at racial equity, and how the coalition can ensure that we pay attention to that. So, I will be posting this on the web page but if you aren't able to come and want to be notified of future events like this if you put your address in the chat and say governance, a really sexy topic but important. I'll get back to you and let you know when we're next going to be getting together. Thank you.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Thank you, rosemary, we'll definitely get that on the website Jeffrey,

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

just let everybody know rooms two bags is back in operation again. And so if there's any dumb donations. I'd happily take them and pass them out to the different camps. I'm getting around to quite a few lately and they really appreciate the garbage bags, so if you guys are ever doing outreach, please bring garbage bags please people because they really are asking for them. Thank you.



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### **Gerrit Nyland**

Awesome, thanks Jeffrey. Other items for the good of the order. All right, let's take a quick couple minutes to reflect on today's meeting, you can put things in chat, you can go ahead and speak a little bit to them. While you're all getting your thoughts in line, I would just like to remind folks that it doesn't need to be me and rob that or him theming. If you've got an interest in developing your MC skills at a Zoom meeting, or if you're amazing at it and want to do something to support the coalition, we would love to have other people's direction and commentary as part of their emceeing so let me, Rob note for anyone on the steering committee. I'm gonna go for another 20 seconds of awkward silence. Oh great, Mark, thanks.

I was just saying thank you for your time and I'm going to hit the asphalt. Good to have you well everybody. Great weekend.

### **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Hey, we should at least all can people put your hands together for Dan for all the work she did together the people, and to Maureen for the wonderful letter and for all the folks who do this good work.

### **Gerrit Nyland**

Clapping. All right, we are going, you can always give feedback and other ways. And we're going to go ahead and wrap it up. So thanks everybody, I hope you've got something tomorrow to celebrate or recognize Juneteenth, and figure out how we can advance that work. And, again, thanks so much for coming. We're gonna I'm going to walk you out with a little bit of a video about Juneteenth as well. And we're going to take a break and anyone that wants to help work on planning next week's meeting. Please stay around