



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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## Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting – Friday, July 23<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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### SUMMARY KEYWORDS

meeting, maureen, county, coalition, homeless, encampment, site, shelter, homelessness, pierce county, question, update, people, folks, week, great, resources, outreach, city, plan

### SPEAKERS

Ed Jacobs, Kelly Blucher, Heather Moss, Richard, Unknown, Gina Cabiddu, Klarissa Monteros, Julian Wheeler, Janet Runbeck, Rosemary Powers, Valeri Knight, Maureen Howard, Joe Colombo, Colin DeForest, Sedonia Young, Mike Boisture, Rob Huff, Monique Brown, Ryan Mello, Dawn Bohl, Theresa Power-Drutis

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### Rob Huff

Yeah. Well good morning everybody. Let's go ahead and get started here momentarily with today's this morning's meeting How's everybody doing good, I'm seeing some waves. Good. So this morning we have a special guest to do our welcome message. And so, without further ado, Councilmember Mello would you be interested in welcoming welcoming us today. If I could speak. Good morning, Rob. Good morning.

### Ryan Mello

Morning everyone I'd love to Thanks for inviting me. I'm very interested in listening to the discussion this morning. Happy Friday to everybody, it's beautiful. And I just want to continue my gratitude to this really hard working smart group thank you for doing the real work on the ground helping folks like me think through what the what the real strategies are what the real investments are, and the hard work that's in front of us, you, you really have my deepest gratitude. I got to go to the hype center yesterday. If I'm, we probably are all very familiar with the hype center is something that we funded in our



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American rescue plan act first round of investments, it's a comprehensive life resources facility on Pearl Street, that it's a de center, that takes a lot of the youth from the beacons Center during the day to day services skill building activities, mental health, health care, other connections. And I got to spend about an hour there meeting some of the staff and meeting some of the clients, and they just opened recently like I said, it's in large part because of an investment that the county got to make in the program, and it was just it was just really wonderful to see some really high quality evidence based programming that's taking place. That is really helping get, especially in this case, youth and young adults to build the skills to get out of the cycle of poverty, and that was just incredibly inspiring is definitely the best part of my week and hearing from the staff and just sitting there and listening and asking them very open ended questions that if you were me, what would you invest in if you were me, what would you do differently and just really great practical thoughtful responses and you can see the, the youth there. We're really getting a lot of value out of their time so I just, I highly value the work that you all do and organizations like CLR and my opportunity to meet with the hype center. Um, you know, Pride Month, the LGBTQ Pride Month is coming to a close at the end of this month July is pride month in Tacoma and for the first time officially Pierce County this year. And thanks all of you for your expressions of support for that effort, If you, if you got to follow. It was a bit more dramatic than I was expecting it to be to officially declare, July, LGBTQ Pride Month. In all of Pierce County. Um, and you know it really being in the being in the thick of this kind of policymaking work and hearing all kinds of rancor, all the time. Um, I guess I, I'll be honest and say that I wasn't quite prepared for the immense pushback from some in our community, and unfortunately some of my colleagues, maybe I should have been more prepared but I'll be honest with you and say I wasn't. It was quite hurtful, especially as an out gay man. But more importantly, the you know the kids who the young people who listen to those messages are incredibly, incredibly hurtful. And, you know, really contributes to it, we all know this really contributes to kids self confidence, self worth. And we wonder why we have such a disproportionate amount of our young people who are experiencing homelessness. Since then, have been having some, you know, really difficult one on one conversations with my colleagues about why it matters a proclamation didn't change the county code right it did invest millions of dollars more in LGBT youth serving organizations, it was a it was a declaration of who we are as people. Right. And did it, by all accounts, the staff here and some of the veteran members here said it got the most amount of constituent contact ever. I was like, I was in the middle of the health department debacle. A year ago, you're, you're telling me this got more. More constituent contact. And on both sides. A lot of negative. And a lot of negative comments. And again just reflecting on that and how well it didn't change the county code while I did not did not make an appropriation of financial resources. It is so important what we say what we stand for every day right and and really just underlying for me how important what our how our how our government and our, our nonprofit sector in our, in our private sector, what we say what we stand up for absolutely matters to people's self worth and identity and ability to lead. You know, dignified, productive lives. So, I'm the. I know it's all of you are. Head down in the work. You know the disproportionality of the work, especially this month, I think a lot about the disproportionate amount of young people, especially young people who are LGBTQ who experience homelessness and use Pride Month as not only an opportunity



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to, you know, come out of the shadows for Pride Month is the time to no longer be shameful no longer to be in the closet no longer to be shoved into closet but to be, but to be proud of who we are and help people celebrate who they are, but it's also a time to educate others that they know how important it is to still do the work so definitely want to continue to use this month every year to do that work. And I thank you for all of that, um, the last thing I'll, I'll mention is here at Pierce County. In our county charter once a year at least once a year, every district is required to host an in district meeting. This will be my first one as I am new to this legislative body. Um, we're going to be doing ours on September, 8, and we're going to be doing a hyper focus on homelessness, and, and housing but more of an emphasis on on homelessness. I'll make sure to get a more formal written invitation to you through Rob, but it'll be the evening of September 8 We'll be at the University Place council chambers were there on purpose. I'm kind of criticises too much of a Tacoma guy. And we know that people experience homelessness from every single zip code and I really want to help promote that message. So we're taking the show to University Place. We're going to really focus on homelessness, I'm Hope, the plan is for Garrett Nylund to present on the, the shelter plan, and the Coalition to End Homelessness plan there, and some other interesting work going on there's some interesting work going on we just put a contract in place to study gaps in the homelessness, the separate from the Coalition to End Homelessness in the shelter work plan, study, separate but connected. The county council just the performance audit committee of the county council, just appropriated funds and are moving forward on a, on a contract with ICANN northwest to do a gap analysis we can send that in the homelessness system and the in the true cost of homelessness, there's a lot to this to this body of work. Marine and I think Sally have been paying attention to it quite carefully. If anybody wants the scope of work I'm happy to give it to give it to folks through Robert or whatever makes sense. But we, um, again September 8 industry meeting laser focus on homelessness, to help bring a spotlight to the work and, hopefully, you know, begin the kickoff of what needs to be some major serious investments, and what the smart folks are telling us we need to invest in. So, again, thanks for letting me be here this morning I'm going to listen into the rest of the meeting and my deepest gratitude for the work you do every day.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you so much councilmember Mello and one quick quick question for you is that September 8 Meeting anticipated to be an in person meeting that it is yeah it'll be hybrid but definitely in person. Great, Thank you. Well, we'll put that on our calendars and look forward to hearing what, what can be presented there so thank you very much. And thank you everyone for being here this morning. I know we haven't done this for the last couple of weeks and it's not really in the agenda, but I thought we would ask if we have anybody who's new with us this morning who would like to either drop your information in the chat to introduce yourself or just take a second to say good morning, and introduce yourself. So if you just want to use the raise your hand function. Then I can call on folks who might be new and might want to be acknowledged or again you can use the chat. So Joe, I see your hand up.

## **Joe Colombo**



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Good morning everybody. Excuse me. My name is Joe Colombo and I am a candidate running for district two position to for the city of Puyallup.

And one of the issues that is facing our city is homelessness, so I was informed about this meeting, and wanted to join today.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Joe and thank you for joining us. Gina.

## **Gina Cabiddu**

Hi everybody, I'm more of a welcome back than a welcome but I'm Gina cavity, I'm on the Kenai Peninsula branch of Children's Home Society of Washington. So we serve the other side of the bridge primarily focusing again on keeping on slip but also get Harper and parts of Mason County, so I'm excited to be here as that capacity but also as one of the co chairs of the Gig Harbor Key Peninsula homeless and Housing Coalition we started just because I have some unique needs on our side of the bridge and I'm happy to see new faces and happy to see familiar faces. Thanks for having me.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Gina and I see Cydonia with a good morning in the chat anybody else Cydonia your hands up.

## **Sedonia Young**

Good morning. I'm Cydonia young representing that common ministerial alliance and you're interested in what you all are doing because the love, the services that you provide really needed in our community and I work with the different churches throughout Tacoma Pierce County, helping them, provide services for our residents. So thank you very much. I'm very interested in finding out more and how we can be a part of this organization, if possible.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Cydonia and definitely you're welcome here and we're glad you're here this morning so hopefully this morning's meeting and content is useful for you. All right, so why don't we move on to our first standing item that we do every week, which is our this week on the streets section of the meeting. And what this is is an opportunity for folks who are doing direct outreach and community members who are saying things in their own community, to let the group know what needs are out there what has changed on the streets. We'd love to hear whatever folks have to share. If you're doing direct interaction with those who are currently homeless. So again, raise your hand or unmute yourself and share with the community and awkward silence as part of these meetings so I'm just so you know,



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## **Richard**

Rob, I'm not sure how to jump in. Well you just did so that's perfect. I'm Richard I live in North Ainsworth and two things I've been watching, we have a woman named Tina, living in a tent at the crust from the Jason Lee middle school track on the SDA church property, and I've been giving her food and water talking with her, she's interested in receiving services I've made some calls and outreach and I don't know if anybody's been able to connect with her, but it's been a couple of weeks now that she's been living there fairly disoriented woman, pretty isolated afraid to leave her tent, but just wanting to make note of that. I've been out of town for a day. The other issue I've been keeping an eye on and this group may be aware of what's going on is clean up at the 11th MLK property. Now that the tents have been, they've been gone for a week and last I've seen the garbage continues to pile or at least remain there. And I don't know if anybody in this group has the wherewithal or resources to have an impact on making a difference in what's going on there. But those are the two things that can top of my mind this week on on this issue. Thank you. Thank you Richard. Always good to hear from a neighbor on these.

## **Rob Huff**

So anyone else with this week on the streets, items. Theresa.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Just a quick. As you all know, every time a site gets closed down the other end cameras throughout the city, get an increase of folks, so that's certainly happened on our street I'm guessing it's happened on the other streets when the, the place up near MLK was shut down. Is there somebody here who can talk about that shutdown and why it happened.

## **Rob Huff**

I don't know if we have anyone from the city who could address that. I believe the 11th and MLK site. Is that the same site where there was a fire, a week or so ago. Yeah. Yeah, cuz it was my understanding that the, the removal of folks from that site happened right after the fire, but um, I don't have direct knowledge.

So if I don't do so. A good question for us to find the answer to is whether or not the porter body and hand washing station got moved someplace else useful. What what happened with that and it would be great to have some know when they're moving people some plan for where they go. Once again.

## **Rob Huff**

Yep. Thank you, Teresa. Hi, Rob, this is Monique, Monique.



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## **Monique Brown**

I'm on my phone for the first time I have no clue what I'm doing, but I would cite and yes they were kicked out because of the fire that was started, and the Porta Potti and hand washing station were not there when I was there.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Monique. So we have a couple more moments if folks have anything additional to share and Theresa, maybe we can double back with the city during the government updates to see if they can offer any insight. All right so, Maureen, you're muted right now Maureen,

## **Maureen Howard**

thank you. I don't see Jeffrey boys, I think he's the one who told me that the 72nd and McKinley, I think encampment has built up again. And I don't know if that's on anybody's radar.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah and Jeffrey's actually off this week I believe he's back next week, so maybe you can offer an update at that time if no one on the call is familiar with that site. Alright so if anybody else has additional information or concerns that they'd like to drop into the chat. That would be a great way to get it to us as a reminder throughout these meetings. I did post in the chat a little bit ago, the meeting norms for the coalition meetings. And, you know, I will repost those as we move into the next session. But we do retain the chat and use that as a resource on an ongoing basis, so please use that as a way to communicate with the coalition leadership so that we can make sure that these issues are addressed over the coming week. So let's move in. Yes,

## **Monique Brown**

I'm so sorry, I did, I do not know how to raise my hand on the phone, I don't. I have no clue what I'm doing, don't know how to use it, it's all good. And I think you're on this week on the streets, is that where you are right now,

## **Rob Huff**

we are just wrapping that part up so yeah if you have something that this would be perfect.

## **Monique Brown**

Yeah, just real quick, I'm at 24th and 25th, near Pacific, um, that has grown a great deal, I don't see an additional porta Potti This should be one Porta Potty per 50 people, and I didn't see that they added an additional one so I don't know who I can speak to about that or if that's something you can do well but just so that's out there.



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## **Rob Huff**

We'll take that information in. And I do know that Clarissa from the city is on the call, so she will she has heard that now as well so appreciate your reporting that Monique.

## **Klarissa Monteros**

Oh, my apologies Monique I was emailing Linda now about the the fire. What was the question you have,

## **Monique Brown**

at 24th and 25th streets of a Pacific, and it has grown there's about 125 people out there now, and there's just one Porta Potty. And I know that it should be one Porta Potty per 50 people. So, just wondering how we can get another Porta Potty out there. That was the question.

## **Klarissa Monteros**

I was on mute. Thank you. Thank you money. You know, I'm emailing my supervisor now to get questions by the update later on.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Clarissa and thank you, Monique for that report. So let's move on in our agenda. The first presentation that we have and we're doing some short presentations to kick off these meetings as well. And I would like to invite Dawn ball from Catholic Community Services. Dawn is going to give us a little update on the piala Hotel pilot project so don the floor is yours. Hey everyone, good

## **Dawn Bohl**

morning. It's been probably well over a year since I've been on these have been on the coalition meeting, but happy to be back. Thanks for the invite. In Hi Janet miss you. Um, let's see, so yes I'm Dawn bull. Thanks for the invite. I am with Catholic Community Services I oversee and the program supervisor for supportive services, case management team, and that consists of our stability site, or the stability site we have case management there on site. That includes or maybe health shelter and maybe house apartments and then also our, the new pilot project in PLO for the pilot Hotel. So we started that. I guess that conception was February 11 is when that began, we got some people that's right when the snow hit. So we were able to try and fast track that as we're getting all the heating and all the things signed and contract signed we were able to fast track that and get some folks into the hotel that weekend. And so it's been at capacity since February 15 with a waitlist and the cap capacity is that we have 20 rooms that the city is paying for and then within those rooms they're usually single adults and we have more couples, so we actually have 27 people in the program right now. And so in total we have served 48 people, since February 11 So now, some being exited due to non compliance, non compliance within our program so being exited Judas, non compliance within the hotel themselves, they have their own rules and regulations that they need to follow, follow as well. So, we offer on site,



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case management, they're just like any other case management, we're there to help them file for Social Security, apply for jobs, look for apartments, get them into a coordinated entry system one driver's license, whatever, along with your typical case management, and then connect them, of course to any mental health. We've been partnering with greater lakes as well, along with our ABH team, and try to connect with mental health services and a substance use disorder, and help them get into treatment, we've had some really good successes with people with job employment. We've had two people gain employment. One person was able to buy a car and increase their hours due to the stimulus check they were able to go out buy a car and their hours of work at jobs, increased a lot. Which was great. We've had other successes of his people. He of course just engaging right, you're coming off the streets have no contact and getting them a place to settle down lay their head at night. So I think the first week, I thought was really cool because we had one girl who hadn't had a job in quite some time. The moment she was able to come into the hotel and just have a place to lay her head at night and be safe. She had a job within the first week. And so that was really cool. But that's it. Oh, and then, like I said, so we are at capacity, we've been at capacity since the start of this with 20 rooms, There is a waitlist and that waitlist is managed by pilots. Police Department officer Pearson and also city of Calif with Melissa moss. They are the two that would manage the waitlist and keep track of who can come in and what also if there is anybody that you're trying to get into the hotel. Definitely reach out to them because I don't have any control over who gets it and who doesn't.

## **Rob Huff**

So thank you, Don, do you have a moment for questions from folks

## **Dawn Bohl**

Yeah absolutely and and also I just want to apologize, there is a mark on my screen so do not try to adjust your screens, my camera broke inside and I noticed there's a big black spot right in the middle of my screen that says me trying to just drill on screen.

## **Rob Huff**

So So Don, one question that I have and then I'll get to Maureen, it is there a projection for how long the hotel project will run and a commitment from the, from the city. Yeah, so

## **Dawn Bohl**

we just got word last week so we're extended until March of 2022 I guess so. Eight more months, so it's a six month pilot project, it's been successful investment they've asked to keep it going.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Maureen

## **Maureen Howard**



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had to find the unmute button. Thank you, Don. Can you talk a little bit about how it works to have the referrals, only coming through. Melissa Moss with the city of Puyallup and and the Puyallup Police Department in what, in what way can you spend on that. I mean that's one very specific model. And as we're looking at trying to get everybody off the streets by the first of November, is sort of, you know what are the strengths or concerns or, you know.

## **Dawn Bohl**

Yeah, so, um, you know, this is, I don't want to speak on behalf of the City of Gallup, but this was basically this is their, you know, this was the model that they wanted to have due to the outreach that they're doing and so they really want to focus on it in with within the city limits of Gallup officer Pearson he's with the outreach team on the on the police department so he's out there, going to the encampments, and that's where they're kind of getting the referrals off of from there. Thanks. Yeah, sorry I don't have any question for Cydia. No,

## **Maureen Howard**

no, no, don't expect you to speak for this city at all more program operator. It sounds like it's working.

## **Dawn Bohl**

Yeah, I mean, you know it is going, it is going well. Certainly, you know, we'd love to have a larger a larger expansion of things but I guess right now that's that's where that's where it's at, is just that focused area.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks. Well, one more question for you, Don, What, how long is your waiting list.

## **Dawn Bohl**

You know I tried to ask that of Officer Pearson yesterday and I he didn't get back to me and he is off today so I don't have an answer of that on there. It is, it is at least 10 deep, I believe. But, but yes.

## **Rob Huff**

Great. So anyone else with a question for Don before we move on to the next item. Well thank you very much for joining us, and great to have you back and keep up the good work. Thanks everyone. Thank you. All right, so our next item on the agenda is, we've have invited Heather Moss from Pierce County Human Services to join us. And I think I saw Heather in the room. So if you're ready and willing to start walking us through. Talk about the recent heat emergency and just planning at the county level for people who are currently homeless, take it away.

## **Heather Moss**



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Yeah, happy to do that, Rob, thank you for inviting me to be here with you all today and it's nice to see all of our coalition partners here on this sunny Friday morning, very moderate weather today so we're grateful for that for sure. Before I talk about the heat I just want to acknowledge councilmember Mello and thank him for being here as well and for sharing his information and perspectives on Pride Month. Human Services is very supportive of Pride Month as you all know we are very aware that that our homeless youth are disproportionately comprised of LGBTQ individuals and for the very reasons that Councilmember Mello mentioned. So we are paying particular attention to that. And as well, we know that our senior population, our Senior LGBTQ Population often faces, isolation, and on uncertainty different than I think our regular adult population. So our ADR team has been very engaged in pride and LGBTQ positive efforts, and they've also hosted a summit for LGBTQ seniors for two years running now which is really pretty nifty. So we, we were happy to be sponsors of pride. The pride event here in Tacoma, this, this past these past few weeks. So I just want to start with that and also tell you all that my I use the pronouns, she and her. So let's talk about hot weather. As you all know we had some pretty intense hot weather a few weeks ago, when I heard some radio interviews after the fact they likened it to the equivalent of an earthquake, and I know that there are meteorologists and weather, researchers all across the state of Washington who are studying their models saying, how on earth did this happen we never could have predicted it. It's not supposed to get this hot here. So, it was something that none of us ever expected, and unfortunately it's probably something that we will see again. So we went into that heat extreme that heat event with a few plans as Department of Emergency Management works closely with my team and with other departments across the county. They quickly mobilized to set up cooling centers and worked with partners throughout the county and other jurisdictions and school districts, and businesses to set up cooling centers throughout the county. I will say it's a little more complicated now that we have a lot of our typical congregate setting type facilities not quite as open as they have been in the past so just a caveat there that they were working through but nonetheless I believe that when all was said and done by Friday there were 21 cooling centers available across the county. In addition de m worked with our peers transit partners to ensure that the buses were free for people who wanted to get to the cooling centers. So that's all good. Right. We also had water that was ready to be delivered and was actually delivered to those cooling center sites. So this is where it comes to the part where I'm new, and this is an unprecedented event, and we got to Saturday I think it was when it started really getting hot and we realized, and much of that was brought to our attention by you and people from this group, that there were many people suffering in the encampments who were disinclined to leave their property or leave their encampment for many reasons, many valid reasons. And so we're not willing or not interested in using the cooling centers.

I will tell you that generally, the Pierce County Human Services, as you all know we have a pretty small team and our homeless team has maybe a dozen people, So it's not that we have an army of folks to organize and mobilize, we rely significantly on the contracts that we put out to direct outreach providers. In this instance and impasse instances in inclement weather. We, our typical approach has been that



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we have permissive contracts with our outreach teams, and that is to say, there are allowable costs in those contracts that allow them to use their resources as they see fit in an inclement weather event, which this was. That could include hotel vouchers that could include buying additional supplies or transport if needed. What we realized during this event and what we're going to change now after this event is instead of having permissive language we're going to move to much more directive language. If you also are familiar with how we contract for outreach teams in the past. The county has been much more engaged in direct services in terms of housing and rapid rehousing and shelter. So it's not focused very much on outreach. We had two contracts, I believe it was provided to provider contracts. Recently we've greatly increased that I think we're now up to six or seven. So, with those six or seven, our plans at this point are to work with those outreach provider organizations to renegotiate the contracts so we have more directive language that talks about in the event of inclement weather, which could include hot weather, cold weather, snow, smoke, which we know is coming up. Here are the things that we would like you to do, here's the budget amount in your contract that you are able to access in that activity. And here's the trigger that we will, we will push or the, the signal that we will give you when that is activated. So, a much more proactive approach than than the passive approach frankly that we've taken in the past. The other idea that we're talking about and sorry I'm kind of jumbling what happened and what we're doing now, but hopefully you're following along the, the other idea that we're working on is creating a contract for to put out in a Notice of Funding Availability, so that we have someone who has more on the ground presence who can coordinate some of those activities, because one of the things we also learned in that heat event is that while we have contacts with outreach teams and we can call people all day long, Monday through Friday, when it comes to evenings and weekend emergency events, we need to have a better handle on our, our contracted providers and communicate with them regularly. So, for what it's worth, what I will tell you about that weekend, is that we had the cooling centers we had the buses, when it was brought to our attention that water was needed we worked with our Department of Emergency Management we worked with our counterparts of the City of Tacoma made that available. I believe there was adequate water in the at the end of that weekend and into the following week, to be distributed by your volunteers. So we are happy that that process works the way that it should have. I appreciate the criticism that it was not as well of an oiled machine as it could have been. And we are working to address that for sure. And then I guess the last thing that I would share before I, I'm available for questions is that this is not this is not an, a new thing, or this is not a one stop thing, or one single event kind of thing so we need to work on what we're going to do in the future.

While I know that it is important to have an emergency response for our unhoused. What I think we need to make sure that we do is two things one is think about what is an adequate response, How much water is enough water, how much outreach do we do into on to the encampments where they exist, rather than providing services, where we're asking people to come to those services. And then the other thing that I would add is that, again, marine mentioned this earlier today, If all goes as



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planned and we really do have an implement a robust effort to end street homelessness. Maybe this won't be a such a, such a dire issue in the future and that's really my, my ultimate hope is that we get to a point where, as you know, our goal has always been that homelessness rare brief and non recurring and we really want to make sure that we are doing our level best to make sure that happens and Councilmember Mello and his colleagues on the council are standing firmly behind us and waiting anxiously I know for our report so that they can fund us adequately to go out and make those a reality. So that's where I'll leave it at this point I'm happy to answer questions.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Heather. So please again use the raise hand function so that I can see who has an interest in asking Heather a question while we have this conversation, and I see Mike moisture with your hand up first.

## **Mike Boisture**

Thank you. Let me get down before I forget, lower hand. There we go. Got it. Heather, I see you. I am huge, I'm a huge proponent of inclement weather, and you hit on every topic that I've been pushing. Okay, the problem, to a degree, is that you're talking about a coordinated group or whatever. I think you need to take a look at what's called the Disaster Assistance Council under the EEOC. Yep, we've been putting that together, and we didn't hear anything. But then again, if the UFC has to activate on the inclement weather for the DLC, to become active, and we have all the people, except for the Homeless Coalition on our team. And that would be the place to go and I listened to Maureen, all that week, I was out of town. But that's a group that's already together. Okay, that we might be looking at. The other question I heard that wasn't a question that was statement sorry. Um, the 21 cooling centers, that was an intriguing number for me. Do you have where those were located.

Okay, first, second question first i i Don't at the tip of my tip of my fingers but the DM did have a website where that they were all listed so I don't know if it's still up but I can certainly find that list and share it with you and with Rob to distribute was not activated right they it was not a full activation, but they were absolutely coordinating that service, so to your first question about the Disaster Assistance Council, so what's the acronym, D AC, that this week, and we'll have staff members who are active very active in that in your app. You reminding me of that it's important to talk about the role of the GAC. My understanding it is is pretty a broad spectrum of individuals who can be quickly contacted and are familiar enough with emergency response that they know how to react and and provide resources when something like this happens. I'm still learning about emergency management, my understanding is that there's activation, like things like a pandemic, and then there's something a little bit less than activation where they're doing stuff but maybe it's not like the full EEOC for press. There are often instances, particularly for our unhoused population where we may need to do something before it really becomes a community wide or all citizen kind of emergency right. He, they're much more our homeless



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population is probably more sensitive to heat issues more sensitive to smoke issues. So we are working actively with our Department of Department of Emergency Management partners on a couple of things one is a standard operating guidelines and S O G. There's lots of acronyms in emergency management that I'm getting a handle on. And that will really clearly delineate when d m steps in and does something, and when we as Pierce County Human Services, step in, and I think you're very right to point out that in that continuum, the, the Disaster Assistance Council has a very important role, and, and we just need to do more with that and that's on us that we did not use that resource to the extent that we could have in this past instance. Just for your information. Kirsten and myself, share that account. Yep, I met with Kirsten earlier this week she was the one that was sort of schooling John and me about how this could how this could go differently. Yep. Okay. Perfect. All right, I'll stop now appreciate the feedback for sure.

All right, Teresa you're heading. I Heather, thank you for coming again. And it's the people who are closest to us in county and city government, who get the brunt of all of our complaints, so I always appreciate you coming and being willing to hear us out and talk with us about what's going on. I do think that it's great that we now are aware of what didn't work. In the past, both with the cooling stations and with the water system and I know that's going to help us to do a better job as a community next time around. I, I'm hoping that there's somebody taking a very serious look about why it's so hard for people to pack up their tents and everything and come to a polling station, and what could we do that is quite different than that so if you're brainstorming on that and you have some ideas I'd love to hear them. And I know that I'm guessing most people in this group would be very much wanting to support such a thing, and it's, it's really time to be thinking about what to do about warming and cooling. In addition to how we can get people into spaces where they have some security and toilets, and so forth.

Yeah, I appreciate your comments and your question through so because I think a way we could almost use some of these as an impetus to get people to this right and I, that's partly what I'm reading into in your comments. We.

## **Maureen Howard**

You're fading in and out. Sorry, hold on.

Sometimes it helps to unmute and mute again, I don't know why, but anyway, hopefully that's better. So we have been brainstorming what it would take to help encourage people to leave their encampments to go for services in a cooling center or in a ad to get out of the smoke for example, It might be that we are more proactive about storage. It might be that we have more outreach teams on site to help them



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actually do the transport. It might be that we think more about what we could do to secure their site while they leave it, and then come back. That's a little bit of a stretch, frankly, from county government perspective. It also might be that we bring resources more to them, and such as the water distribution or maybe bringing a bus on site that has air conditioning on it and the bus parks right there under 705 and people can go in and use that. I know that our Department of Emergency Management considered that in intervention this during this last heat event and Pierce Transit is just understaffed, they did not have the resource to be able to put out extra buses which is a sign of the economic situation we're in right now just across the country. So we're looking at ways to do that. It's challenging, because ultimately you want people to be safe and you don't want people to think that they can't leave their, their home. To be safe, and, and so I don't know how much we want to encourage being in an unsafe place right that's that's the challenge here. I actually was getting pretty nervous of the reports that I was hearing from the coalition over the weekend during that heat event, and I went to Safeway bought a couple of cases of water and three actually and drove down to the 705 encampment just so I could have my own eyes on it to see what was going on, there were I would say, 20 people in left in the encampment and I know that that's a fraction of who lives there right now, I was just on the left hand side. But anyway, I walked around distributed some water. Everybody that I talked to and saw had water, so there. So, there was nobody, sort of, without water, there were lots of bottles of water there were a couple of coolers there, folks didn't seem too concerned, I talked to them about cooling centers they were wet they had heard about that with other people. So it's, it's hard to know what more we could have or should have done in that instance, at least in that little tiny sample that I, I was involved in, but I was somewhat reassured after that visit, seeing that they did have, for those who choose to chose to stay, they did have some minimal supports or resources available to them.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Heather.

## **Maureen Howard**

Heather thanks people. I want people to know that Heather was. I've got feedback from somebody that Heather was completely available to me over that weekend, which was huge for me. Even when I was yelling at her that it was not my job. But, and thank you for the what you've already described as the changes that are being made a couple of things. So one is the triggers that you talked about what will activate Pierce County Human Services response. And I, it's important that I think for us that we've got one set of triggers across the county. So to come as already puts them on the table. And in terms of 85 degrees, they'll open the stability site for distribution of water, it's not clear to me whether that water can go county wide or not. I'm leaving it to you and Linda store it to sort that out. And then the issue of the contracted outreach, folks, and how much notice are they going to need to be able to reschedule themselves so that they can go out on the weekends because the, you know, people were done at five o'clock on Friday. And, you know don't read emails over the weekend and they shouldn't have to I mean they have these are jobs, you know, but, I mean one of the reasons I think that you found water



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with people a 705 Is that Food Not Bombs went and other volunteers went and, you know, Food Not Bombs went out like three times a day sometimes, and, and I took, you know, I took one call late on a Monday from a volunteer who said I had to work today, where can I go now, you know, which brings up another thing that I think is really important and it's what kind of a communications structure, are, are, are you going to have, and how do people get into it, who are not a contracted outreach team. And yeah, so I think getting all those and they were talking to people who work internationally, talking along what you had proposed earlier about how do we take to the encampments what people require. And right now the forecast is at five degrees on Thursday. So what's our plan. What's your plan.

Okay, there's a, there's a lot in there I think I've got four different questions I'm going to try to answer in regard to triggers and I know you sent me an email about this earlier, I was not aware of that to come I had already set a trigger at 85 degrees to do water to distribute water, they do have a pretty large supply of water available at the, the stability site, which is great. That, to my knowledge is unlikely to be used or eligible for use outside of the city of Tacoma limits at this time. My preference is that we, we, as the county work with our outreach teams to make sure that there are resources available, what I would say about triggers, first of all, there are people across the country who would look at us crazy if we said that 85 was hot weather right so there's just that, but I will say 85 under the 77

## **Rob Huff**

year mic is cutting out again for some

agree with you that 85 degrees when you're sitting in a parking ride encampment is a lot, but 85 and ordain is not so I think it's you know pretty pleasant. So I think we have some work to do to figure out what the right triggers are for the county, and, and how that works with a county that has even different climates within the small jurisdiction that we operate in. So that's one thing I don't have an answer for you yet, that is on our list of to figure out, outreach teams, so you're right, in one sense, that right now as they exist, we cannot really expect folks who have eight to five jobs to be available over the weekends. What I'm suggesting to you either in those contracts or in this overarching emergency response contract is that's exactly what we asked for and we require is that somebody be available and be on call or be able to mobilize over evenings and weekends as needed. We've not had that requirement or paid for that service before and so it'll be interesting to see how we negotiate that and get that but that's what we need to do. It's my team of 12 is probably not the right people to do that. The other thing that I would say about the volunteers is first, and this is very deep from from deep in my heart is thank you thank you. We cannot do anything in our community without volunteers. Even if we ran the best emergency response in the world you need volunteers to to help support that. That said, we do not want to rely solely on volunteers and I know that that was your point throughout the weekend Maureen, and so we are going to work hard to make sure that we at the county are prepared to offer



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emergency response services that are adequate to meet the needs. Now that's not to say that we're going to agree on adequacy right so there is always going to be an organization, whether it's the coalition Food Not Bombs, any number of people who are going to say what you're doing is not enough, and I'm going to take my own resources in my own time and go out and do that. That's where it's gonna get tricky because you can't say that because of volunteer decided on their own or as a group to go out and provide services that the government or the jurisdiction was not doing enough, right, it sort of becomes this matter of opinion. So I think that's where we're going to have to work really hard as partners to make sure that we understand respective roles and and sort of agree to disagree and do what we're going to do anyway, right. So, that's my point about volunteers I agree with you that we don't, they should not be our primary resource. But my hunch is that there will always be a role, whether we decided or whether the volunteers decided. And then the last thing you asked about at least in my notes here is communications. Mike was right to point out that the best avenue we have for that right now is this Disaster Assistance Council, I think I'm getting that right da see a broad group of representatives from across the community nonprofits private sector businesses, government, and that's the group that really needs to be mobilized during an event like this, and people will self select in and out of that and Mike made the great point that I don't think the coalition is represented there, so that's where we have some work to do.

## **Rob Huff**

Well done. Alright so Heather we have a couple more questions. If you can hang with us, I'm Monique.

## **Monique Brown**

Hi Monique you're on mute. I know I would. That's what I had my hand up like let me find this dark View button, I know, ground right. Yeah, yep, yep. Oh, are you doing, good to see you. Thank you. Good seeing you as well. So listen, I don't really have a question, but an exclamation point on taking it to the people. We must have every point and looking at it as I'm out there on the street, I know that a lot of people can't get to places. And so we've got to focus on how we get things to the people. This point of being in the homelessness world and a nine to five is crazy to me. So tap into the small nonprofit organizations that say would do it whenever if you need me right now I'm going right, so how do you leverage us small nonprofit to help with that kind of work. And, um, I agree that it's got to be coordinated with with the Coalition and the county, but also, you know, bringing us smaller organizations in and making sure I mean, with me on the coalition I get the information, but there are other small organizations that need it too so I mean, if we all know of other organizations that are not tapping into this coalition, then we should be capping them as well. The outreach teams are limited. And so volunteers are going to the most important aspect of any emergency. It's just the story of life in this world that we live in, there's not enough people to do the work and so volunteers are important so I just wanted to put an exclamation point on that we need to take it to the people



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appreciate that Google's comments and you're right that there are a lot of small organizations doing some heavy lifting. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Oh, thank you. And our last. Sorry about that. I love it. All right, Janet, you had a question as well, you're muted right now, Janet,

## **Janet Runbeck**

I have probably more, post traumatic stress than I have a question. Being on the front line that weekend of being a public health nurse and knowing that 24 people were dead. Because of this heatwave. A one of whom was Jason Nixon. 47 years old, living homeless, and dies because of the heatwave in 2017. We had an Amtrak derailment, only three people died, only three people died but it got everybody's attention, everybody was front and center, everybody was there, you can hardly get through the health department, because everybody is focused on this one accident 2017 Amtrak derailment. We have a weekend where we know that there's going to be hot weather, we knew as the public just by reading our apps that hot weather was coming, I was told officially by the county that this was not enough to trigger a response by the county. I try to get through the Health Department, the health department is not triggered to act, that this is an emergency. Yeah 24 deaths later, we find out, it was an emergency. Okay. So, that being said, right now I'm pleased to announce that part of what we did, that weekend was to set up a casual, informal relationship with the county at the Salvation Army, right now for all of you folks who are outreach workers, I want you to know that this coalition has set up there is now a pallet of water that's been delivered to the Puyallup Salvation Army, for people who can't access the Tacoma stability site, you can go to the Puyallup Salvation Army and get water, a pallet was delivered by EFM all of this is volunteer work. So if you need water for your folks. Anybody, anybody can go to the Salvation Army annex don't have free access to the that water this okay so that's an announcement. And I'm going to keep up this casual announcement I know Maureen has told me to hold back, hold back don't don't keep going on on supplying water doing systems, When I was faculty at PSU, nursing, we went throughout the county my student nurses were throughout the county. Do you know that most people will admit that they are not prepared for an emergency. Most people who live in our county admit freely, they're not prepared for an emergency. And when asked, Where will you go in an emergency. They say the local church. The local church is where people expect to go right and I told you this and churches are aghast oh my god I can't I can't handle that. So we as a coalition as part of safe sites for all have talked casually, we have drafted a letter and I know Maureen says Wait wait wait, because the people who are paid to do this will do it. I'm saying no, do we know that there's not another emergency that's gonna happen at five o'clock tonight. It always happens to five o'clock on a Friday night. So, there are drafts being made right now to, to go to churches associated ministries, we've got a common ministerial alliance here, the LDS church, all these churches, many churches have a sense of knowing that their role is to help neighbors and meet our position is, churches, help your congregants first help your neighbors in need. Next, but please reserve some for those who live homeless so that



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outreach teams can come to your building at 7am on a Saturday morning, or whatever for basic needs such as water. Now I would like to go through and push on this agenda, and I would like to be part of the official system. I would like this to be part of a DM, or whoever steps up in a government agency, to say that we know that government does not have enough money to show up for every single emergency for everybody, we get it, but instead of saying well maybe volunteers here or there, why not recognize volunteers who already have in their mission statement. And the, the commitment to be there in need. So, can we have the blessing, sooner rather than later, marine I'm sorry I don't want to wait until the August, after action. I want to know that we can go ahead and pursue this, because I don't know what kind of weather we're gonna have next weekend, and I do not want to go through what we went through three weekends ago, and then have even more stress on people I know people were calling me people calling me personally, saying, What can I do, well, okay, yeah I've any water, you couldn't go to Costco and buy more than two cases of water, Fred Meyers ran out of water. Are we gonna let this happen again. I'll shut up.

Thank you for your passion. First of all, I just have to say thank you jam for your comments and for all that you did that weekend I know that at one point I heard that you and your husband were driving a truck with a forklift on it and so I applaud you for your efforts and and appreciate that and you have some great comments there that we need to take to heart. Yeah, thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, so thank you for this conversation. Thank you for being here, Heather to hear the feedback and take our questions. We really appreciate it. And, as usual, we're running a little bit over on our agenda, but I do want to carve out we we have time on the agenda to have small group discussions about how the coalition can help, not run the system, but be helpful in filling in gaps, when we have situations like the heat emergency like the upcoming smoke emergency, and, and like the winter weather that we know is going to be coming. So, I'm going to shorten our networking session where we talk about this down to 10 minutes but I think it's important that we spend some time. debriefing a little bit from what we heard here, and sharing some thoughts, and then I encourage people to take some notes and drop them in the chat so that we can gather that information after these conversations take place. So I am going to set up breakout rooms with roughly five people in each room, so that we can hold this conversation for about 10 minutes, and everybody will be just randomly assigned. And we will start those now see everybody back here at 1015,

<Breakout Rooms>

## **Rob Huff**



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Welcome back everybody I know that the 10 minutes was surely not enough to share everybody's thoughts around this topic but if people did take notes during your breakouts, please drop them in the chat and we will move on with the rest of our meeting once again thank you Heather for joining us and taking all our questions and being a part of today's meeting. So the next item on our agenda our typical government updates, so let's get started with any updates from the city of Tacoma.

## **Klarissa Monteros**

Hey Rob Yes we have some updates, let me pull them up for you. Hello everyone. Um, oh I did get an update on the 11th and MLK encampment. It was on private property, and they said the owner implemented a no trespass order to have a cleared in that services were offered to everyone prior to their departure. And I think there was some questions about a portable toilet, and I asked about it but nobody knew about a portable toilet on site, so we're not sure about that comment. The city also received funding from Pierce County to operate a temporary emergency shelter at Shiloh Baptist. The shelter is of up to 35 Single men. There are still vacancies at Bethlehem if anybody knows anyone need to shelter the lay Oh this is cool Vallejo our young adult shelter operator at Pekin alerted us of a couple residing in the town of fossa, who was very interested in shelter and PJ, our outreach staff, he was able to get them placed at disabilities at the stability sites so that was cool. Um, the hygiene stations we operate we're currently operating to temporary hygiene stations at Yakima on private property, and then I 705 and AC on ws that own property. These temporary stations provide restrooms, hand washing stations trash and in 125 Seven on site security, both of them have been extended to the end of August so they'll both be in operations until the end of, into the end of next month. If you guys have any questions or concerns about any of those locations, you could reach out to, I could put this in the chat as well 253 to 501766, and more information on the hygiene is available on our website i'll put the link in the chat city funded temporary and emergency shelter updates like census numbers are available on our website I'm putting that into league rental assistance that is still available, as well. Sorry, I'm trying to multitask everybody give you guys all this information as I'm saying that there you go it's in the chat. And then lastly, Spark and phase three is beginning, I don't know if you guys are familiar with Spark, but they are an amazing, amazing, an amazing national initiative really driven to embedding racial equity into our homeless responses across, across the country. On August 7 Phase Three begins, of this, of this study in the city of Tacoma is participating. The intent of this phase of the, of the study is to redesign equity practices and policies within communities so this really gets to the root of anti racism work right we're going to look at our policies and procedures because that's how we get sustained transformation long term. So we are looking for an inclusive team of five to 10 members that represent diversity across roles, race, ethnicity, gender identity and lived expertise. So if anybody is interested in participating with us, please, please reach out to me or Teagan Tidball directly.

## **Richard**

Thank you, Clarissa, and I see Richard with your hand up. Yes, I'm just wondering is the city made any progress coordinating with the property owner at 11th and MLK, to get it cleaned up, and again I



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apologize if it's been cleaned up in the last 24 hours, and if not coordination code enforcement to get some citations going on, to take care of the garbage and debris that's left behind. Not that I know of,

## **Klarissa Monteros**

I don't typically work on the encampment side of things and the only update I received it that, that the owner had no trespass cleared and it doesn't look like we went to provide any like cleanup services, it just looks like we went to offer services to the people that was residing there.

## **Richard**

Right, my understanding is the trespass agreement is has been in place for time. The encampment was moved out a little over a week ago. And the last I see I mean there's a mountain of garbage there. And if they're not going to clean it up, it seems like at least code enforcement at minimum, you should play a role in getting some citations for those folks. Yeah, I could bring that up I could reach out. Thank you. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Clarissa, I'm calling you had a question as well.

## **Colin DeForest**

Yeah, thanks for the information Karissa. I was just curious on the Shiloh Baptist and even actually on Bethlehem, I know that it's changed, is there as far as program requirements and I know you said they're taking man but for Shiloh, I'm wondering what the requirements are and who they're not taking, you know, that would be, I think beneficial I don't know if that information has been shared with the coalition, but it's just from, and what that referral process looks like because I know I'm not clear on it.

## **Klarissa Monteros**

Yeah, I'm sure that we could pull a scope and share it with the, with the coalition, I can let you know calling that that's on our radar and part of the five year homeless strategy I'm going to be reaching out to you guys to the whole coalition soon, We'll be sending you like a survey link, hopefully to get some of your feedback on like our mission, vision, values, or logic model, full transparency, I will probably reach out to Garrett Nylund and maybe Maureen Howard and do an individual meeting and share more of the measures and how we're gonna actually measure success to this plan. But one of the key equity measures is that in that is to. Oh, I feel like I'm sharing a little bit, but it's to create on demand low barrier shelter for everybody who's ready when they're ready right which is going to require us to take a look systemically at our contracting and what policies and procedures are of the different sites that we have. So, that is something that's totally on our radar. I agree. Um, we are looking at up updating our data collection measures as well, and how we analyze our data, and what sorts of requirements we are going to be asking of folks, but this will help us see who's right. While we're while, it'll help us see who's not making it into shelter, what their experience looks like, why they're not getting in and then we can



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target, what sort of equitable alternatives we need to have in place right in order to right size the system and ensure that everybody has a place like a yes yes on demand right so like when they want treatment is ready, on demand, and they want shelter is ready, on demand, because that changes right they may be ready one day and not the next so we want to be able to provide that when it is so that's our goal, we'll be sharing with the coalition how we're planning on measuring that and we'll, there's a bunch of other things, really exciting things in the plan as well that we want share, we would love your feedback on before we, you know, because we're still, is we're still molding in your guys's feedback is still is still moldable right now. I feel like I went off a little bit because I got excited thinking of the homeless strategy calling. But yes, I could definitely talk to Teagan and see if we could get scopes to you guys if you guys would like to see. I think it's transparency and aligned with where we want to go so we could at least see evaluate where we are now.

## **Colin DeForest**

That's great, thank you so I Yeah, and I appreciate all the information so I guess right now and I people on the, on the meeting probably know but I'm just, even just like right now if there's a referral for Shiloh, are those going through coordinated entry or is it

## **Klarissa Monteros**

I don't believe so. I don't believe so, I believe. I don't believe so. Sorry, I see Valerie shaking her head no. Is it just calling Shiloh or is there a number. I don't that's chickens portfolio I could reach out to her and get that information to you guys though. That would be great.

## **Unknown**

I'm a member of Shiloh Baptist Church. And we've been talking about that for a while with our church members and trustees and so forth, but it's mainly coordinated through the city, and they have been working with Pastor Christopher and the subcommittee to talk about all these, these issues but it's for really for people that like say I tried to, you know just transition, not those that are on drugs or the, you know, major medical or mental problem, they have their be transferred to some other place, but these are really four, they call it trans people, men in transition. And that's all I can share with you at this point but they're still negotiating talking about setting up the facility so that it will be adequate, with the resources and so forth needed to help these individuals and also coordinate with other agencies counseling, perhaps a jobs and so forth and what we can do there at the church and just informing us of what's happening on a daily basis and what we should be looking out for but these are really men in transition, not on drugs, they're not major med mental problems because we don't have the resources to handle that. We do have transportation and so forth. If people are to if they need to go to the hospital where they need to have other types of services that they can't themselves because of transportation. So, again, we're working with the city we have not really finalized that this still in discussion, there's been measurements have been successful or not. And we have some excellent men that there. There are mentors and we have women that are support and so forth, you know, to get out there, mostly all



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the time the women are getting close or getting food, you know, the cat accomplishing the man is they have mental problems at church and so forth are problems with family and so forth. So, I think we're pretty much, I think, in the ballpark in terms of being able to provide some type of service that will be helpful to these individuals that are in need of really housing, or getting back out there in terms of jobs or resources. So that's where we're at with that.

## **Colin DeForest**

Thank you for that update and, yeah, I think that that's awesome and I just think that my point is, just so that we don't, because I think kind of what was said from the city standpoint, I was under the impression that it is basically just referrals for people that maybe are on Yakima Avenue and maybe are kind of more of our chronically homeless individuals and that's why I wanted the clarification, just so that we're getting the right people referred and then so it's not actually open right now. And then I'll be quiet. What what isn't open right now. Call me. Shiloh, so it sounds like it's not actually open right now or is it open, it sounds like they're still figuring that out. I'm just gonna

## **Unknown**

open right now, and there may be some individuals that are on the street, but are looking for resources, and have not located them yet to the city maybe referring them to us also.

## **Klarissa Monteros**

Yeah, and I know that we move people directly from like the story that we should like we move people directly from outside into shelter as well so I think that's part of that referral process I don't believe that's the whole, the whole thing.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, thank you for all that information, And, yeah, whenever we can get the kind of more solid process, figured out, it'd be great to hear that from Tegan. So thank you everybody, let's move on to our Pierce County update so do we have anybody from the county that has updates for us this week.

## **Valeri Knight**

Hello, so it's Valerie, um, a couple things quick we wanted to announce that the youth homelessness demonstration project which is not due till next week was fully submitted today. So that will bring. When we get this grant and when is the keyword. We will it'll bring anywhere from three to \$5 million for youth and young adult homelessness throughout the county. And so this is our fourth year applying and we are just, it's going to be a good year so what will happen from here is in August, they will make the announcement in September we start writing a community coordinated community plan so be on the lookout from someone from the county to be contacting a lot of you I'm sure to help participate in that and so, big shout out public shout out to the yabb which is the Youth Action Board. They were agreed to a group of lived experts all 24 and under who helped write a huge portion of this grant and their



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stories are just all inspiring so they met every single week from six to 9pm, to do their portion so just a public shout out on that for rental assist Oh for CRC, because Clarissa, you didn't say anything but this week this week that continuum of care, nominated and voted in new chair, Clarissa and new vice chairs, Rodney Robinson and Del Mar so we are just continuing with here is going to be something amazing right so congrats to Clarissa, Rodney and Del Mar for that and all the amazing work, but I'm sure that will continue with the continuum of care that application has not opened from HUD yet so as soon as it does hit the grid, we'll all hit the ground running to make sure that submitted this year. And then with rental assistance and then I have one more announcement after this, we had our E wrap dollars which is the Washington State Department of Commerce. Those are 100% spent out. And then for our Department of Treasury dollars we are at 43.59% spent out. Our goal is to be at 41 right now so we are headed target, and then for our trap which is the Washington State Department of Commerce, Treasury dollars. We are at 46.76% spent outs and our goal is to be at 41 for that as well so we are well on target to hit the 65% requirement. Lots and lots of houses have been served lots of landlords are being made whole. And with utilities and with rent so we are just continuing that process getting the dollars out the door as fast as we can. I did send out a link to the full coalition, so that you have access to our live data, so that is updated every single week. And it has the Ages it has demographics, it has where we're serving people and we track that every single week so we can make sure we're hitting all of the required spots, and that we're not missing out on anything so that data is updated every single week for you and for me. And then my last update is I am, as of today no longer on the homeless team, so I have taken a new job at the county where I am 100 Sorry, Jen, I am 100% rental assistance. So, Today is my last day with homeless so Jeff Rogers will be taking over and figuring out who will be doing the point in time count, and the continuum of care and the youth homelessness and all of the, sorry, Greg, all of the other things that I had so it has been an honor, I will still be here for the rental assistance, and Jeff Rogers will be here for the future for help, calling for the homeless so sorry.

## **Rob Huff**

Well congratulations to you, Valerie. Theresa, you

have your hand up, just to say that, of course, you're going to be great at that because you're already great at that. But it would be, we and we will miss you doing this, homelessness, piece of this, so I, I want to make sure that you come back and do a feature spot with us about the things that you've learned the things that you want to encourage us to do. Okay, okay. Yeah,

## **Valeri Knight**

I would be on.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Cydonia you have your hand up.



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## **Sedonia Young**

Yes, question about mortgage payments, we're doing a lot of concern about people not being their family, so being able to pay their mortgage, is there other aid programs available that we can refer them to.

## **Valeri Knight**

Yeah, so, um, there is one for City of Tacoma residents only and that is currently the only standing program, Washington State Department of Commerce will be leading the work for the rest of the county, their own accord nothing we have control over. And so they have not stood up their project yet so as of right now, there is one project for City of Tacoma and I'll get that to you, but for anything outside the city of Tacoma, there is not. Thank you. You're welcome. So, I will, I will still be here every week, giving you a rental assistance, update and then Mr Rogers, will be here every week with homeless updates so thank you all for having me and if you have any other questions please let me know.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Valerie. So next on our government updates do we have anybody from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department with updates for us this week. Rob that was put into the chat earlier on, because she had to leave the meeting. Okay, thank you. I missed that somehow. All right, so let's shift. We are seriously behind on our agenda because we've had such a good meeting so far. So I'm going to shift over to Mike moisture and Maureen to give us an update on the meetings that have taken place since last, last Friday regarding the Pierce County effort to create the homelessness workgroup, the shelter work group meeting, and then also the steering committee for the comprehensive plan. So I'll let you guys arm wrestle on who wants to speak first. No, I'll go first because I can make mine short. Okay.

No, I, we had a very good meeting this week, and council person, Ryan, I believe, he kind of took all my thunder. Because part of the beginning of the meeting that we had was the Eco Northwest, they introduce themselves to the team. And they took, health care, it's on this call or not. But, Garrett had put together some questions, because he's kind of the program manager now. And so he put some questions together that was very good. And so we sent those to this eco Northwest, they're going to be putting together. Really the survey because we've been seeing an awful lot of people putting surveys together. Okay. And so they're going to be helping us with that third Consulting Group. I think that's through the county that's got them in there. So that was real brief on that other shelters, which was brought up as far as the different shelters that we have out there and the word congregant was. It's kind of an interesting word in the consulting groups as well. Let's don't change that word until we get to understanding our community of the people that are homeless, and so on so forth. So, most of the things that were identified I think Maureen sent me a couple things we looked at it, and the youth side



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of it was not a part of that so I got that in there as well. Let's see the survey, an interesting number not know how accurate this is. But,

## **Rob Huff**

her name is Aman. And she gave a number of 3200 people an estimate of 3200 unsheltered. People that almost kind of blew my mind. Go ahead, Rob. Yeah so, and I asked, she worked along with Garrett on creating that estimate using a couple of methodologies, and it's actually sheltered and unsheltered so it's the, it's the actual total number of estimated, people who are homeless. That includes I think Garrett said during the call, roughly 1000 People who are in shelter of some kind, but they don't, what what doesn't exist yet is a, is a good accounting of how many people are live literally unhoused at the moment I mean that anybody can do the math and come up with a 2200 number but it's just an estimate. So there's work to be done there. Good, thanks. Yeah, So that was that. Also, we we've got some timelines that we're working on.

It sees the survey launch will be this next week by the close of business on Monday. All of our changes are going to be into, Garrett, so he can get them in, and to the consulting group, and then we're going to start next week with

## **Rob Huff**

the survey, it'll be run for two weeks, we'll get some data out of that August 9 is a community outreach, we're going to start working on that. I missed the date when that was going to be launched. Okay.

And then the team is going to be doing a few tours, one of the rescue missions and that will be on August 12, and also the side at sixth an orchard the tiny home site, And that will be on Thursday of this week or next week, so that's a real quick one. I also placed in the chat. I'm going to hit that right now if it's still there. Um, couple of the sites. Yeah, I put the sites in there for our meeting. And the recorded minutes of the meeting, that's in the chat right now. Okay. Yep, perfect.

## **Rob Huff**

And Maureen, do you have information to add regarding the steering committee efforts that met last Friday.

## **Maureen Howard**

That's right. So, just a few things for folks to keep in mind, because you can check the recording you can see the notes, but a few things to keep in mind one, this is not an expansion of Pierce County Human Services, homelessness, funding or response system. This is a county wide plan to end



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homelessness, all funding sources, every jurisdiction. All Programs, exactly what would this look like countywide so keep that in mind. The other couple of things are. One is that there is a, an outline of this plan just by topics, and I've added in investing in organizations, and investing in the people, the staff who are going to carry this out. As well as, as prevention that we just don't look at this as assuming we're going to start when people are homeless. No, we're going to end it at the front end. So think in terms of like three buckets, shelter, permanent housing, of all types and services that go up and down with people's needs. And then I think I'm really impressed with the echo Northwest consultants, and also with the facilitator for both groups. Bree Williams coming from think it's tack I think the technical systems collaborative. So, I'm sorry, you're right, you're right. And the last thing is, and I learned this from a earlier webinar. Don't think in terms of having to recreate systems to provide services we need. What we want to do is make the systems that exist that align with the needs that people have work for the people who are experiencing or at risk for homelessness. So we don't want to homeless behavior health system. We want to behavioral health system that aligns with and meets the needs of people at risk for or experiencing homelessness. So, thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Maureen. So we've got a couple minutes here Maureen, do you have critical advocacy updates that you'd like to share with the group.

## **Maureen Howard**

Yeah and just tell me to stop talking. So, probably the most important thing is on the coalition itself. So, we are in a period of transition, Kevin back and Cole he has completed His work with us and we will invite him on a Friday morning so we can thank him and you know that sort of thing. And so, and he does have another position he's just not at liberty yet to publicly declare it. So, and the other is that Garrett is in transition to his position with the county and we don't know yet what that means for his ability, with the Coalition. We don't know yet. So in the meantime, we're moving forward. If you want to be part of shaping what this coalition is going to be, sign up for the steering committee. All right, there's a specialist serve on the coalition's website for the steering committee under that steering committee, Rosemary powers is leading a governance committee. And we are working through the coalition's absolute commitments. Folks, we just got at \$50,000 from the Washington State Department of Health for the grant Garrett had put in, we're going to be able to continue the Tacoma Fire Department, medical van, and we're going to have money for incentives around, getting people to want to be vaccinated. And also we're going to have some staffing money. So if you want to be part of shaping this plus we've got a small grant around the speaker's bureau and we might have more we're waiting on Pierce County contract and Lamont green with lived experience coalition. So if you want to be part of these get on the steering committee lists or show up for meetings, good advocate show up number one roll, show up. All right, so now's now's your opportunity. Everything else can, that I have on my four pages can wait for another time.



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## **Rob Huff**

I sent an email coming from Maureen, or maybe a series of emails. So thank you, Maureen. So real quickly calling I'm going to shift our agenda just a little bit and have the update from Ed Jacobs, ahead of the safe sites for all update. Perfect. So Ed, you have the floor. Oh,

## **Ed Jacobs**

thank you. I'm a chaplain at nativity house, and I'm also a chaplain at Tacoma Fire Department, which gave me an insight into something that is happening, that maybe all of you knew about, but I didn't. And that was when someone leaves a shelter, the caseworker cannot call an outreach caseworker from another organization and say, John Doe, just left the shelter, you need to contact them and to stay in touch. What happens is, no one tracks. No one has contact or has the ability to have contact when someone has left the shelter, and is out on the street. Which brings us to an issue that, that came up. And that was when one of the people on the street, died, and tracing the name back to the shelters, one of the shelters said oh yes she was here two, four weeks ago. And all of a sudden I realized there's no way to track folks that are out on the street. And even when they die. The shelter would never have known that they had died. So one of the things that I'm putting together and I'm trying to get in. In, get the information from a different source and that is from Pierce County Health Department. I've been approved, I've been told to receive the death notices. And within those death notices, there will be a designation for those that are indigent and or homeless, and my plan is that once identified. Once the list is identified, each month. Then we will hold a memorial service for these people at People's Park. Because many times, no one knows their name. So one of the name came up. Jason Nixon, who died during the heatwave, and from my understanding and I'm getting this secondhand so I don't know for sure, but died from the effects of the heat was a homeless person, and he will be included in our first group that we have a memorial service for. It will be open to the public, and certainly open to this group. And we'll keep you updated on when those memorial services are. And that's about the update I have. So I left plenty of time for calling.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, perfect. Thank you Ed for this work and call and I see you're headed for your hand up actually.

## **Colin DeForest**

Yeah, thank you, and that's, that's really touching and I appreciate it's great that you're doing that, and it's, yeah, I think it's truly invisible some of these individuals end up and it's it's really unfortunate. I am curious though I know the name that came up Jason, so he was identified one of the ways he was identified was he didn't have an address, or he was, you know, he was homeless or whatever. It says, But I'm curious because I, I'm just, I'm thinking that there's probably a lot of individuals that may have an address on file, but still may be experiencing homelessness, You know, either through loss of the house. Since the information was updated or not. So I'm wondering if there's any. I'm just wondering



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what the vetting process or the research process is behind that and obviously I wouldn't expect anyone to get too onerous Lee into it but I'm just curious on that.

Well, the plan is to receive the, the list of folks from the county, and then to meet with the medical examiner's office and compare notes that way Beyond that, if somebody else has an idea, shoot me an email and let me know. I guess I will err on the side of inclusion. Thank you. Yep.

## **Rob Huff**

Monique, you have a question.

## **Monique Brown**

Yeah, it I was gonna say that I often find out about the homeless veterans who pass away through the homeless remembrance project I go to their Facebook page and look at their stuff the women in black, run that page on Facebook. So that might be a way for you to speak with somebody, to get some ideas on how they do it because that's how I figure out what what veterans. Have not you know I just compare that with the, with HMS and King County so maybe someone there can help you.

## **Rob Huff**

Could you send me a link. i Yeah, Timothy actually dropped the link. Yeah. So great minds think alike. Yeah. Thank you very much money. Alright, so let's, we are down to our last 10 minutes of the meeting, but I wanted to give Colin, some time, and then we have one item that we need to do a vote on before we wrap up today. So, calling, and I'll be quick.

## **Colin DeForest**

As far as say sites for all, I'm, I've been out of town for over a week on my back but I've missed the safe sites for all meeting, I was there this week but I missed the previous week so I can update you on Safe, safe. The safe parking network piece of that. So I'll tell about besides still fall I was out there this morning meeting with a individual that just got his foot voucher, which so he's super excited. He thinks he's found a place in pew all up which is extremely hard a one bedroom and pew all up so really excited for for him to move out he's been there for a while so that's South side's doing really well, rise is continuing to get up and going, everything all their billing everything is rolling so they're serving individuals at the site and hilltop, we're still having challenges with T uusi just in the sense of one, we haven't had, we haven't been able to get any referrals to that area I've been trying to be somewhat picky. I'm trying to put two people there at once, and, and it's just been challenging because people kind of have the choice and if there's openings, they haven't wanted to go to that site yet. With that being said, we have had a lot going on at that site the actual toilet has been filled twice, just from the community the neighborhood, using it so it's all, you know, without any vehicles there, and they've been having and that's pretty much due to a massive amount of homeless activity that they have on the site.



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Police were called yesterday, outreach services were called yesterday, positive interactions was called yesterday, and really at the end of the day, there wasn't a lot that was done neighbors are frustrated and mad to you, you see I think rep staff and there's someone on board I think are also frustrated just because it's just been a challenging process. So we're continuing to try to figure things out there, and hopefully we'll get some referrals there, please refer anybody along that you have. To me, it's just, it's my number, the information is all over the place we're working on getting some cards to get out to the community. Thanks to the group for help with that the safe sites for all groups so that's about all that I have, I don't know if anybody has anything else around the safe sites updates. If not, we can just move along.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Colin. And as Jan noted noted in the chat the business cards for safe sites for all safe parking network are coming so thank you to Lori and Teresa for working on that and I'll get those to the printer today. So let's shift gears over to Rosemary we wanted to revisit the topic from last week and do a quick poll. Regarding the real estate reinstatement of Race and Equity Committee of the coalition, so rosemary.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Yes, everyone Welcome this morning, and some of you may not have been here last week but we had a brief discussion about the importance of our focus on action regarding race and equity for our coalition and we used to have a committee for that and as we transitioned to zoom we a lot of things happened to change things so we want to bring that back and focus our efforts with some real intentionality, so we weren't able to vote last week on this and I'm assuming we have the capacity to do that today, or rob might have said we don't. So, what we will do is to ask your approval of this and expecting that you will approve, I have scheduled a meeting a first meeting for the group together. So once we know whether we're approved, I'll share that as last comment and invite you to participate.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay, any questions before we go to the poll. All right, I'm going to launch the poll and everyone will have the ability, ability to let us know if they approve, disapprove or abstain. All right, I'll give this just a few more seconds. All right, any last voters we've had 40 folks submit. Alright, so I will end the poll and here are the results.

Well thank you all very much of the meeting time we have a few people who've already agreed to participate if this were to pass, and so we've set a date for the first time for July 29 That's next thursday from three to 4pm it will be by zoom which hasn't not been set up yet. But if you are interested in being at this meeting. If you can't make that time still, if you just let me know our powers at eo u.edu I'll put that in the chat as well. I'll make sure that you get on our email list so you can participate when it works



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for you, and we can consider your time when planning future meetings. So the meeting first meeting will be Thursday, July 29 from three to 4pm by zoom.

## **Rob Huff**

Perfect. Thank you very much, rosemary, and now we have a couple of moments just to kind of reflect back on today's meeting. So, does anybody have any comments that they would like to share regarding what worked, what didn't work, what could we do better. We always want to improve these meetings so the floor is open. See, rosemary,

## **Rosemary Powers**

I just want to say that it's quite amazing how you do this, Rob, and you're a hard act to follow, so we get other folks we do want other people to help facilitate at times and it's really wonderful not only how you've managed to keep things going, but how presenters have paid attention to the time as well so thank you all for that.

## **Kelly Blucher**

And Kelly. Why thank you. Rob Now I'm on my phone I put my hand down why I'm talking. Oh, are you there, I'll fix it. Oh, do you like my bright colors look awesome on Zoom. I'm wanting to just say that I, as a reminder, really I believe I sent the email out through the code through the listserv, but there is a number of events coming up in the next few weeks. National Night Out is probably one of well, the family, the Eastside Family Resource Center is on July 31 Sheila's still on me, so she can quote me if I'm wrong, but that's going to be a huge event over there on the east side, and then also National Night Out is coming up, that's hilltop Salish and the Springbrook neighborhood, so please let everybody know about that. And then, once again, I'll send all these events I believe there's nine, nine or 10 events, and the next like 45 days or something like that. So please, let's get that out to all of those we serve because there will be a lot of resources, and I think every event has a vaccine clinic as well so just wanted to put that out there but I'll send that out again.

## **Rob Huff**

Perfect, thank you, Kelly. And we've only got about a minute left but anybody else with just kind of go to the order announcements before we head off to the rest of our workday. Julian. Julian, did you want to share. Can you hear me, we can. Oh, That's

## **Julian Wheeler**

too bad. Hi, I'm Julian Wheeler, um, thanks for having me. Um chaired the Pierce County accessible communities Advisory Committee. Coming up is July 26 the anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, signed by President George HW Bush September 13 approaches. Our next regular session of the Pierce County AC ACM meeting. I put the details in chat. It's 9am on Zoom, and the, there are deadlines coming up sooner than that. And we are able to take



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votes as a committee, between our regular sessions. August 2 is a deadline for submittal of a, of an accessibility project for consideration by at the state level, so we would have to consider it here at the county level, then to expedite it or rather to advance it for consideration at the state level. And, you know, if you have a project that has some aspects to it, or some attribute that can be characterized as making things more accessible, not just for people with disabilities by way of a ramp, but also in terms of other aspects. You know, in terms of getting information out including people with disabilities, please. You know we do have intake documents to go over it's like writing the grant, please approach me my email addresses in the chat box, and of course we're always looking for new members and new ideas. So feel free to join us at a meeting, but also if you want to join us as a member, please consider that. And also happy peers Country Pride Month. Alright, thank you very much, bye.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Joanne and Maureen your hands up here muted.

## **Maureen Howard**

Behavioral training or something. Um, so two things quickly one Jan run back and I will meet with a couple of members of the Centers for Disease Control homeless team. On Monday, so if anybody has anything you want us to put on that meeting agenda which is pretty open right now. Please just either put it in the chat now or send an email to me, am Howard at PC homeless.org The second thing is is that Heather moss didn't mention it and I forgot about the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management after action review of the heat emergency will be August 11, the coalition was invited to have one to three people. I asked Monique Brown and Jan run back to join me for that both agreed. And so we'll be the three who will be recognized in the meeting, but anybody can watch the meeting, and I'll send out the link. So August 11 In the afternoon, I think it's 130 to three or one to do 30 Well, one or the other. So, and hopefully by that time, we have kind of a list for ourselves and what we want to make sure is in this after action review and whatever plans, there are going forward. So thanks, everybody.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Maureen. And we have surpassed the end of our time for today's meeting so as always you are welcome to stay with us we'll have a short break before we launch into planning discussion for next week's meeting. But if you can't join us for that. I hope you everybody has a good weekend and we will see you all next week.