



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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## Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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### SUMMARY KEYWORDS

shelter, encampments, meeting, county, tacoma, homelessness, pierce county, good, sites, chat, coalition, community, maureen, great, update, housing, teresa, people, program, started

### SPEAKERS

Michael Krist-Sterbick, Jeff Rodgers, Sheila Miraflor, Tim Foitzik, Valeri Knight, Josh, Julian Wheeler, Kimberly Ellefson, Janet Runbeck, Rosemary Powers, Jeffrey Boyce, Margee, Mike Boisture, Colin DeForest, Dotti Krist-Sterbick, Maureen Howard, Rob Huff, Theresa Power-Drutis, Sherilla Bivens, Monique Brown

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### Rosemary Powers

Hey everybody, I welcome you all here today and echo Robert Rob's statements about labor day weekend and hoping we have a good experience of one of the things I was thinking about this morning, in terms of Labor Day was the intense and exhausting labor that our unhoused neighbors have to do everyday to maintain their lives and so, to honor them and their work, I want to share a poem from one of my favorite poets Lucille Clifton, where she invites us, she says, won't you celebrate with me. She says What won't you celebrate with me what I have shaped into a kind of life I had no model. Born in Babylon both non white and woman. What did I see to be except myself. I made it up here on this bridge between Starshine and clay, my one hand holding tight, my other hand. Come celebrate with me that every day, something has tried to kill me and has failed. So welcome to the Coalition to End Homelessness where we work all the time we can to make it possible for people to build a kind of life that honors their resilience, and their capacities. So here at our meeting. One of the things we ask at the beginning is for us all to work under a few norms that help us move along. Well, and for being on Zoom we ask people to stay muted when we're not speaking, so we don't have background noise, and also if you're doing other things to put your video off for the time you're doing that because it can be distracting especially people who wave their hands a lot when they talk. So, if you could do that, that'd be great. And then we have the chat which many of you are familiar with as a place where we are hopeful for people to put questions, comments, agenda items they might like in the future events that are coming up, use that space as a way to communicate with everyone. There's a lot of us on the call, sometimes we have 60 people or so eventually show up so it's hard to have everyone have enough time to speak. And we also have community norms. So, these sort of speak up and hold back norm for some of us who talk a lot and some of us who don't share our wisdom very much to encourage that to happen, and also to lead with racial equity and be aware of our power dynamics as we work together in this in this setting. So with that, I also I know you heard from Sharon already that from a PRI that she's



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here today for the first time. But if others are here for the first time or returning after some time away. This is just a little moment for you to let us know you're here. If you're associated with a group to let identify that and then you can put any additional information in the chat. So if you're new just unmute yourself and let us know you're here.

## **Josh**

Hi, my name is Josh layer I'm with ideal option. Medicaid is a medication assisted treatment program. This is my first time joining the group.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Great, welcome Josh, Thanks, look forward to having you here. Hello.

## **Margee**

I'm a trainee, and I'm also with a PRI, and my first time doing in the meeting, and I look forward to hear what everyone has to say

## **Rosemary Powers**

welcome Mark it's wonderful to have you here too. Well, I'll just add then one thing I forgot to say is there's that raise hand icon that's on the, on the Zoom program so if you want to be recognized, do use that if you can and Rob will hopefully see that. And if he doesn't see it very much. Well then, wave your hand about. So Rob I'll turn it back to you.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, and for anyone who, if you already introduced yourself that's great. If you want to share your contact information, you can do that in the chat as well. And just as Rosemary said, we really do try to use the chat as a tool. It's something that we retain after every meeting. So, it's our hope to use that as a community resource and it is something that you can look back on, on the PC homeless.org website. After each meeting to see what has taken place in the public portion of the chat so thank you everybody for being here. I know that it's a, it's a getaway day for a lot of people who are having a long weekend so we appreciate you being here. So let's get started with the segment that we do every week to ask folks who are doing outreach and interacting with people who are houseless in our communities, to offer some updates what's new this week. What are some new needs that, that maybe this larger group should hear about so that we can respond to them. And what has changed on the streets, this week, going into our long weekend. So I open the floor again please just raise your hand or use the raise hand function on Zoom, and I'll call on you as we go along, and maybe we can share some information about what we're seeing on the streets. Has anybody been out there this week, I know you have Jeffrey I know you said you'd been busy and yeah Monique's definitely been up

## **Monique Brown**

is really nothing new though, I mean, you know, for me this week, everything's pretty much the same you know I've been out on 12 been, you know, helping veterans, toiletries and things like that. Getting somebody in a hotel but nothing really different this week.

## **Rob Huff**

Got it. **Anyone else.**

## **Mike Boisture**



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Okay, just a little bit here on vacation. You're having it in flux, which I anticipated, because of the weather change. And so I think we had four people checking last night. But if the weather keeps right around that 40 degrees at night, we're going to see more and more people, and the pier is that I'm going to be at capacity, very soon.

### **Rob Huff**

How close to capacity. Have you been so far my.

### **Mike Boisture**

I've been up to 30 I think it's 33. And the last two nights I've been at 25 and 27. And I can go to 40. So, and with 40 it's gonna be real tight. Yeah, go ahead, Jeff.

### **Jeffrey Boyce**

Yeah, I did find a new encampment, it's been kind of slowly building underneath the Thompson Street Bridge, is anybody checked in on those people. And if not I will probably meet up with them. Shoe probably Tuesday. I don't know how big it is, I've seen probably three tents.

### **Rob Huff**

Thanks Jeffrey. I did see mentioned by Richard Dorsett in chat about an individual, I know he's, he's emailed me about 46 year old at 11th and Yakko Ma, who seems to be interested in services, housing, and work. So Richard, I will email you back, contact I don't know if the work piece. I don't know if Sherry's on the call. I'll connect you as Sherry Jensen from the Laiho on that piece. And if anybody is a caseworker who has the ability to get out to 11th in Yakima and talk to Kansas. This might be a opportunity to do so. Thank you for that. And anyone else with something that they're seeing on the streets this week. All right, so if you do have something else. You can drop that in the chat as always. And let's move on to the new axis. Oh, Timothy, did you have something. Okay, great. Okay, so our, let's move on to the new segment that we've been doing here these last few weeks and that is introducing new organizations to the community and talking, allowing folks to have five minute updates to talk about how members of the coalition could connect with and support their organizations. So the first one that I have on the agenda this morning is the A. Philip Randolph Institute of Tacoma. And I have shriller listed as the person speaking but Sharon is that going to be you. Yes, it will be me. Okay, great. So take it away.

### **Sherilla Bivens**

Great, um, I have a small presentation, if you can allow me to screen share.

### **Rob Huff**

I will just give me a moment here and I will do that. Why am I not very hard. Alright, you should have that ability now.

Okay, and bear with me, I am new at doing this too, so I will be bringing this forward. Just give me a moment. Gosh, I have this moment and need to, oh, Aaron we've all been there, no worries. Okay. I'm trying my best to let's see screen share. You guys are seeing my screen right,

### **Rob Huff**

it's just coming up now. Yep. Now you just got to bring it. There you go. Okay, perfect.



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Good morning Good morning Good morning, Thank you for bearing with me with that technology. I have A. Philip Randolph, is a Sir Philip Randolph Institute, and we are at this coma chapter. And we have. We are the senior contingency group of the AFL CIO. Our founders, our ace, ace A. Philip Randolph, he's a former head of the Brotherhood of the Sleeping Car Porters and early black trade union, and they are Rustin. They founded the APR to forge an alliance between the civil rights movement and the labor movement. A. Philip Randolph Institute, it's established, and were promoted to trade unionism, in the black community. There are two chapters in Washington, and as a Seattle and Tacoma. And we are part of the national APR write organization. We have over 120 chapters across the US. Our mission here for our April around off to Coleman chapter is dedicated to developing a program that was then to democracy to those who have been traditionally disenfranchised or discouraged from participating in the political system. We continue to work to strengthen our political alliances, and we need to ensure their democratic social change and protecting Social and economic program, improve the lives of all Americans and supporting our community. In 2003, our nonprofit chapter of April at random, enter two in Tacoma began in the city of Tacoma. And our funding just comes from our community partners and sponsors and our membership. Our work. Oh my goodness is wonderful. I'll work at this time continue that we have near ledger food ballroom, which is a resource bank, and we're open on the second and fourth Saturdays at 4819 South 12th street into coma program, I'm program manager is irrelevant, so you all cry, knowing, and everyone is welcome. They don't need to have anything you just come out there and get yourself a nice meal to start off. Now, we deliver hotmelt and resources to several unhoused people within our Pierce County, we have a repurpose and reuse program and our coordinator for that is Tanya sick, and her phone number is listed and we'll be able to put that in the chat for you. We do voters registration and voters education events, and we provide information on the felons on their voting rights and their information. We support the movement and ongoing struggles but economic justice. We also do fighting for civil rights strong and anti discriminating measures or permanent accident, action, and diversity in the work place. It's important to fight for decent minimum living standards football. We are co sponsored with the legislation day, a pre legislative workshop that's held in Olympia on Presidents Day annually every year. And that's a day to educate and empower our community. We are a non Protestant, organization, and we do not endorse any candidate or platform but we do educate about the process. And now, if you want to contact us we have a website, and I will be able to put our website in the chat for you, and you'll learn a little bit more about a PRI to coma chapter. Are there any questions at this time.

### **Rob Huff**

So let's, if you could stop sharing your screen. I will, it'll show me everybody here. Okay, great, great anybody who has questions for Sharon, thank you for that. You're welcome. Teresa.

### **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I Stan thank you for the work you're doing, and your wonderful organization, can you talk just a little more about the repurpose, reuse program you have, are we,

we were able to we have a connection with Tonya delivers. Repurpose goods like sheets blanket pots pan clothing women, men, children, to different organizations, that is a neat watch also participate in like the Salvation Army helping them out for the different needs of their salvation family homes, and those things like that and if we have known of people that have been placed into the different housing that's needing sheets and blankets and stuff like that, you can contact us, and we'd be able to get in



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touch with the personnel and help those that were placing into different housing, those kind of items that they need for our daily economic use.

There's an organization is interested in receiving any of those things like a shelter organization or something. Would they just contact that number and. Is that the best way.

Yes, they can contact that number but if you see and our chairperson is tiny is sick and see is on that line and she was placed in chat her information.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Sharon. So Maureen I see your hand up.

### **Maureen Howard**

Thanks. Thanks a lot, Sharon, perfect day for you to come. And so one of the things we try the coalition tries to do is keep a contact list of different groups that go out to folks who help folks who are living unsheltered. So that if we have resources available or, you know, like during the heatwave, things like that we went out and the county will include volunteer outreach people. And when they convene outreach people or they communicate. So, if it is Tanya the right person or whomever, it can be more than one. I'll put my email in the chat and if you just let me know who should be added to that list. You're nothing's expected of you there's no vetting nothing like that but it's just, if you're going out, then it gives us a better picture of what the needs are to support you and also where the unserved encampments are

of that would be wonderful. We would like to help participate in that, and I believe, like I said, you can go on our website and you will find out information but also Tonya is on the call with us, and she's putting her information in the chat, so we can, you can add her to your services.

### **Maureen Howard**

Super, thanks.

### **Rob Huff**

Does anyone else have a question for Sharon. Okay, well we can use the chat for additional questions and Sharon, thank you so much for joining us today, I hope. Hope you'll be able to stay and we do enjoy having Shrila with with us during the meeting so thank you so much for letting us know about a PRI, como.

Thank you for the invite and I will be on for a little bit longer. Thank you.

### **Rob Huff**

Fantastic. So our next small group introduction is, is a group called Operation keep them warm and fed, and I'll invite Michael and body to share information about your organization and efforts.

### **Dotti Krist-Sterbick**



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Thank you for the invitation being here. Thank you, Teresa, and operation keep them warm and fed has been around since 1996 started pretty much, Michael, going out and getting blankets to folks who were on the street, unsheltered. And it has morphed all these years, to providing items from our home. And then also getting items to folks on the street, Michael want to talk about the items that you're getting out to folks now. Um,

### **Michael Krist-Sterbick**

we started out with the blankets, tarps, sleeping bags on a nightly basis. We usually use that time is when it starts to get really cold. We've been doing, still more now because more encampments and getting the blankets, tarps, sometimes even attach but they're rare. Then we started feeding people, and we found that was a good way of bridging, a good cup of coffee in the morning with some oatmeal and sandwiches, and we ended up picking it out colleges, high schools like Bellarmine has been with us for 15 years on the street, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but we've had to change that because of COVID, not taking the children out with us so now we're, we're just going out, keeping our plays, and then feeding people, as well as looking for their needs. I do have one tool that's helps Redwing, and helps me with their second boots for the working poor. So sometimes I end up with wordy nice boots that are good with heart your steel toes. And so, a person can work out that you don't have those people can't get a job on a job site and right now that there are some job sites out there where people could get jobs if they got the boots, so I, I do have those periodically. And so I can support other people that are doing the same thing. Right now we have this coming out of our home as well as we go on the street and just trying to keep safe so

### **Rob Huff**

fantastic. So, what I missed. What's the kind of geographical area that you've been doing work in

primarily downtown to go. Okay, well, we worked all the way down in front of the old the old the old nativity house for years, and then we just moved up while wherever the the camps were. Right now we're primarily in between. Sixth Avenue. The major camp right off of six, and Yakima, all the way over to down here where we live right in front of Guadalupe house. The cabinet here and the cameras up here on 15th going down. So that's primarily where we will be at nighttime, we go out looking for people that are sleeping that don't have something on them, so

### **Rob Huff**

great. So thank you, thank you for what you're doing, Teresa I see you have your hand up.

### **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I just want to applaud Michael and Dottie. They are my very next door neighbors and have been for a long time, and I watch people come into their porch, almost continuously. So whenever I talk, describe my neighborhood has a lot of unsheltered calls, it's their neighborhood too. So in the midst of that they're doing this work, and some of you may have heard of Michael being called sandwich Mike, because that's a lot of people who are on the street, know him as sandwich Mike, and he didn't introduce himself that way so I want to make sure you make that connection. Anyway, wonderful work, and wonderful to have you here.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Teresa and thank you for making that connection because that was going to be my question. Because, yeah, I knew of Michael but I've never met you but I had, there's lots of word out





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there about sandwich Mike. Anybody else with questions or comments. All right, so Michael and Dottie thank you so much for joining us and for all that you're doing in our community. Thank you, thank you for everything you all are doing. Amen. All right, so let's move on to our first larger item on the agenda and this one. We're going to take team a little bit. I'm going to ask Mike moisture. But I think Maureen will have some things to add in this conversation as well, to provide an update on the work that's continuing around Pierce County's comprehensive plan to end homelessness, and the shelter plan workgroup. The shelter plan workgroup met last night or yesterday afternoon from two to 430 ish. And I was a fly on the wall and putting too many things in chat during that meeting, but Mike, why don't you give us an update on where things are at.

### **Mike Boisture**

Okay, so how much time do I have Rob,

### **Rob Huff**

so I put 15 minutes on the agenda for this item. So, we can be free to have some flexibility on time.

### **Mike Boisture**

Everyone always has input, so that's a good thing. That's a good thing. So first off I want to say hey, thank you for letting me kind of be the liaison from the coalition to this committee. I probably should have let Garrett have the other boat, but I have learned an awful lot. And it's helped me considerably so I want to say thank you so much. One of the things that I want to. Maybe I'll put that I'll put at the end. So, yesterday me yesterday's meeting was very good in my opinion. I was beginning to go into the meeting with doubt, that's a good word, doubt what we're doing. And so after the meeting, I was encouraged. Okay. We took about 30 minutes, and had a Ned witting, I'm not sure if many of you know who he is. Ned wedding is one of the city council members at PLO nets presentation was for me very thought provoking and interesting swip cos he's a retired CEO and his presentation in my opinion was pretty good. I kind of challenged some of the numbers but it's always intriguing everybody has a little twist on different numbers so, but I don't even want to say project but what he presented was very good. And I think if you just kind of take the numbers out in his priority and so on so forth is right in line with the shelter group and the steering committee. Rob I don't know if we have that presentation he's made it a number of times so that's public information so we can probably put that out there if we haven't if not, I can do an after the meeting and put them all together.

### **Rob Huff**

I think I can let me see if I can find a link to it and put it in the chat for folks.

### **Mike Boisture**

Okay, so then we spent the rest of the time. And what if I remember correctly I think it's two weeks ago I was reporting on where the shelter group had met off site. And we put together a plan. As far as the shelter group, and it's now the, what's it called, we've put it as adequate shelter for all plan. So it's really we really didn't in depth. We want to say just looking at everything that was going on out there trying to get everything. I saw my frustration is everybody's doing something but a lot of people don't know what everybody's doing. Okay. And so I'm going to go and just go through a few of these real quickly. One was, and we have that also that document we can put out there if you want to, well, we'll put that document out there. Um, we reviewed the access of this idea is basically if we have someone that's homeless that's looking for a place to go. Police Department find someone homeless wants some place to go, we have this thought of an access hub so that person can go, or the police department can drop that person off there. We can do all the paperwork, and then in that hub, We know of all the shelters



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that have space. And then we can, if they're open, we can transport them to that shelter. If they're not, we'll keep them at the hub until the morning. And we'll get them transported to that shelter that has a bed form. There'll be just like a list of different shelters, that would have, sorry. That would have beds available and we would know that. Okay, rather than saying hey, go to Beacon and when you get to Beacon there's no bed, we want to kind of stop that. Okay. The other one we talked about was shelter coordinated agencies, was trying to get all the agencies, talking together. I think we do that extremely well here. The other, which I just quickly I think Maureen you sent out an article or somebody did this morning about storage. That was, that was kind of high on our list, because we've been hearing storage, storage, storage for an awful long time so we thought about centralized storing storage and that might be at the access hub, and so on so forth. We would hasten to add from that side, if needed. The other thing came up with laundry. Here a bacon we've been looking at, you know, a laundry. I call it a laundry closet, washing machines and a dryer, not many places have laundry capabilities. And the other thing is there's. I'm involved with a couple other things that are doing pickup of laundry, so we could probably do something like that. The other big thing was shower services. Um, that's huge. I know that in PLF I had our church had a number of showers and they used them all the time. And so it's trying to figure out where those locations and the showers are, that's part of that platform. And then the other one is enhanced connections to inpatient behavioral health. This is a huge one. This one is on our radar. We have also been able to see that the steering committee this is huge on their radar as well. Okay, so those are the elements that we spent an awful long time yesterday, towards the end of the meeting that's why we went over, because we all have the passion, almost in different areas, but it was for me, it was very encouraging to see where we're at as far as the shelter team, as well as the steering team. So I took from the last meeting, and a couple other meetings is. And then I heard on. I'm confused on all the meetings, I'm on. I had heard that, you know the city council says someone said hey, we're not going to do November 1 at it out. And I'm saying yeah okay, whatever. And are we going to st November 1 You know, I don't think so. I'm going to be candid. Okay, but was saying how between the shelter team, and the steering team, and how much has been moved. I'm, I'm encouraged. I'm still doubtful about more places to put people. And I think one of our comments on the meeting was, whoever has the purse strings, they're almost right now and control it, how we move forward. So, I'll put a pin there. Um, the, we had a couple surveys that went out. You've seen that the last couple of weeks I've sent them out. There was a survey I think it's called open house or something like that. And that, that is created a lot of, how do I say, a better scope of people that are. Because on the hook that Garrett asked us to do. James and I probably put most of the responses in from our guests. And so it was kind of skewed to the younger age group, whereas this other one that's open house. You know, I'm seeing even the county council people are sending it out. So if you get a chance to go out and fill it out. That's where we're getting a lot of data and there is correlation between that and what some of the youth, I mean the younger people have done. So, real quick, please watch my. I don't want to go over here. So the survey. I'm going to give you some real points here are quick points around 40% Use the shelters in the winter to escape the cold where nearly 30% You show up Thursday around that was intriguing, but not really because we see the weather change for 20 I think it's 23 years now. Every time the fall comes my numbers increase. And that's pretty much given the most important criteria is selecting a shelter location followed by cleanliness, reputation and ease of entry. On the other ones top reason shelters were liked was because of the location, safety, ease of getting to, and storage. Top boys shelter shelters can be improved, is with toilets and showers on site, food and transportation and better daytime hours, still trying to figure out better daytime hours for open 24 Seven. Nearly 50% identified shelters as needing 24 hour security which was kind of a surprise to some of us, while 30% identified the need for case management staff only 20% preferred self managed model. Okay. So that was some of the key points out of the survey from that open house survey that people are sending in, we're going to keep that survey, open. I think the word was indefinitely. I keep collecting the data. Okay,





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I'm between the other bullet point here I have is shelter model recommendations. Safe parking was right at the top. And again, if you take a look at the costs, if you look at the to net wedding and Garretts information. It's pretty much based on cost, so self parking. Then we had self encampments, or safe encampments hotel. Hotel based was really kind of fallen to the bottom due to cost. Medical respite. And then, young adult, shelters. So I'm going to, I could go on, I got a lot of notes,

### **Rob Huff**

there are some questions Mike and. Sorry. That's okay, I can help with kind of queuing those up a little bit. So, Teresa asks regarding the idea of the hub. If there's been discussion about how long people would be able to stay at the hub.

### **Mike Boisture**

Well, the hub is it's like a, what's a good way to say the hub is more like a entry point. Okay, and the longest they would stay would be to that next morning until we could get them transported.

### **Rob Huff**

Teresa also asked that noted that supportive services sound great but do we have a timeline for when there may be additional safe sites

### **Mike Boisture**

identified. No, because that would have been a common question. Yeah, I can't answer that one.

### **Rob Huff**

Okay. Um, another question from Cynthia Stewart. Regards, financial resources. So are there purse strings that can be open so that so that these things can be funded.

### **Mike Boisture**

Um, that would be on the county council, And there was, I missed it night before last, in Fredrickson, and they were talking about this stuff. Hans Iger is really pushing, at least in my district. I'm trying to get money released. Okay. But I am, I'm the I don't know.

### **Rob Huff**

Okay. Teresa your hand up.

### **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I just want to say that it's really important to me as a member of the coalition that we do, actually all know that this is entirely possible to create enough site safe sites for people before November 1 I think it's fair to say it's going to take, it's a heavy lift, it's going to take a concerted effort but I really, it's hard for me to hear right now in September I don't think we're gonna make it so as our representative I asked you to push that and to say, No, it's not okay to spend the whole time talking about services, you've been given a task as a team to come up with safe sites and we haven't seen them, and we need to push for them. We need them now, And we need them continuously to be developed. So, yes, yes we can. We absolutely can, other cities have we can, we need the will, and some of that's going to come from us pushing hard on the people with the purse strings. So, I just, it was hard for me to hear that, and I appreciate that you're representing us but I really want that to be the voice that we speak with, because if we don't who will.

### **Mike Boisture**



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Thanks, Jerry. Thank you very much, call on you have your hand up.

### **Colin DeForest**

Yes, bad reception so I'm going to keep my video off. I just like to say thanks Mike. I heard him mention reference my name for some things, so if I can answer that, let me know. I think the hub site model is exciting, that it's getting thrown around. I think when we look comprehensively at what we need to really humanely respond to individuals that are out there the hub site is great, it's, it's, it's awesome. For all the reasons that Mike mentioned, but I do kind of Teresa's point that is, I mean the ideally the hub site is not a place for people to, to stay. I mean it can be a hybrid of that. Possibly, but the hub site would not necessarily be a shelter model, unless there was some shifting in that. And then I think to Teresa's point I'm just curious if it comes down to purse strings but really more than purse strings. As I've said before it comes down to the genuine want to actually do this and I think that appears to me to be lacking because really what it comes down to is property. And if no one from the government entities or the involve groups I don't expect the government entities to do everything but the one thing that is the simplest and the easiest and the thing that they could do today, if they wanted to, is identify properties and say here you go uses property. Sure the city's thrown up a couple properties, and that's great. The county hasn't done anything as far as properties as far as I know of, and they have, probably more properties available than city so it's real simple. You know, if we want to do something we need to start with the properties and then we can kind of go from there.

### **Rob Huff**

So one thing. Thank you for that call and one thing I will add is I know there's a lot of information to absorb regarding this effort both from the shelter side and the comprehensive plan down homelessness side, the packet that I posted for the agenda for yesterday's meeting on page nine of that packet, there is a list of, not actual sites, but a list of potential ideas for where what communities could host different types of sites, how many people. What the site's could evolve into. So if you get a chance to look at that document to get on page nine of the document. I think it's important to realize that the information that's listed there is not again site specific yet so they haven't gotten to that level of detail, but there is work being done both on pricing out the different options and on thinking about where things could be distributed around the community or around the county to try to address the 2300 people who are estimated to currently not be in any kind of shelter. So I just wanted to, excuse me offer that. Any other comments or questions for Mike. Rosemary.

### **Rosemary Powers**

I'm not sure if this is for Mike or Maureen but Mike when you were talking about Hans Zeiger being really intent on finding money I'm wondering where he would be looking because the opportunity to raise the tax of 1/10 of 1% for housing as an ongoing pot of money to be used, is not something he's been supportive of. And I don't know what the ARPA money or the state money or why isn't there some money. I thought we had some money. So I don't know, again that's maybe more to your work Maureen, I'm not sure.

### **Rob Huff**

Yeah, yeah, Maureen has dropped a number of things in the chat, but do you want to address that Maureen,

### **Maureen Howard**

there is money. But money being available, and money being accepted by the Pierce County Council to as part of their budget are two different things. So part of that is procedural and part of it is, which pots



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of money should be best used for which purpose. So, that's a whole much longer conversation that I'm happy to have but not this morning. I just want to add two things. One is from the steering committee like Mike. It's an honor to represent the coalition. All right, so the steering committee as the seven working groups. I am not sending drafts out to the 700 plus on the listserv, because things change so fast. It doesn't help us to have all the information recirculating if you want information on something specific, come to a steering committee meeting on Wednesday at three or email me and I'll provide that for you. So I've gone on to have the steering committees to date. Jeffrey I see your hand. Can I finish or do you need to interrupt me. Okay. Thank you. This so I've gone on to right now, and I can sit in on others over time and watch what they're doing, but the two that seemed to me, would make the most difference for the coalition, were the one on prevention, because I was looking for the two places where housing is in this plan, since there's no longer a housing section, so I went for the two places where housing is housing units, not just services. So one is, is prevention. And that we've got a small working group of steering committee members, augmented by community partners like Lori Davenport and Rob and Adam are Eichenberger and some other folks who bring particular expertise to the table, and on that prevention side, what we're talking about what I'm pushing on your behalf, is we keep as many people housed as possible. And we rehouse people before they have to become homeless in order to get help. So that's a new piece that hasn't been part of our system here. So, so that's one we're meeting every other week we'll meet weekly if necessary. And we've got Valerie almani with us for the rental assistance part. Laurie is giving us the legal side and shaquita is on the list as well so, and Jennifer will be when she gets back into the office but so that that's one thing is the prevention is, and we've never had prevention in this county. All right, our first prevention on a county basis was the tears rental assistance money. So if you start from zero, and to where we are now, it's absolutely pretty amazing. And not just on the county's part but on the nonprofit's that are actually handling the engagement with individuals, all that sort of stuff so. So that's one thing, the other committee. So they took the existing homelessness response system and split it into two. So the emergency part the shelters the outreach that kind of stuff, and one that not on that. The other one is the they're calling permanent housing interventions, and when they talk about interventions, they're really talking about two things, services, and permanent supportive housing. I'm talking about a permanent housing unit that people can stay in period. And so I'm trying to wrench that conversation towards permanent housing period. And I think this emphasis on permanent supportive housing has been funding driven, and it's been the absence of having a real housing advocacy component countywide, You know, for years. So, anyway, Brian Schmidt, who manages the county's housing unit is on his staff on that committee. And so there, there are two things I might think about, and I know I just blew this schedule timing. Okay, one, and I guess really, one, one to think about. And it's Tiffany Spears question. She's the senior planner for Lakewood, and she's also on the continuum of care. She's been on there for quite a while. And she's got a really unique housing background and that she was the master builders, Executive Director for a number of years so she gets the private side, she was, I think she was a lobbyist for Pierce County for a while, so she gets these different pieces and now she's within the city of Lakewood. But she is not, that is not a city that operates a homelessness response system. All right. So, and so she's, she's in a unique position as being a county employee or a city government employee for the city of Lakewood, with a commitment, but not with in first hand engagement. So she provides a kind of a middle lens in there. And so her first question was base I'm paraphrasing, but basically, does our current system of permanent housing interventions work, and it's merely a matter of expanding it, or do we need to address that system itself. So, if you put your thoughts in the chat, then I'll have them because I think that's a really key question a lot of, I think a lot of what we see in our homelessness spawn system is funding driven. And it's part of what I think that Mike was talking about the. Nobody knows what anybody what everybody's doing sort of stuff, because there are all these funding options feeding programs that get created to fill gaps and they're all good programs, but we end up with this



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sort of patchwork quilt that's got gaping holes in it, if you, you know don't fit the star over here or whatever, you know, Over there. So, so, so think about that. And then, and really seriously. Because this isn't just our quest, so we said at the beginning the coalition said when we started this, we said we were going to use the built for zero model that, which assumes that you'll still have people who experience homelessness, but they get out of it really fast because you that for that first interaction, wherever it is, there is a permanent housing intervention that gets started. And so, part of the problem with built for zero, I think, is that it works really easily in a soft housing market. It worked really easily in Tacoma in the 80s it doesn't work in the kind of housing market we have, so that housing market how we wrench that housing market into something that meets our needs, is going to be key to our ability to really ending homelessness going forward. So the other thing is that this was from Bree Williams I don't particularly like this phrase, but helps to organize it, I think is talking about on the prevention one. She talks about big P a prevention rental assistance tenant rights that sort of thing, and little P, all of the things that keep people housed, because of the, the family support structures that community the neighborhood that whatever they're already plugged into. And so that, anyway, so thank you, please email me. Thank you. Jeffrey Thanks for waiting.

### **Rob Huff**

Yeah, Jeffrey go ahead and you're muted right now.

### **Jeffrey Boyce**

I want to go back to start off by saying thank you Mike and Maureen and James and all those who are in these meetings to try to ferret out everything that the government people think we need to tear it out. Even though there's information out there already, about what works and what doesn't. But I do agree with Colin, that we're doing a lot of talking but not a lot of doing, and we need more safe parking sites, we need some RV sites, we need places for tent encampments, where are they, what is the city in the county doing to do that. We're doing a lot of talking. There's no doing. I have been down to the site, where they're where the city is putting in the 70 Plus, tiny homes. And there's some wonderful property right across the street. For tent encampments, But nobody's talked about this, there's nobody has brought the other options to the table, I have not heard them, and I've been in all these meetings, and I have not heard them. Please let's get going so we can get this done by November 1, because that's when the bad weather starts. And I don't have the money to buy a bunch of tarps and sleeping bags or attempts. And I don't know if you do, do, do, too. So let's get going.

### **Rob Huff**

Thanks Jeffrey and I will say regarding the 69th proctor site. They did look at that, vacant property across the street, and in the conversations with the community agreed they would just do the, the small micro shelters on that property, that they're currently developing, but yeah you're right there needs to be more sites, there needs to be more low, low barrier sites, not just in Tacoma, but across the county. And I did drop the information from the ninth page of yesterday's agenda that shows some kind of what the early thinking is about a distribution of potential different types of sites around the county. So take a look at that if you have an opportunity. Maureen is right, we've completely blown up the agenda, so do others have other comments regarding this effort before we move on to a networking session. Okay, there's a lot to chew on there. I do hope that folks get an opportunity especially to explore the agendas and documents that are listed on the county's website, and as you are going out and talking to community members, I really think that survey page, that they've created is helpful because it does a good job framing the issue in a way that people will understand who don't do this kind of work all the time. So I urge you to take a look at that. So why don't we do our short breakout sessions. As we were talking through at the steering committee meeting a couple of days ago. What we should talk about



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during breakout sessions, we're really eager to try to move the effort forward around the, the November 1 deadline, but we're also realizing a lot of us are feeling a lot of it's been a heavy time there's been a lot of stress. There's been weather issues that keep cropping up on everybody. COVID is not going away and seems to be ever present, and we're going into a long weekend so we thought we should talk about something positive. Today, as we do some networking. So we're gonna go into small groups for about 10 minutes. And the question that I wanted everybody to kind of share beyond getting to know each other, is to share, where you're finding hope right now. Going into this long weekend where are you finding hope but what are some good stories that we can share with each other for a few minutes before we go into the long weekend. So there's no assignment in this we're just going to go talk to each other. And I'm going to put us in breakout rooms of roughly five, folks. And like I said we'll spend 10 minutes or so, so we'll be accurate 1010 I hope everybody has a good conversation again. Where are you finding hope right now.

## <Breakout Rooms>

### **Rob Huff**

Well welcome back everyone. I do know we're, we're behind time on our agenda we have some items to get to still so I hope that was a good conversation and some uplifting conversation as we go into the weekend. So let's do a very quick update before we get to the government updates. We wanted to address what the current status is for isolation and quarantine for individuals who are either diagnosed with COVID positive, and who need somewhere to stay rather than going back to a shelter. I'm not sure what exactly we can, who we can turn to here I do have Collin and Jan on the agenda Collin, are Tim There we go. Refer to Tim. There you go, Tim, thank you for joining us.

### **Tim Foitzik**

Yes, thank you for having me, um, as Colin and Jana were working very diligently trying to get a isolation shelter up and running. That would be a temporary solution. And sadly that fell through. We have a request for proposal out right now in the health department to gain more capacity in our IQ services. We have to do to being government we have to jump through certain hoops to get to make something sustainable and actually to get funding. And we have to do these processes and sadly they take a while. Next Thursday is slotted for this RFP to close, and we've got quite a lot of response already, so we're looking, we're hopeful that we can sign. Hopefully, double the capacity that we have right now for isolation and quarantine. So our first priority is to get more capacity because we've been hearing also from the shelter's that there's a lack there and that is identified. And then we can start closing the gaps within more specific requirements as trying to get a more low entry, a barrier to entry locations in place, making sure that we have pet services, making sure that we can accommodate people that either vehicle bound or whatever that is, to make sure that we can accommodate those people as well. But then, think our first priority is to get capacity to serve the majority of the community. And after we have that we can specify more, I would say niche, but more specific, community members, that would need placement.

### **Rob Huff**

So Tim, the current capacity, is it still with the, with the group homes that you've been working with, with roughly 20 to 24 spaces.

So yeah, right now we have 21 isolation or quarantine spaces that we're working with with adult family homes, they've been very gracious, we've been looking at a case by case approach to see where we





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can place people they play, except people with minor to medium behavioral mental challenges, some substance abuse issues are also accepted especially if they're working with our treatment services. Right now we have 21 spaces available and for quarantine spaces. However, We're working with St Vincent DePaul, to work with a hotel, that's just for quarantine and there are some entries to back up barriers to entry due to it being a hotel, and there's no necessarily oversight from our staff. So, that is slightly more difficult, and there's some other requirements as well. But we have that in place. We are also working with our AI for people that are immediate needs that are an act of psychosis or have different issues with which would screen out, out of every isolation quarantine capacity that we have or potentially will have, and they have been been great as well they've been taking our people, the moment that the crisis is over, we can then either transport them to another facility, and make that work.

### **Rob Huff**

So I see Maureen has her hand up and then there is one question from Theresa in the chat as well, you're muted right now I'm worried

### **Maureen Howard**

about it. Thank you, Tim, thanks for coming and updating us. So my question is how do we get through the long weekend, my understanding is that, like if a shelter has somebody who's tested positive, that the shelter has to call the multi care number, which is not a 24 Seven number, but will it be available every day for a certain number of hours.

Yes, so the number is available from 8am to six, five, sorry at 430 Every day, seven days a week, and they will refer to our IQ leads, and they will then do placement. So if a call were to come in, outside of time, the request is to keep the individual until we can place them the day after.

### **Maureen Howard**

But we can't keep the individual who's tested positive in a shelter, without exposing everybody else in that shelter. Correct.

We have been trying to work with the shelters to provide them or work with them to provide some sort of solution that we can either quarantine or isolate at the shelter for a limited period of time. However, we have been rebuffed, and so I'm not sure what the solution is there.

### **Maureen Howard**

So what did, how can the coalition, help you in your role with health department come to a solution. That's very good because not further expose people who are homeless experiencing homelessness, or people who are staffing the shelters.

But what do you think a great solution would be if we could work with you and also with the shelters, if we can provide the shelters with a means of either setting up a tent or within the lush out shelter location or providing them with pipe and drape or whatever that is to say, Okay, we have a person that is either symptomatic test antigen negative waiting for PCR we can quarantine them either there or right if they test positive, or they're symptomatic and with possible exposure, without being tested. We could keep them at the shelter location for a very limited amount of time and then potentially organize





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transport today after that would be, I think the best solution, but dogs have been had, and sadly that has never come to fruition.

### **Maureen Howard**

Well, my understanding is shelters don't have space to both provide the shelter, they're doing, and set up a quarantine and isolation center. So, I mean, there's money Money isn't the issue here. There's money so that. So, you know, okay, at enough time. Sorry, I've just not right with the fact that we can't, as a community respond.

I would, I would love to also take this discussion, offline with you Marine. I think that we I think we can come to a solution there.

### **Rob Huff**

There, the question that was in the chat from Teresa is regarding how many spaces are currently available. Let me check. And then Mike, I see you have your hand up as well while Tim is checking.

So we have five places available as of now. And then we have to quarantine only beds available for St Vincent DePaul. So five isolation but. But I cannot speak to that, how long that is because they tell.

### **Mike Boisture**

Yeah, like, yeah, Tim, I hear what you're saying. I must have, I may have missed some of the meetings that you were talking about, but I would highly suggest that you get the shelter managers together. I don't think we can take the Tuesday meeting, but initiate a meeting between all of us, and let's talk about this because Marines right. I don't have space here. I can put them out on the street, I can put them out in the alley, under a tent, but we're, it's kind of getting worse in the shelter so I'll just leave it at that.

### **Rob Huff**

So Tim, I want to say. I appreciate you coming today. I knew this is gonna be kind of a tough conversation so I do see also see Valerie in the chat offering the Tuesday meeting is the opportunity to have that discussion so I know that doesn't address this weekend, so that I think that's, that's a major concern.

Yes. All I can say is I mean we're working on it. There is. I have to do this politically correct, obviously. So there's some some also some questions Where do we come in. Where is it, the city, where is it, the county. And where's the rub right so there's this is, especially when it comes to shelters, there's a lot of gray area, and where do we touch and where do we connect, and where does the responsibility lie. And that probably adds to the confusion to the problem, who takes responsibility and that makes it. As I said, even more difficult and more problematic in that sense, we fall, I assume you're all aware, we are not the county. The county health department are different entities. So yes, we are the health department that is correct but we are not the county so there's a disconnect there. All right, thank you.

### **Valeri Knight**

We've met many, many, many times, and we meet our leadership and your leadership ship meet consistently and have been for 18 months. So we've been meeting since March 2020 with all the



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different shelter providers and the health department and we've been a great partner and y'all done amazing, but I think there just has to be that switch because I don't know if you've ever been in a shelter but there's nowhere to put, so for example TRM doesn't have a space where you can create a bathroom situation when there's only two bathrooms for everybody. So that's an ongoing conversation that Ben has been consistently had for about 18 months right like we're all kind of living in Groundhog Day. And so, I think, I don't know that I would, I don't know that I would agree, as the county employee with that statement. And so, just so everybody, because this group's all aware of all the work needed done, you know, Tuesday and Thursday meetings for shelter providers we connect health departments, I worked with Jenny on a daily basis to set up and immunizations for COVID vaccines as well as testing throughout all the shelters throughout Orange County, as well as entity encampments, That's all stuff the county has helped facilitate with the health department as a step by step partner so I think there's more work to absolutely be done I think there is a lot of confusion on this responsibility that says because I don't know that it's fair to say a \$13 an hour employee at a shelter, just a job to run homeless shelter should also be responsible for COVID That's my own personal Valerie has been on rate for the last two minutes without any need bad stuff.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Valerie, I see a lot of clapping. So, um, what I know we need. This is a tough issue. We're not going to be able to solve it today, and it's going to take more work over the weekend and next week. But I thought it was important that we all know what the status is going into the weekend, even though none of us like it and ever all of us feel uncomfortable about it. So, thank you for that and thank you again Tim for, for showing up. Hopefully we don't scare you away. So let's transition into, into the next part of the meeting, and that would be our regular government updates. I saw Jeff Rogers on the call earlier Jeff, are you still here, unable to do a county update for us.

### **Jeff Rodgers**

Yes, I'm here as well as Valerie, who may have an update on the rental assistance program you want to go first, Valerie, give an update.

### **Valeri Knight**

Yeah, so I'll go just real quick. Um, so the Pierce County Rental Assistance Program is still going well, you may have seen us on to 13 last week and we are going to be on King five news today, which makes me super anxious, but that's okay. So as of today, so this program started in March, and as of today we have gotten out \$41 million into the hands of landlords and utility companies, that does not include the City of Tacoma funds so as you may be aware, the city has their own bucket of money but they go through our portal we support their provider, really, really amazing great relationship we have with the city and we're super thankful for all their support and trusting us in this process so that we prevent duplication. So, where do you want a million dollars out, um, as of right now, our average is \$8,696 per household. That's an average I've seen some checks as much as \$25,000. So just to kind of break it down on that it's a lot 9235 of the households have already been referred to providers of the 14,000 applicants that we have. Those are all being processed already been paid. And so we're just working through as much as we can so to the percentages are a little different so for the Department of Transportation, or Treasury, I will forever do that, we are at 70.83% spent of our entire budget for the American rescue plan funds worthy 2% spent that contracts are signed on Monday. So, that will go very quickly, and then track, we are at 51.05% now because on Friday, we added 10 million more dollars to that bucket so that will, that includes the new 10 million so all of that is pulling out the door as quickly as we can. Just a real quick shout out to our nine amazing nonprofits who work. I can't even tell you like brown. Just doing some amazing hard things, as well as in our internal city Tacoma our



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communications department or to the IT department, our fiscal department are just dedicated, and so this is not, I may be the face, but it is absolutely a large, large team that gets this done so, Maureen, to answer your question, the city of Tacoma Renesis installers, they're not included in our dashboard yet, but they are going to be soon. We are finalizing how to get their report built into our uploads. We do send them data so they're working on how to get that back to us so lots of conversations going back and forth just to make sure that we have that data in our work. We're still working to make that. That's all I have Jeff.

### Jeff Rodgers

Okay, thank you. Good work. The only other update we have is the HUD. At a national level has released their annual Notice of Funding Opportunity. There's billions of dollars across the country that are available. Pierce County will be applying for those funds as the collaborative applicant on behalf of the Tacoma Lakewood Pierce County continuum of care. Our annual renewal demand amount is just spread around \$3.96 billion, there is the opportunity for a domestic violence bonus project that's roughly \$725,000 available, and then any other new bonus projects that are around 225,000 So we're just around possibility of receiving \$5 million to that apply for. Couldn't be more could be less than 10s on them. Applications are due to HUD November 6 So, look out, that we'll be releasing vocal NOFO for agencies in the community to apply to provide housing through this funding, very very soon, within day. Our hope is to release that and we can move forward with the process, provide agencies are up to you to apply to receive continuum of care funding those funds typically find permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless, rapid rehousing and also it could fund, a joint transitional Rapid Rehousing project, as well as a service only coordinated entry, opportunity, and of course it funds, HMS and the counties, the one that manages that so any funds or HFCs would come directly to the county. So you can expect that notice out,

### Valeri Knight

or add something to yours just because I'm going to go plus. Yeah, there are \$700,000 for domestic violence projects in this application that were eligible for, so we need domestic violence partners to come in as new applicants for rapid rehousing projects, so just know that as additional bonus dollars and if we don't have it, we can't submit it so just a plug for any DB providers, please please please read the NOFA and consider submitting an application. And then just a question in the chat box, assess the status of department of transportation projects. I can't I didn't understand you, Valerie, say that again. Maureen would like an update on the status of the department of transportation project.

Okay. What I can tell you about the Department of Transportation is that there's some new highway coming in I guess you call the highway freeway I don't know what you call it here and Becky's there extending highway 167 over in Puyallup where it ends, all the way over to highway 509 here in Tacoma, if you're familiar with 509 area they're

### Jeff Rodgers

starting next year that work will begin. There are quite a few homeless encampments between that 509 connector, all the way over to highway 167 The initial work will begin at five highway 509, the western part of this project they're doing, and then work its way east over towards the polyp connector of highway 167 So start and work its way to Tacoma Fife and then out into the unincorporated area of the county out that way. We're in conversation with Department of Transportation, they're really good at what they do. I'm impressed of Department of Transportation. There's a few other people on this call, that are also involved in those conversations. Regard regarding how do we address encampments



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within those areas. City of Tacoma City of Fife city of Q all of Pierce County are all engaged in the conversation, and working with the Department of Transportation to make sure that we're working to remove those encampments, so that when the contractors come in and start creating the road, there's no issues with people within that area. So a lot more to come. I've been in two meetings already with them, where they've identified these encampment areas, and they're very sensitive to the needs of homeless there. In my opinion, from what I've heard from them and seeing them do they're very compassionate, when they go in and do this type of work around new construction of roads, and they really want to work collaboratively with all the cities and towns and jurisdictions that this will impact to make sure that we've got a great plan in place of how we're going to work to remove those encampments, so that they can construct the road, and I believe that's the project you're talking about Maureen because that's the only project I'm aware of with Department of Transportation, we can share more with you as we get it, but it's just in the very preliminary stages, and we were appreciative that they're starting now for projects that won't start till sometime in mid next year, they're ahead of the game. They want to have the conversations they want to identify the partners, and create a plan of action that will be effective and successful and not have a severe impact on the homeless, who were encamped in, in those encampments.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you for that update Jeff. All right, so you may have noticed in the chat. I had a communication from tieghan at the City of Tacoma. She's actually off work today and was unable to attend the meeting so we don't have a city of Tacoma update however there's plenty that the coalition members would be interested in that has taken place at City meetings this week, city council study session had an update from the Neighborhood and Community Services department regarding homelessness plans, the South 69th and proctor site, and other discussions there also has been a lot of discussion regarding the ordinance that would effectively be provide a ban on public camping. I will leave the update on that I think Maureen wanted to talk about that during the advocacy update. Is that correct Maureen. Sure. Okay. Okay, so I won't get into that now but I did drop the presentation from Tuesday's study session into the chat, and the video from the chair from the study session is also available on the city's website. I will drop that link in the chat, while others are talking, so that that would be our update from the city of Tacoma Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, are there any additional updates, other than the conversation we had earlier about isolation and quarantine. Not, not that I can relay right now. Thank you, James, and, and thank you for joining us for first time this morning as well. Thank you. All right, and I don't believe I've seen anybody from the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management on the call, if there is I'll be silent for a second here just to see if there's any update. Okay not hearing any, um, so let's shift over to advocacy updates Maureen and I hate to cut you short but if we can make them quicker than longer that would be great for our agenda.

### **Maureen Howard**

D, thank you very much everybody quicker rather than longer at the federal level, just watch, see what Congress is doing or not doing the United States. Interagency Council is got a survey out on what would make federal government action better on ending homelessness and responding to homelessness, I sent it out August 28 to the lists are fourth August 24 to the list serve. It's a quick survey that you can respond to at the state level, we should know that we have, whether or not the Comfort Inn Lee has project got funded out of the state's rapid capital housing acquisition fund next week if that happens if they got funded, that'll free up 10 or 12 million. That city of Tacoma Pierce County and City of Lakewood have already committed. So that'll make money available for acquisition of something else. Locally, all right. The no camping ordinance came up as it was supposed to if you saw the agenda. That was the original ordinance not the one that we agreed on. We are the most



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current draft, we haven't agreed to anything coalition, except to me. All right, that ordinance now comes back to the Council for a first reading on November 16, so it's not next on our must do list. It's not unimportant, it's just not next. One of the things was tidy up Tacoma, which is a big program county citywide to remove graffiti, to pick up litter, and to do minor landscaping, and they're working through the business districts, and the avenues that are they, you know key avenues, coming into Tacoma. So I think we might talk about that in the steering committee about. Is there a way for us to help encampments in any way. Nothing else get the garbage bags. So, with respect to, maybe this was earlier I came in late, but the gentleman in Sumner, who was asked to move his truck, in which he was living dead meat with Christina Bauman from the National homelessness Law Center to Astoria has drafted a letter on his behalf to the city of Sumner. She will share that letter with the National Coalition for the Homeless and with us and we will sign off. After the steering committee looks at it Wednesday, we expect to have the Letter Tuesday, and we will sign off on that letter, consistent with our commitment to making sure that the state and federal laws are followed all the rest of the things on my list are folks we got to start preparing for winter before winter comes, all right, wherever people are. We've got to get that going and I've my suggestions we get it going with the department's of emergency management is there as I can tell, it's actually their job, the housing committee, our housing committee will meet Thursday, the ninth at four o'clock. If you are not on the listserv to get the information, please join that because housing is moving faster than I ever imagined. The county presented the Pierce County affordable housing workgroup report, and it's a good report, and it has a lot in it that we can use, including expanding the homelessness page. We also had an opportunity, some of us to participate in a webinar which we will make publicly available on the housing precarity risk model, ie, where in a community on that census tract basis is their most risk for eviction, ie, most, you know, finally, homelessness, and we had about a dozen elected officials or their representatives from the State, the Speaker of the House and State of Washington. On to local electeds on that call, and the there are specific policy recommendations out of that, that's my list.

### **Rob Huff**

Always. That's a lot. As always, um, so do, if you don't already, subscribe to the coalition listserv. That can also be found on the PC homeless.org website. Maureen does share a lot of this information in the emails that go to the listserv as well so that's a good way to track that, find out where you can get involved in advocacy. So let's shift gears over to Collin DeForest and Jan run back for a short update about safe sites for all.

### **Colin DeForest**

Yeah, thanks. Okay. I knew you'd say that. Um, you know a lot of the energy and effort, at least for my part has been on this. Isolate trying to create this isolation site and as you've heard, unfortunately we came up short on that, which is extremely disappointing because I definitely think along with safe sites for all. It's creating a safe community for all, and without a site like that we truly do not have a safe community for all so that's extremely disappointing but hopefully we can figure something we're gonna have to figure something out, so hopefully the powers that be, figure something out that works for that population. As far as safe parking goes. Things are going well. Lots of referrals, this week I actually am going to get off this and get a hold of T uusi leadership I have a family that just showed up from New Mexico, six kids, two parents, living in a vehicle, completely clueless on any services so I will be reaching out, hopefully they have two vehicles. The guy has an interview already very motivated, but very scared and lost and in Tacoma. So great example of what the safe parking network can be, in theory, is give them that safe landing spot hopefully for a very short period of time while they find something more permanent like housing, or their sites are doing great. As always a lot of great things going on in South Hill Baptist we're just we're maxed out, we're pretty much at max capacity across the





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board I got to check with the rise center to see if they have any openings. But things are going well, we probably have about two months left of funding, I have to follow up with Garrett he reached out I know the counties kind of nosing around. I got a, I don't know if I said it earlier, I had an email from a county council member this morning, and then John Barbie CC me on it over concerns around RV parking. I think we're really seeing the gap when it comes to safe sites for all with RVs. So that seems to be a big concern but I'm really hoping that the county and the city and the government entities will be taking a hard look at the state park network and trying to figure out some sort of iteration of it that could be funding moving forward. I think we can squeeze maybe two more months out of the existing funding which is absolutely amazing. We've gone a year and a half with 100, almost two years with \$150,000 So, when we look at bang for buck. It's absolutely amazing and it's, I really hope that this becomes a staple of our, you know, continuum of services and interventions that we have in Pierce County because, just like that family of six without this program, they have nowhere to go. Right, yeah that's pretty much all that I have, I don't know if anybody else has anything else.

### **Rob Huff**

One thing just in terms of safe parking Collin, I'm not sure if you've seen the page in the from the shelter workgroup and the initial thinking from the county, but clearly they are thinking about safe parking because their initial idea is distributed sites that serve roughly 350 people living in their vehicles. So that would be a serious scaling up of what we've been doing.

### **Colin DeForest**

That's great. I don't think we need that much but it's home. That's the great thing about safe parking, if you don't use it, you know what you have parking spots or space so it doesn't really you're not losing money, it's not a deficit. And I think, I hope that my program has shown, or this program has shown that you really, you really don't need a whole lot of staffing, right, it's amazing what a good site host can do, and amazing what happens when you get out of somebody's way and kind of just let them do their thing so I am excited about that. I would also say just to the point. And they'll probably be something more about it, but the point Jeff made, I actually just signed a contract with was so I'm going to be their homeless response manager for all of their Gateway project so I will be coordinating with the government entities on this call with five with piala, with the others around figuring out how to safely and humanely move these individuals that are on that was that property and there's a lot of them so I'm excited about that work and I'll definitely be partnering and bringing information to the coalition as we move forward with that. So, yeah.

### **Mike Boisture**

Mike, I see you have your hand up. Yeah, Colin question I have is, he said most of your sites are a capacity are full, so is there a thought in the horizon of its. Yeah,

### **Colin DeForest**

I mean we could totally expand, there's multiple churches that are interested there's churches in the key pin that are interested, we just simply don't have the capacity and I want to squeeze, I want these programs to go as long as they can so that's three is just a number that has worked for us. So there definitely are other churches that are interested. And I think moving forward those, those churches, many of them are on these calls. So yeah, and I think that that those reach outs continue to grow. I think our only challenges are from the jurisdictional perspective that you know, it's no coincidence that the ones that we have are in Pierce County in the city of Tacoma, because both Pierce County and the city of Tacoma were willing to give us the grace to try out House Bill 1754 and really use that as our guiding kind of code, and guidance, and I think it's worked out well and compares person to someone





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like pure up, who has done everything they can to not allow us to use 1754 and to keep safe working out of their site, they've shut down two sites that we tried to set up so outside of the jurisdictional thing. I think there's a lot of church very or places and I don't think it has to be churches that are very interested.

### **Mike Boisture**

Okay, thanks. Yeah.

### **Rob Huff**

All right, so that's a lot of good news calling, and congratulations. There's a lot of that, a lot of congratulations in the chat for you. All right, so let's shift over to coalition committee dates. Do we have any updates from committees that have been meeting this week that should be shared with the full coalition. And if we don't, That's fine. I just wanted to offer the opportunity. Okay, so let's open it up to. Actually, let me give a quick update on our agenda we are changing our, the end of the meeting for today's meeting. We originally had scheduled to have Megan capes, join us to offer kind of a Labor Day acknowledgement. Megan wasn't feeling well so she can't join us today so. So if you notice we don't do that. That is why, but we can certainly do that in our announcement section that we will start now. So, kind of, what are some good announcements that people in the full coalition would benefit from hearing. If anybody has anything feel free to raise your hand, Jeffrey,

### **Jeffrey Boyce**

just read this morning Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has answered the call in LA, over the elimination of and sweeping camps down there. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has said, You cannot take even the big items and eliminate them in the presence of the owner, and that those are all parts of their home. So that just came out yesterday, that just happened yesterday I heard about it this morning. But that's one I want to pass on. Thank you, Jeffery, rosemary,

### **Rosemary Powers**

I just wanted to say I wish we'd been able to have Megan come because one of the things I was thinking about in the My original comments at the beginning of the meeting is honoring the labor of the people who are struggling to survive. But it's also important and I think Megan might have dressed as if she had been feeling better is what in the world do we think we're going to be able to solve the housing problem when we don't have wages for people who are laborers who can afford any place to be. And so the connection between raising wages taxing really rich land owners and speculators, and the ability to provide the housing that people can have to be meeting their dreams and keeping their community safe has got to be something that the intersections of which we are thinking about all the time. We, we can as some people said in the past we can case manage the hell out of a situation, but if there's no housing, and no jobs that pay enough money to rent the housing or buy the housing. we can't do much at all so that's frustrating in its essence, but it's a hopeful sign for labor day to celebrate the importance of making those things come together.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Rosemary. Anyone else with good or the order announcements. Can you hear me. Yes, I can Julian

### **Julian Wheeler**

always say humorously. Oh, that's too bad. I'm just want to invite people to our next Pierce County, accessible community advisory committee, regular session on Tuesday, September 14 Nine o'clock on



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Zoom, and as I say that I'm always reminded to say that we will continue using Zoom. For the purposes of accessibility, and in turn, I want to thank the Coalition for continuing to provide this convenience of attending on Zoom. Please keep doing it, or at least provide remote attendance capability. Should in person attendance become possible again. And this coming Labor Day just wanted to remind people about some concept I've learned in the, the mostly youthful standard community which is to, it's how you your humor can be classified as either punching up for punching down, punching up is when you afflict the comfortable, you know, and then punching down is when you make fun of the marginalized, and the late Labor Day to me represents a time when people together punched up to get greater. I guess what's the word, but greater equity and equality, and how that's never given away, it's always fought for. And I, I did want to provide another announcement. This is not a CAC related but it is Pierce County related and in case anyone's interested, Pierce County election is going to hold election observer trainings for for volunteer observers on Wednesday October 6 10am or 2pm which is trainees choice. And I think we all understand just how important it is to have a vigorous election observer program and of course, there are three observer groups, Democratic, Republican, and independent. So, give it some thought. You could contact me about that too and I could get your name over to the right people. But Rob, thank you for doing this skin, I appreciate it. Take care.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Julian. Jeffrey,

### **Jeffrey Boyce**

really good on the order. The church in Bellingham St Paul's womens came up with this idea for the homeless, to keep their papers and their ID and, and they can keep it around their neck, so they don't lose it. This is bad. God very well, very popular in the north end, north of Seattle. And I do have some available, and we'll have more available. If the average people talk to our unsheltered people. And they are just handing them out. So many times we hear about it being lost wallet stolen versus stolen. This provides a way to keep it around their body and out of the hands of other people. Thank you.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Jeffery, and Sheila I see your hand up.

### **Sheila Miraflor**

Geoffrey what are the chances of getting a lot of them for the Project Homeless Connect on the 17th. Ah, good.

### **Jeffrey Boyce**

I have six to 15 of them right now and I can get a whole bunch more. They are written,

### **Sheila Miraflor**

that would be incredible. Can I get your contact information, are you doing, you would just have to drop those off at associated ministries, and I'll let them know if I can get your, your contact information. Thank you.

### **Jeffrey Boyce**

Not a problem, I will put that in the chat.

### **Rob Huff**

Thank you. And Maureen, your hand is up.



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## **Maureen Howard**

That's right, Because the hopeful thing I didn't think about that everybody should know is, you know those \$50 cash cards that we're using our grant money for, for people experiencing homelessness, at the point of vaccination. So, Trisha Monson with greater lakes path team. That team works with a mobile international team of some sort, who actually does the medical folks who do the vaccinations and Tricia took 20 from Jan early this week, and 13 folks were vaccinated that encampments and liquid, which is like a high point in terms of numbers and Tricia was really pleased and so are we. So, yeah. Excellent.

## **Rob Huff**

So I think that's a good note to, to wrap up the good of the order announcements on. We do have a couple of minutes left to end today's meeting time to offer folks an opportunity to reflect on the meeting. If you would like to share, either in live on screen or in the chat. What things went well, what didn't go well what was missing today. If you want to drop that in the chat or raise your hand now and offer some comments, we'd love to hear because we want to keep making these meetings better. Okay, as the chat is always open for folks so. So please use it if you have, have some feedback for us, and there are still 43 of us in the room, I do want to make one more quick announcement and that is how would you like to be a host for the coalition meetings on Fridays. It doesn't need to be me running these meetings all the time. We do have a couple of other folks who have expressed an interest in, and in particular like Dwayne Parker has actually hosted the meeting before we'd like to add some people to rotation so if you would like to serve as a host for one of these Friday meetings, Go ahead and drop your information in the chat, and, and we'll reach back out, and we'd love to have you. Rosemary.

## **Rosemary Powers**

I would add to that the welcome message at the beginning is certainly something that many of you could do very well, and I am doing it because I don't organize myself well enough to make sure other people are available to do it. So if this is something that you'd like to do to have a brief inspiration or just a minute just to welcome and introduce folks to the rules of our engagement, together, then please reach out to me or to rob and we'll be, we'd love to have this rotated as well.

## **Rob Huff**

And I see Sheila's post in there, Monique, you got to watch out people volunteer you for everything. The good thing about a volunteer group like the like the coalition is you can't really be voluntold to do anything. So, see, see, I see that and I will be in touch with you. And I just want to say so we are at the top of the hour, a couple minutes away from it. Thank you again everybody for being here for the conversation this morning, and I hope everybody has a good safe weekend. Enjoy the sunshine while we got it, and we'll see everybody again next week. If you want to help plan for the upcoming meetings, you can stay on this call after a short break, we will have a group of us meeting to figure out what we can put on our agenda for the next couple of weeks. Thanks everybody. Have a good weekend.