



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

Friday Coalition Meeting – chat – July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

00:15:46 - Janet Runbeck: - Let's have the MultiCare/Fronterra project as a presenter soon.

00:27:40 - Sedonia Young: - Good morning, Sedonia Young- TMA

00:27:55 - Rob Huff (he/him): - COALITION MEETING NORMS

## 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.

00:28:03 - Cynthia Stewart: - Good to see you back, Gina!

00:28:33 - Rob Huff (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.

00:29:01 - Sally Perkins: - Hi Sedonia! :)

00:32:22 - Jenny Lorton: - Hi Richard - give me a call. I can connect with Tina and see if she is eligible to work with our organization - Inside Passages. Jenny - 253-342-7492

00:32:40 - Verda Washington: - Sedonia please contact me Verda Washington

00:35:30 - Benjamin McLean: - There is a camp building on 38th and McKinley behind the fire station

00:35:52 - Sally Perkins: - The 11th and MLK site grew rapidly with increased number of tents for two to three weeks prior to the fire/clearing process.

00:38:12 - Sherri Jensen: - Hiii Dawn!!!

00:38:39 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Community Norms

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00:42:33 - Joe Colombo: - I need to drop for another meeting. Thank you for letting me join today!

00:46:27 - Ryan Mello: - Thank you Heather! Your team is doing amazing work.

00:48:25 - Dawn Bohl: - Forgot to mention, the 6 mo's pilot program consisted of 1 full-time case manager on-site. With the extension through March, we've been approved for 1 more full-time case manager and then 1 full-time generalist to help with any issues that may arise overnight.

00:48:56 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Thank you, Dawn. That is helpful to know!



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- 00:57:52 - Stacey Soltoff: - with the low rates of AC in the area, triple-digit heat is a threat to ALL, not just the homeless
- 00:58:21 - Stephanie Schermerhorn: - I think my personal issue with your response is that, emergency management isn't something that should be contracted out, or up to relying on volunteers.
- 01:01:15 - Adam Reichenberger: - Food not Bombs was talking about mist fans last week, correct?
- 01:01:48 - Jennifer Ammons: - Did anyone ask the people experiencing homelessness what would enable them to go to the cooling centers?
- 01:02:01 - Mike Boisture: - Heather, what about refrigerant trailers...
- 01:02:35 - Sally Perkins: - Yes, a threat to many people who are relatively isolated and don't have people checking on them regularly. Emergency Management needs to think about this challenge differently and expand their the focus on vulnerable people being impacted by weather, both hot and cold.
- 01:12:05 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Yes Monique! Emergencies can help communities to come together and volunteerism can help build empathy and understanding, Important to coordinate - that seems like the key role for the county.
- 01:12:25 - Gerald Daniels: - Absolutely Monique
- 01:13:26 - Monique Brown: - Preach Janet!!!!
- 01:13:26 - Maureen Howard: - I also want to acknowledge the work of Jeff Rodgers - Pierce County Human Services - he was really good to work with.
- 01:13:58 - Reanna Bettencourt: - I have to step away from the meeting. Here is my update:

In case you have not seen this yet, this is our new COVID-19 Vaccine Community Outreach Toolkit with resources to help community partners promote and answer questions about COVID-19 vaccine: <https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/diseases/covid-19/vaccine-community-outreach-toolkit>

After reviewing information and materials available, if you have questions about vaccines please email me at:

Reanna Bettencourt  
[rbettencourt@tpchd.org](mailto:rbettencourt@tpchd.org)

- 01:14:01 - Dawn Bohl: - YES Janet!!!
- 01:14:09 - Gerald Daniels: - Thanks Janet, awesome point
- 01:16:23 - Rob Huff (he/him): - To be clear, you can hear it in Janet's voice. She says casually, but this is urgent! Thank you to everyone whose energy limited the loss of life!
- 01:16:38 - Maureen Howard: - Clarifying - I don't want anyone holding back...I do want us all to work as strategically as possible. No one else dies.
- 01:18:06 - Benjamin McLean: - Great words Janet
- 01:18:19 - Stacey Soltoff: - YES, Jan!
- 01:19:30 - Sally Perkins: - I appreciate the concern that the Coalition not run the system...but who IS going to run the system? That is not clear yet.
- 01:19:36 - Maureen Howard: - If folks don't already know, Jan and her husband got our first 12 pallets of water...from Nourish Pierce County and EFN. TPU came in Saturday about midnight
- 01:22:04 - Maureen Howard: - Oh and one more pallet from Dept of Emergency Management
- 01:31:09 - Jennifer Ammons: - Timothy Harris, I can't seem to just message you privately, but can you either drop your e-mail in the chat or e-mail me at [JenniferA@nwjustice.org](mailto:JenniferA@nwjustice.org)? Thanks!
- 01:31:55 - Janet Runbeck: - Room 12: need more coordination to address all gaps in serving needs.
- 01:32:20 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Rob we lost the ability to message anyone except the hosts



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- 01:32:39 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Thank you, Theresa. Let me see if I can fix that.
- 01:33:00 - Judy TAYLOR: - Bethlehem SHELTER HAS 11 BEDS AVAILABLE...
- 01:33:07 - Laurie Davenport: - Room 4 — keep working the SS4A campaign; if all sites have what they need, things like transportation, storage, etc. will be available to get people to cooling stations.
- 01:33:18 - Rosemary Powers: - our group was small, but we agreed that bringing relief efforts TO people living homeless is essential. the air conditioned buses/trailers/misting (for heat) would be helpful. Yes, issues of storage are key to people being willing to leave belongings to go to cooling/warming/air quality sites
- 01:33:36 - Klarissa Monteros: - If community members have questions or concerns about either of the hygiene station locations, they should contact 253-250-1766. More information on hygiene stations is available at [www.cityoftacoma.org/hygienestations](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/hygienestations).

City-funded Temporary and Emergency Shelter Performance: Weekly information about Temporary and Emergency Shelter locations including current census, number of available beds and exits to housing. This information is updated weekly and can be found at <https://cms.cityoftacoma.org/NCS/City%20Authorized%20Emergency%20Shelter%20Sites/Weeklydataupdate.pdf>

The rental assistance portal is now open! Residents may find more information at <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7142/Rental-Assistance>.

- 01:33:42 - Monique Brown: - A Command Center is needed. Storage and distribution would happen from the center. A plan is needed for this. Can ARPA funds be used to purchase supplies? Where does power come from for heaters and misting stations? Generators? Churches should coordinate for one church in approx.. one mile radius to be the lead church for supplies and distribution.
- 01:33:45 - Greg Walker: - I think the portable toilet that was at the corner of 11th and MLK that was available at the encampment wasn't there for the encampment, but was there for some construction work occurring at that intersection.
- 01:34:36 - Sherri Jensen: - I don't know what group we were in but Sedonia and Serena and I discussed having a text message sent out (similar to Amber alert) when emergency over climate/weather/environmental emergency is announced which will trigger groups to print fliers for homeless outreach to hand out. Pre-coordinated plan of "if this happens, then this". If hot weather emergency, TPU will go into high alert and open to produce new water, these groups will pick up for disbursement, etc
- 01:35:04 - Timothy Harris: - Thanks Jennifer. Just emailed.
- 01:35:20 - Maureen Howard: - Look at wild fire alert systems...
- 01:38:42 - Maureen Howard: - Klarissa - I understood that the City had committed to alignment with both the Shelter Plan Workgroup and the Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness Steering Committee.
- 01:38:44 - Alan Brown: - Our group discussed the need to have pre-determined roles to engage volunteers in a weather emergency. The Coalition could be a part of the planning of this, as well as the methods to get the word out to volunteers to fill specific goals.
- 01:42:26 - Timothy Harris: - Group 7 was lucky enough to have Heather Moss and discussed the barriers to people going to county facilities for help during a heat emergency, as well as the breadth of the response needed to assist all populations that are at risk.
- 01:45:22 - Sherri Jensen: - Congrats!!! Yaay!



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- 01:46:56 - Laurie Davenport: - Guidance on evictions during the moratorium 'bridge' -  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3moeo5s9ub69z8t/Bridge%20evictions%20%20page.pdf?dl=0>
- 01:47:11 - Maureen Howard: - National Low Income Housing Coalition staff called the rental assistance data website "awesome."
- 01:47:42 - Colin DeForrest: - Congrats Val! BIG SHOES TO FILL!!!
- 01:48:00 - Laurie Davenport: - Congratulations Valeri!
- 01:48:11 - Maureen Howard: - Valeri - thanks for the work, the transparency, the commitment...
- 01:49:42 - Sheila Miraflor: - RE: rental/mortgage assistance, What a way for Pierce County Human Services to shine!! Way to go, Valeri!
- 01:53:17 - Sally Perkins: - Does "shelter of some kind" include or exclude tents? Vehicles?
- 01:53:53 - Rob Huff (he/him): - No, it doesn't.
- 01:54:01 - Mike Boisture: - Here is the link to the Comprehensive Plan to Address Homelessness web page:  
2021 Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness | Pierce County, WA - Official Website  
([piercecountywa.gov](http://piercecountywa.gov))

Here is the link to this afternoon's meeting notes: 2021 Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness |  
Pierce County, WA - Official Website ([piercecountywa.gov](http://piercecountywa.gov))

- 01:54:03 - Sally Perkins: - Thank you.
- 01:54:34 - Janet Runbeck: - Shelter = building with a roof. Unsheltered = folks in vehicles, tents, anywhere outside a building.
- 01:54:40 - Greg Walker: - Room 8: Our group had several ideas that followed a theme: Sanctioned encampments make emergency response much more simple and effective than trying to serve all of the unsanctioned encampments.
- \*FIRST: The Coalition and our outreach and support services need to be an active, engaged participant in the emergency management system. We have the expertise and knowledge to guide effective services to unhoused people.
  - \*SECOND: We can be much more effective at serving unhoused people in weather emergencies if we provided safe, effective planned encampment sites, so that we don't have to try to find and serve unsanctioned encampments once an emergency occurs.
  - \*Be prepared to mobilize services to the encampments (sanctioned or unsanctioned) rather than trying to move people to cooling/warming centers.

\*Train and equip outreach teams/homeless services professionals to serve as the command/control/communication infrastructure in an emergency situation, so that churches, civic organizations, and individual

- 01:54:50 - Sally Perkins: - Thank you, Janet.
- 01:54:59 - Rob Huff (he/him): - This is the link to the County website regarding these efforts:  
<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7309/2021-Comprehensive-Plan-to-End-Homelessn>
- 01:58:42 - Rob Huff (he/him): - You can sign up for mailing lists and join the Steering Committee meetings through the website: <http://pchomeless.org>
- 01:58:58 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - NOTES from the SS4A Campaign: The "We can end homelessness" signs have arrived!
- \* Ten "seed money" donors paid for our first run (100 signs @ \$5 per sign). Thank you donors! Your "free" sign is waiting for you.
  - \* If you want a sign and can donate something toward the signs, please do – that will help us build toward a second run. But, donations are not required; come get a sign – we want to get the message



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out there.

\* To arrange for picking up signs at 621 Tacoma Ave S, Suite 303 contact Laurie Davenport at [vls@tacomaprobono.org](mailto:vls@tacomaprobono.org)

\* Or to pick up signs from 15th and S. G street (Community Porches Project) contact Theresa Power-Drutis at [tpdrutis@nctacoma.org](mailto:tpdrutis@nctacoma.org)

01:59:32 - Laurie Davenport: - Thanks Theresa! Looking forward to getting these signs up!

02:01:12 - Maureen Howard: - To join the Coalition's Steering Committee - go to [pchomeless.org](https://pchomeless.org) and follow the listserv links..once you sign up for the Steering Committee, you'll be on the distribution list. You can also register for the meetings - 3pm on Wednesdays via Zoom. Just go to our website and see the list of meetings on our front page.

02:02:45 - Sally Perkins: - What is the barrier preventing shelter outreach staff from talking to other community agency outreach staff people?

02:03:49 - Maureen Howard: - We would have to match addresses to shelters...one way

02:03:51 - Timothy Harris: - Thanks Ed. Great work. Are you aware of Women in Black in Seattle? Doing similar work that might be helpful to look at. <https://www.facebook.com/Homeless-Remembrance-Project-184372257014/>

02:04:57 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Ed - I really appreciate your work on this. Some people come through every six months or so. We sometimes only find out about a death long after the fact. Important to have a time to remember a person's life

02:05:33 - Monique Brown: - Thanks for having my back, Timothy!

02:05:55 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - You might look at connecting with the Pierce County Women in Black - they may want to partner with you

02:05:55 - Kim Houg: - for all outreach teams there iare camps and tents and cars on the 93rd street in front of aero apartments

02:06:27 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Go Gerald!

02:07:26 - Janet Runbeck: - We will have business cards for Safe Parking Network printed. Give them out to folks living in cars...

02:08:19 - Sally Perkins: - Great work, Colin!

02:10:55 - Laurie Davenport: - Need to leave for another meeting - see [www.tacomaprobono.org/hjp](http://www.tacomaprobono.org/hjp) for continuing updates and FAQ on evictions during the moratorium bridge

02:11:02 - Julian F. Wheeler,PC-ACACchair(he/his): - Let's commit together to make Pierce County more accessible for everyone, including, but not limited to, people with disabilities. And not only for PWD's as customers and constituents, but also as potential leaders, managers, department heads, and even elected officials.

All are invited to our next regular session of the Pierce County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (PC-ACAC) is on-line on Tuesday, September 14th, at 9 am. We are looking for new members and new ideas.

Under the mandate of the Accessible Communities Act of 2010, we help expedite funding for accessibility projects in Pierce County.

Email your interest to attend our next meeting to [Julianfwheeler@aol.com](mailto:Julianfwheeler@aol.com).

02:11:16 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - [rpowers@eou.edu](mailto:rpowers@eou.edu)

02:11:22 - Mike Boisture: - Ed Jacobs call me after the meeting - 253.381.4365

02:11:31 - Ed Jacobs: - Sally Perkins HIPPA



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- 02:11:39 - Colin DeForrest: - ED, it seems like it would be beneficial to share the list of individuals who have died with the shelters
- 02:11:52 - Kelly Blucher: - Can you send the link out through the listserv? I would love to be there when I can!!
- 02:12:06 - Maureen Howard: - Rob - we need to set up the Race and Equity Committee meeting schedule and listserv option on our website
- 02:12:30 - Ed Jacobs: - Kelly certainly
- 02:13:14 - Stacey Soltoff: - I know there's so much to cover & time is at a premium but I think we need to block off more time for breakouts. Those replicate the benefit of coffee time before & after a meeting to coordinate & form relationships
- 02:13:38 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Got it, Stacey. We did have to cut today's discussion short by 5 minutes.
- 02:13:51 - Rosemary Powers: - yes to setting up the race and equity meeting schedule on our website. I just wasn't sure if it could be done by the first meeting. If so, that will be great.
- 02:14:00 - Janet Runbeck: - Project Homeless Connect = Sept. 17 at Peoples park
- 02:15:05 - Sheila Mirafior: - PHC is partnering with HIRE253 for the Sept 17th event; two great programs at one venue!
- 02:18:02 - Kelly Blucher: - Great meeting!!