



## Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting – November 12, 2021

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### SUMMARY KEYWORDS

community, homeless, meeting, encampment, tacoma, questions, homelessness, village, chat, folks, coalition, pierce county, county, maureen, city, great, vouchers, shelter, good, move

### SPEAKERS

Megan Jindrich, Patricia, Theresa, Jenny Norton, Jennie Schoeppe, Duke Paulson, Video Speaker 2, Paula Anderson, Rob Huff, Jeannie Schoeppe, Theresa Power-Drutis, Video Speaker 5, Video Speaker 4, Video Speaker 6, Video Speaker 3, Video Speaker, Kimberly Ellefson, Julian Wheeler, Kristen Winne, Rosemary Powers, Steve O'Ban, Wolf, Sheila Miraflor, Janet Runbeck, Maureen Howard, Timothy Harris, Valeri Knight, Jenna Anderson, Monique Brown

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### Rosemary Powers

I'll get started. I just has an image in my head. This morning when I was thinking about everything, the relentless rain and the treacherous roads and the vulnerability of our neighbors who are living unsheltered or with minimal protection just was flowing over me and at the same time as is so important to do. We acknowledge that we are meeting together here on the traditional lands of the Pew all of tribe who lived and stewarded this space for 1000s of years, and still do so today and at the same time because my mind keeps making connections. We also acknowledge that there's a climate conference going on in Scotland at COP 26 The the Conference of Parties the 26th year which is having big debates about how to steward this planet. So, I then as I often do look for look for a poet with wisdom on this topic and I have found it Maya Angelou has a stunning 1995 poem, which is titled A brave and startling truth. I thought I would just read a couple stanzas of that it's a way to center us in our work for today. She says, We this this people on this small and drifting planet, whose hands can strike with such abandon that in a twinkling life is sapped from the living. Yet those same hands can touch with such healing, irresistible tenderness that the hottie neck is happy to bow and the proud back is glad to bend out of such chaos of such contradiction. We learned that we are neither devils nor divines when we



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come to it we this people on this way word floating body created on this earth of this earth have the power to fashion for this earth a climate where every man and every woman can live freely without sanctimonious piety without crippling fear and when we come to it, we must confess that we are the possible we are the miraculous, the true wonder of this world. That is when and only when we come to it. So the possible we move forward today into the possible and into the realities that we're all in and we're meeting in this space, that's a zoom space we've been in for quite a long time. And most of us know the drill but I remind you every week of our norms here so if you are new, you can see how we operate and we do ask that people keep themselves muted when they're not speaking. And to turn off video if we're doing other things that might be distracting. Importantly, when we want to receive attention, finding a way to use the hand signal that's on the Zoom is good. And if you don't get recognized that way, then you can wave madly about to see if someone will recognize you. And Rob often does. Many times speakers can't see the all the folks who are here. And so we also have really come to rely on the chat as a place to communicate our ongoing questions to say things more in depth than we were able to do in person to ask questions and to share contact information if we would like to have conversation with others who are here today. It's not disrespectful at all to carry on conversations in the chat. It's it really reinforces our one of our primary goals of having a space for networking that happens on a regular basis. So the only other thing I'll say about norms is to be aware of the time. We have a lot of folks coming in today to present and to talk about things so be aware of that and in our both in our presentations and in our questions so that we can make sure everyone has a chance. And now just for a few minutes because we often have at least two or three new folks. I'd like to invite anyone who is new to this meeting who would be like to introduce themselves or who's returning after some time away to just unmute and introduce yourself since I can't see you all either.

## **Megan Jindrich**

Well, I will go ahead and kick it off. My name is Megan Jindrich and I'm the Parks Recreation and aquatics director for the city of Fife. And we have just launched a jobs program within the city. We have 10 people that were living out in one of our parks that have moved into a temporary Village and we're in the process of finalizing a more permanent village on city property. So I'm happy to be here.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Welcome Megan. Just wonderful to have that project going Thank you. Well, this we have lots of returning folks. And that's great. So welcome Megan as a new person today. And if anyone else is new here and didn't get a chance to do that, you can put your contact information in the chat if you would like to have interaction. And I'll turn it back to you, Rob.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Rosemary. And for those who are new to the meeting, yes, awkward silence is part of this meeting regularly. So. Alright, so let's shift into our first standing item that we talked about every week, which is we asked people to share what they excuse me are seeing on the seat on the streets. This week. So I know it's been a very wet, windy week. If you have any information about people's needs,



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what people are experiencing and how members of the coalition could help address that. This would be the opportunity to share. So feel free to unmute yourself and raise your hand and I will call on each person as they come up. I think Jen, I saw your hand go up first and then Wolf.

## **Jenna Anderson**

So Hello, folks, thanks for all the myriad things that we're doing to help so many. So I'm a somewhat of a frequent resident advocate keeping in touch with the coalition group. And I just want to mention just first and foremost, an encampment that seems to be growing and it's over by right Park G Street and second and the church First Presbyterian contacted the city but they said they were unable to do anything. And since August, my witness was that I saw one encampment and it now looks like there's about eight encampments there and it's growing. So there's a concern because there's the school there for the children. And the parking lot is used for pickups and also for other events. So of the city has said that it's on some type of property that they do not have ordinance over so I don't really understand it. So the church has contacted them several times and I'd like to just know how I might help and where I can get more information to be more active. And that is why I'm very pleased to become aware of to come as safe. And I know that Angela Connolly is with us today. So I'm really interested in hearing her talk.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Jenna. And yes, we will get to that that actually is the next item on the agenda. So wolf

## **Wolf**

y'all haven't been able to make it to one of these in a bit since we added Friday as a service day. Sorry, my cat might be a little loud in the background. He's got a cone on today and he's very upset about it. But serve the people has been doing our regular service over the past few months. Two to three days a week serving food and supplies at camps. Folks are getting cold and we haven't been getting as many donations in terms of like warm clothes and blankets as we've gotten in previous years and I understand that that's kind of a common experience now among a lot of charitable organizations and Tacoma. Donations are down. This week specifically we were out in addition to our food program delivering mattresses and bed frames together camps so that folks can stay warm off the ground when the streets are flooding. Other than that, if you have any connections for how to get more blankets and warm clothes, please get in touch. My name is Wolf. I'd run the server people program you can also make a monetary donation on Venmo SDP underscore Tacoma and we're on Patreon. Thank you. I'll put that in the chat too. Thank you, Wolf.

## **Rob Huff**

And anyone else with items about what they're seeing on the streets this week? Yeah, Megan. Yeah, I wanted to

## **Megan Jindrich**



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just share an email that I received. Our jobs program just kicked off this month, November 2, and like I mentioned before, we have 10 participants in there and so the city is really trying to work on getting word out to residents. We've met with quite a few business owners to let them know that this village was coming and received overwhelmingly positive response to it which was very encouraging. But we ran an article in our city of five newsletter that went out to all residents to make sure that they were aware as well. And I just wanted to share the following email and see if there was any ideas from this group on ways that we could potentially support. So it says misgendering I just read them out about the amazing program that you've started in the Fife newsletter I live in have lived in five for several years and there's no doubt a problem with the homeless population it has quite simply become out of control. Unfortunately, I am writing to you today to let you know that you may soon have more than 40 Entire families that may become homeless in May of this year. I moved to apartments in five off 23rd Street. I moved here because it was only somewhat affordable and available housing in the area. I currently pay \$950 a month for a very small apartment. And that seems quite pricey for what I get. I settled in and then August of this year the owner of the apartment sold the property. I have yet to get noticed that my rent is being raised as I'm under a one year lease. However, my neighbor who pays \$1,050 for his two bedroom unit got notice that they are raising his rent by \$500 a month bringing his new amount to \$1,550. The apartment complex has become an eyesore for the community and the new owners are forcing out very good hardworking people. In addition, they reduced our living space by approximately 120 square feet for more than a month due to a painting project which has yet to be finished. I've tried talking with management however they are unreachable. When I call the owners who are actually a corporation, I got a very negative response and my issues were not resolved. I'm not asking you for anything. I just wanted to make you aware that such situations like this are contributing to the homeless problem. Not only here in Fife, but everywhere. So I just wanted to throw that out there and see if anyone might know of resources that might be available, or if you have run into similar situations and other cities, and what options might be available to help somebody in the situation out.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you for bringing that letter in that to our attention. I think there's been some talk already that there's similarities between this and what happened a few years ago with the tiki apartments Maureen any thoughts?

## **Maureen Howard**

I'm gonna put my email in Megan and let's just take it offline so that I have better information to give you and connect you to the right people as fast as possible. But the reality is unless that maybe Lori's on or Jennifer but unless that landlord is taking money as part of the emergency Rental Assistance Program. That person is free to raise rent as high as they want to. There is no no cap and we've seen everything we've seen 700 \$800 month increases and we've also seen lot space increases go up by 25% or more up over \$1,000 for renting a lot to put your mobile home or your RV on so yeah.

## **Megan Jindrich**



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Alright, Maureen, I'll send you my email in the chat. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Perfect. Monique is you had your hand up. Yes.

## **Monique Brown**

Thanks, Rob. So I'll just add a little to that conversation. as well. I've had several calls this week, asking for rental assistance, which of course we don't have the funding right now. But a lot of folks are asking for rental assistance. My outreach team out in Puyallup and five are finding a lot more veterans so I'm sure there's a lot more folks out there in the bushes. I wanted to bring up something though.

Wednesday with the CLC hawks Delta Airlines Starbucks, Minority Veterans of America nine line Veterans Services Bob Hope we put on any event at at lumen field called Operation Turkey drop. And we had you know veterans drive through and get turkeys and cheese cakes and things like that. I also um, they also packed 2000 bags with some you know goodies in it. And so I have a lot of them that I brought back with me and so I'd like to try to distribute them. I know I want to take them over to Tacoma rescue mission for their veterans living in that little section. But if you guys have any veterans or know of any veterans organizations that could use some of these bags of goodies from Starbucks and delta and all these organizations, please let me know. I also have a enormous amount of instant coffee in my garage. It is the little packs of instant coffee. So if anybody's doing any outreach or has a shelter, please reach out to me. I'll put my info in there. So you can get a bunch of these packs at coffee. They've got to have access to hot water though. And they're just the last thing I've gotten a lot of just request for cold and wet weather gear.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you money. So if you do have additional items related to needs on the street, and you want to drop them in the chat, I see the chat is quite active this morning. That's exactly what we like. But we do need to move on to the next item on the agenda. And that would be we asked Angela Connolly if she could do a five minute kind of introduction to the to Tacoma safe and elements of how it impacts homelessness. So Angela hand the floor over to you.

## **Jenna Anderson**

Good morning, everyone. First of all, I'd like to introduce Kristin Wynn, who is also on the coalition call and she's a co founder. And with Tacoma safe as well. Monique Patterson who is the Executive Director of next chapter, and we've been working collaboratively with so many of you that here on the call and with all the different missions. What what the coalition is is kind of what our hearts are very much about which is we're a community collective, where we want we know the power of coming together and of creating pathways for everyone's voice to be heard. So that's kind of our big mission is to empower citizens to intersect and they want to help they want to speak out. So we work in several different ways. One is by having really important conversations with not only the neighborhood and



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areas throughout all of Tacoma, but as related especially to the areas of the people experiencing homelessness. And with that the mental health and the addiction. root causes that it's not always the case. It's not always the case for people who are unhoused but there there is a big concern in those areas and the huge lack of resources that we have, and when they closed down the civil side of Western State Hospital and abandoned people on the streets with with very few resources. And that's one of our major missions. is to just try and have the important conversations around that. And we started about six weeks ago, we have over 1000 citizens and representatives of different groups who have joined on joining their voices to say we love to combat. We want the dignity for every person and we want everyone's potential to thrive and we're willing to actually do everything we can. So we're about solutions. And we're about just making things happen as quickly as we can. First of all, just want to thank every one of you, because you're all doing this. Everyone's doing it. So we just want to work collaborative with all of you. If there's some way we can help and please let us know. Some of the other things we were doing our hands on graffiti cleaning up, and Richard Dorsett, who I believe is on the call today. He is one of the organizers that's really empowering and equipping people to come together every Saturday at 10 o'clock we meet over at the Art code goodwill parking lot. And we go out this this weekend. If it's not pouring we're going to go over onto McKinley Hill and working our way towards 72nd. And we're working legislatively let yesterday one of our important conversations we had was with the head of the trial lawyers lobbyist Larry Shannon, where we talked about the mental health and addiction, lack of resources. We do want to go as we meet with the legislators. We do want to meet with Trudy Inslee, and Jay Inslee and talk about some ideas. We'd love all of you who want to be involved in this to come message us and be part of this. It's time. It's time for all of this going forward, and we do have a big commitment to helping those in the encampments. I actually clean up their own encampments. And that's one thing we did under the 705 bridge. We do want to work collaboratively with the city and all those who are already helping in those areas. So we'd love to connect and actually kind of get a bit of a coalition going together. And we do want to we want to reach out to every encampment and see how we can help bring tools bring brooms and shovels and it worked really beautifully under the 705 There's three pregnant women under that bridge there. There's there's a lot of needs. So you know, we want the we want better than the encampments are, that's what we're working for. And I wondered Kristen, could you speak briefly about one of our next action items that are coming up? Sure. So

## **Kristen Winne**

I think it's going to be addressed later but the Pierce Pierce County County Executive has a proposal for the budget to laser focus \$81 million on homelessness and addressing the root causes, and we have sent out an urgent action email to all of our members asking people to call in you know, flood the county with calls and emails saying we really support this effort. Sometimes apparently the issue is that when, you know we got all this money from the federal government, the county did, and the city and one one approach sometimes is to take what they call peanut butter approach. They take the money and they spread it widely around to address a host of issues. And we believe that the county executives approach that instead of doing peanut butter to laser focus that 81 million on services and



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homelessness and long and short term housing is a better approach to address this expanding exploding issue.

## **Jenna Anderson**

Great, thank you. So So we're, we're we're just being hands on and we're on we want to hear what what the needs are. It's triage a bit but we do want to intersect with citizen lobbyists having the important conversations and and just empowering all the people to be involved. Our we have a Facebook page called Tacoma safe and please like it and we that's how we update all these things that are happening so quickly. We also have a email to come to save 2020 one@gmail.com And I think it's time in a new way for the silos and kind of the division two, and to be flooded with unity and to come together and so we just want to work as cohesively and collectively and collaboratively with everyone because I think I'm I'm so proud of what everyone's been doing. I've been involved in these issues for a very long time. And I just want to say there is excitement in the air about what is possible. And that's to going back to Rosemary's Maya Angelou poem that's so, so important. It is possible now to I think, come together, all of us and all the citizens to be a voice to make a difference for our most vulnerable and for our city. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you and thanks for that, that background information and how people can learn more feel free to also drop any of the information links to Tacoma safe in the chat. Okay, thank you. Yeah. And so let's shift to our next item on the agenda. And we have Steve robot Oban. From Pierce County. Joining us this morning, along with Duke Paulson from Tacoma Rescue Mission High Duke to talk about the community first village proposal. So Steve, just let me know when you want me to pull up the slides and I can do that.

## **Steve O'Ban**

Thanks. Good. Morning. I'm grateful for the chance to talk with you. I work for the county executive on behavioral health issues and now I've been working on a number of homeless related issues I know about your group and the good work you've been doing. And thank you for your evident care and, and heart for our some of our most vulnerable neighbors. I share that I wonder if you go ahead Robin put up the PowerPoint. It's about it's uh oh, don't worry. This is not a multiple slide PowerPoint too early in the morning for that. This is about four or five slides. So work through that. So next slide, if you would rather move us along here. So as most if not all of you know, one of the great challenges and putting together a complete homeless plan is how do we address the chronically homeless? These are as you know, some of the most difficult members of our population that are are in encampments. They're in shelters, and we don't have adequate housing and services. To address their challenging needs, HMLs indicates about 1600 are chronically homeless that are in that system. We are probably short something in the 1000 unit range for those who need permanent supportive housing. So we've been looking for a model that addresses particularly this great need and it's true as you know, practically every city that's and community that's dealing with homelessness, how do you not just house but how



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do you housing restorative way? These folks who are chronically homeless, they've been on the streets for one 510 In many cases much longer. So this is this is what we set out to try to investigate and found this model that's been going for about 10 years in the Austin area is called to me first village and go to the next slide. And I turn toward it I've had a chance to be go there twice. I'm actually going next week bringing a group including the county executive and a few others. I think I could give the tour now. I know it's a lot. But it's a masterplan community of affordable attractive micro homes and RVs they have about 300 so far. And the design and operation reflect really their fundamental value and that is they want they understand that homelessness is a human issue and it requires a human response. And so to that end, the homes are arranged in small neighborhoods to foster restorative relationships that are creating a family like atmosphere. Something most residents laugh they call them neighbors by the way, so neighbors will refer to them the neighbors can choose from among several high quality very nice fully designed homes. And RVs. You'll see some of the examples of that and the video we're going to show in just a few minutes are on site micro enterprises that offer many options to earn a dignified wage or an organic farm, a car repair shop and art studio. Woodworking facility. They even have their own b&b business on site that residents or neighbors participate in operating staff live on site to try to deepen the relationships with their neighbors, residents. There's case management and medical and behavioral health clinics on site that are operated by their partners at least one FQHC bus service goes to this facility on the hour. Really you see that residents are neighbors they take ownership of the appearance of the village and they even serve on neighborhood associations. It's really cool. We one of the best things about the tours we've been on is you get a chance to interact with residents and it's so clear they're very proud of their homes. They're proud of their neighborhood and they take real ownership over how it looks and and other aspects. It's low barrier. You're just asked to be a good neighbor follow civil laws and help pay with some of the rent is it's 30% ami. So whatever you can by the way of SSI or disability and if you don't have enough, you can work landscaping or leading tours, which is how I met several the residents work on the farm. Next slide, if you would rub so I'm about to show a video. It's about four minutes in length. right did you when you open this app, did you see that? There was a place for you to click to accept the media. So when play

## **Rob Huff**

so what I'm going to do is I'm going to actually stop sharing the presentation shortly flip over to YouTube to show the video and then we'll flip back to the presentation.

## **Steve O'Ban**

But let's go ahead and do that now if you would rob Sure.

## **Rob Huff**

Please somebody wave if this doesn't seem to work properly, let me make sure I've got the right thing queued up apologies here All right.





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## **Video Speaker**

Any first village is the craziest place I've ever been in ever lived. Oh, I love this place. What we're doing here in Austin, Texas has never been done anywhere in the United States of America or the world. Mobile Loaves and Fishes has created a new movement designed to lift the most chronically homeless men and women of our community up off the streets. When I look back on it it was nothing short of a miracle. The current system for addressing chronic homelessness in the United States of America is absolutely not working. This is a human issue that requires a human response. Our meat and cheese needed a blanket for Mobile Loaves and Fishes was started back in 1998 in order to feed the homeless in Austin, Texas. When the truck goes out, those that are serving and those that are being served are on the same side of the serving counter cookie. Water there's no disconnect. And this requires a human to human heart to heart relationship. Yeah, and I would have made this a simple thing. And that singularly was the game changer.

## **Video Speaker 2**

Truly that food truck ministry is what taught us what we needed to know in order to build community first village.

## **Video Speaker 3**

In 2004, I came up with this idea that we could go out and buy a gently used recreation vehicle, lift somebody up off the streets, that I started fantasizing as the serial entrepreneur that I am. Why can't we build an RV park?

## **Video Speaker 4**

Community first village is a 51 acre master planned community that is designed to lift the chronically homeless up off the streets of Austin. Mobile Loaves and Fishes cares for the people who have experienced long term homelessness, many of them 15 Even 20 plus years. At that point they have experienced so much trauma.

## **Video Speaker**

We believe that the single greatest cause of homelessness particularly in our country is a profound catastrophic loss of family.

## **Video Speaker 5**

I was married for eight years. I got a divorce in 92. I lost my house and my world because I lost custody. Of my son full custody. It devastated me. So I medicated myself with drugs. To tell you the truth, I really didn't want to live anymore. By coming to community first. It's been one of the best things that's ever happened to me.

## **Video Speaker 6**



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Our role is to really bring them into a community where they are loved and cared about and where they have that opportunity to begin the process of healing from all of that trauma.

## **Video Speaker**

At Mobile Loaves and Fishes our only goal is to inspire communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless. That's it

## **Video Speaker 4**

the neighbors that live at community first village are incredibly gifted human beings. One of the joys of the work that we do is being able to give them the opportunity to put those gifts and talents to work.

## **Video Speaker**

We create micro enterprise opportunities for our neighbors to earn a dignified into doing things that they love to do. We have a car care business and art house, a pottery operation, a blacksmithing shop, a woodshop in a full blown organic farming operation.

## **Video Speaker 4**

Over the last few years we've paid out more than a million dollars to our neighbors that's putting money back into their pockets to help them to be able to earn a living and enjoy life here. All of us desire to have purpose in our life. Community first village is transforming the lives of everyone who's a part of this community.

This applies it's really empowered me to do great things. I have my own family here. A real family that pulled me and love me when I couldn't love myself this is where I got my life back.

## **Video Speaker 4**

Housing will never solve homelessness, but community well.

## **Video Speaker 5**

Thanks Rob. So a few just a few comments and I want to bring Duke in here to Paulson, the executive director of to come rescue mission you probably all know very well. But I think the video shows why there are so many Austin area groups small businesses, big businesses, individuals, faith groups, foundations that are investing in can you first village they had a original plan and building up to 500 Micro homes and RVs they've got funding now and land purchased for 1900 units, they will be able to house all of the chronically homeless in Boston for Excuse me 80% Of that number by the time they're done. So it's a model that attracts substantial private sector funding both on the capital and on the operating side. Lot of volunteerism as well. And also it's a model that attracts the chronically homeless who voluntarily leave the streets of Austin to live there. The homes are very nice. We've been inside



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them. They're very attractive. They don't do it on the cheap because they they want to express the inherent dignity and humanity and all those who want to come and live there and create a special place for them. So next slide, if you would. But let's hear from Duke for a few minutes and then I'll talk about the county executive proposal Duke has already been talking to different groups and members in the community to sort of gauge support for something like this. So that's what discussing Did you there.

## **Duke Paulson**

Yeah, can thumbs up hear me? I did try and turn mute off all right. So perfect. Um, yeah. So basically, I had I have some advanced opportunity to be involved in this the National Association of rescue and gospel missions had their annual retreat. There are a couple around annual event in Austin a couple years ago specifically to highlight what was going on in Austin, Texas. Which Austin is actually very similar to Seattle. It is not the conservative city that Texas is it is a high tech industry hub. It has a similar population. This village is located in the county, east of of Austin actually in the surrounding area, but so it is not actually downtown. But it has had a significant impact. There. And so this I'm excited about potentially having a long term permanent housing solution for people that would not otherwise have that option. So this isn't affordable housing. This isn't this is different than what say the does or typical development does. This is really for chronically homeless, which we see a portion of 20 plus percent probably of persons coming through our shelter that are in that situation. And I can tell you, there's people that I know and I've gotten to know well who've been homeless for 1020 plus years, who this would be a great long term solution for because the typical find a job or other means of accessing homelessness are not good solutions when you're in your 60s 70s and sometimes 80s Trying to to be free of living on the streets. So Bruce demeyere, the executive has proposed money be set aside for this. We're looking for we there are people looking for I've been briefed on some of the challenges of this trying to find perhaps 20 acres 30 acres. We might we could settle with 15 Some sort of a significant size property in Pierce County, where part of the beauty of community first also is it has enough economy of scale. Talking to the founder when I was down there, and he said hey, we didn't have transportation until transportation actually set up for this facility until actually had people moving in here. And the transportation leadership realized we can't not have transportation be here. Similar to some of their medical and mental health issues, when they had the density then there were providers that said yes, let's step up and be more involved. Although there are multi care and their mental health support has already pledged support to try and be involved in this and they're excited about it. So on the that's just information about what's going on there. This is a public process right now. We're basically part of a group or people and a lot of people in this group have been part of it that are just asking the county to please set aside the money along with supporting shelter now along with supporting affordable housing, and permanent supportive housing and other options for people but also to look at this as one of the options to be set aside to support people that are really difficult to serve otherwise. And then there's the timetable here. As Steve said, there's a tour that he's taking people on next week, and then set 10 Some timeline right now we're asking that money be set aside by the county so that a property could possibly be identified and community support and coalition be built to try and do something like this over the next year, so there's kind of not over this year but to identify that



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property and get things moving forward. So there's lots of hurdles but this is kind of the initial first step that we're trying to get to move forward.

## **Video Speaker 5**

Y'all, I'll just say a few more things about the executives proposal and then time for questions. That's the last slide Rob so you don't show it. But and that is that the plan or thinking is we could fit as many as 20 units per acre, so 10 acres to our units, we'd like like, like Duke said, as many acres as we can. There's a challenge in finding sufficient space or land, I should say within your urban growth zone that can allow for this kind of dense residential use. So that's one of our big challenges, but we would hope to get more than 10 acres but at least 10 and then have space to for some of these micro enterprises, as well as we talked about that's currently in the execs budget along with Institute said and someone said earlier, an additional 50 million for shelter and affordable housing. So this is not the only thing the executive has emphasized he has fun for a number of different important elements that you all have been working on over the last number of months. But that's the executive proposal and we wanted at least to feature this particular committee first village concept because it is new to our state although it's being used and are followed in six other communities we've been told so the concept is catching on. Alright, I'll stop there. If you have any questions.

## **Rob Huff**

Perfect. So there's a couple of options folks can drop questions in the chat. Or you can just raise your hand and I can call on you so that we can address the questions just directly here. And in the meeting. Anybody with questions? One I would ask is, since this is permanent supportive housing, essentially it's being constructed. In the village. Is there been thought about I know in the Austin model, at least in the the micro shelters that they have set up, there's not restrooms built in, has there been thought about maybe adapting what they did there and doing more full service units? Yeah,

## **Video Speaker 5**

that may work in Austin where the weather maybe is averages around 75 degrees and there's very little rain. No, these are going to have two bathrooms in them.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay, great. That's great news. Yeah. Others with questions,

## **Monique Brown**

Steve? I don't really have a question. But, you know, back in 2017, I started creating this type of model, right? Because I was thinking about military installation, being a veteran, right? And everything is there on that installation, which is just what this is. And so I am sold out on this concept. No one was listening to the little black girl but I am in so whatever kind of support you need. You. Oh, we heard. We heard you Monique. Oh, okay. I love this concept. I think it provides dignity for folks. There is definitely what



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am I trying to say ownership in a community when you have your own spot, you know, and so I love this idea. Do you have like I know you said the executive is into it. But do you have all the backing that you believe you need?

## **Video Speaker 5**

Well, I'll kind of maybe shift duquan supplements, I would say no and the way that's this will come. If it's approved by Council, it'll be approved subject to the necessary financial backing for the completion of all the development costs, which will be our considerable but then the operating side this has to be sustainable. provider will need to come forward and show how they're going to pay for this. Not in the first year but over a 10 year period or something like that. So I think the County Council Executive will only approve ultimate funding of this on submission of a concrete, comprehensive proposal that answers all the questions that you need to have answered before you would ever give up to these kinds of follow up resources to something like this.

## **Monique Brown**

And then second question it Do you see it as something open to all chronic Are you looking for like a senior population?

## **Video Speaker 5**

Well, here we'll I'll just go with what is the case in curry first village, the average age is about 55. Today take from their HMIs the most chronically homeless the folks who have been in the system the longest and been the most challenging to house so that's one of the I think the role attributes of this is is that they're they're not picking off as it were the cream of the crop they're going for the most challenging and difficult to just successfully permanently house. So if that's the that's the current thinking is that would be the population we'd be going after. And so you could expect an average age around 55 Certainly would take those younger than they these would be the most chronically homeless.

## **Monique Brown**

Right. And so then my last question, I swear in terms of safety insecurity, is this an enclosed area? Is it gated, and there's specific entry or is it just a wide open area?

## **Video Speaker 5**

Oh, yeah, again, the Austin experience it could very well be that, you know, a first county went takes on slightly different forms. But Austin is not some enclosed fence. Space. It looks like as you drive by it looks like a planned community. The only thing that's different about it is their small micro homes and you see RVs but otherwise it would look like frankly in the other neighborhood.

## **Monique Brown**



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That's why I always think about in terms of safety and security when it looks like an encampment type of neighborhood, then you get people coming in who aren't happy with it. And so yeah, that was the question. Thank you so much.

## **Video Speaker 5**

Yeah. Interestingly, from a public safety standpoint, you can imagine concerns by the surrounding neighborhoods about bringing in a permit supportive housing, homeless village like this. The crime is much lower in community first village than it is and housing developments around it. And I think part of that is because of the sense of ownership that residents take.

## **Rob Huff**

Oh, I see. Duke, did you want to add something directly or should I go to Maureen since she had her hand up first?

Well, good Marine. She had her hand up first. Absolutely. And then I'll answer a little bit of Monique's question also. Okay, great.

## **Maureen Howard**

Just to thank a lot for you know, all the people have done all the work on this and like I put in the chat. I mean, we formally put out an ARPA priority statement last April, and the first line on it was 1000 doors at \$100,000 each. That's 1000 units. So we're on record, wanting money going to, you know, permanent housing purposes. There's no question there. One of my concerns is Gail, that I mean, is this and not to answer it this morning. But maybe in some follow up meetings scale. For a population that's tightly targeted. That's one thing. And having run a number of micro what are now called micro enterprises, with people experiencing homelessness through the 80s some I hope you come back with real details on some of these micro enterprises. I mean, do they have business plans? Do they have deep subsidies underneath them? Are they really paying? Is this piecemeal are people getting minimum wage? How do we how do we adapt budget figures from Texas where minimum wage is considerably lower than Washington state? So that how do we have how do we build in enough time to get real dollar performers and real pre development work? And I would want to see the applicants who would come forward on this project to have that pre development time covered. I mean, the ARPA money is loose enough, if you will, to be able to do that. I don't know a nonprofit that's got venture capital, or if so they're probably not in this meeting. So how do we give people who are interested in this model, that money to either assign staff who have the expertise or to buy the expertise to really bring forward the kind of information that's required? And I you know, I tell people all the time, look at the State Housing Trust Fund application process and tell me if you can meet these and if not, you know how are we going to do and that and that's another piece too, for me is like, can we grow the money if we're careful enough about really having a really defensible, sustainable pre development process? And



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performance? Not just on the the land and the buildings but the ongoing operation and maintenance on that side, but then also the services side? Can we grow the money in this moment? So anyway, I just look forward to more conversations.

## **Video Speaker 5**

Oh, yeah. All good questions. Do you want to respond? So? Go ahead, marine.

## **Maureen Howard**

No, no, I just didn't do you want to answer well? Oh,

yeah. So Marina, and I am going to get together to keep talking further on what I've seen. Monique, going back to your question, about a couple of things. One that piqued my interest was is their support. The biggest thing Angela said this coming on. The executive said let's put \$81 million into homelessness from the county that's been handled over today. And the decision will be made probably by Monday or Tuesday next week on how much of that \$81 million that the executive asked for is actually going to go to homelessness. So that affects shelters that affects camping sites that affects permanent housing and affordable housing and all that kind of stuff. So right now we're just in a fight to say, hey, secure at some million dollars to go towards this issue. And then then the county will be going through the process of how does that get divided up and what are what are good options and where that goes. So I'd say right now it's just let's get that secured. And so anyone that wants to call or email or share hey, we'd like to get as much of that money set aside because this is a this is a major topic. I mean, it cracks me up in not in a sad way. But when the city of Tacoma comes out with their budget, and the headline in the newspaper is how much is going towards homeless services before police before fire before other things going on. That's the number one thing that people are asking about, that the community knows we're aware of and watching and I think politicians are pretty aware of that but sometimes gets lost in the city once a new art project or sewer upgrade or something else. And people get focused on that stuff too. And it starts going to let's put a million there a million here and it whittles away. So that was one and the other thing you asked that I wanted to get around that I wanted to bring I don't know what it was sorry. That was my biggest one I wanted to jump in on there was something else you said Monique and I'll circle back to you. But I think um to your to your thought is saying hey, you were aware of this several years ago and I know my operations director Luis y'all know I've seen He's former military also. And he's like, Hey, in in Iraq, this is what we did. And we had 10,000 people in a small space and we're able to do this, like, there's models and ways there's been awareness but the uniqueness of this opportunity is there's potentially large capital dollars to actually acquire property to do this that hasn't been there before. They can catalyze a lot of other stuff. And what I'm seeing and what I'm standing before politicians seeing is there are community members, and it's not just a private foundation. So this isn't just the mill guards and the Chinese in the multi care. There are private individuals that are willing to pay 25 and \$50 a month to support something like this. And there's 1000s



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of them that will help raise the funds. I believe there's a lot of engagement to help in this situation. That that's actually where the bulk of the support comes from. And that's where the bulk of people that care about hey, this is going on right now my community that I think make the difference in this. But you've got to get that this initial momentum going to really catalyze the rest of that. So that's kind of what I'm championing and saying there is there is that hope out here. Let's see. I'm just trying to get the political pressure moving forward so that we can really get all these big changes that we've been talking about for the last six months going.

## **Monique Brown**

Yeah, you know, Duke when I when I was thinking about this model, my thought was that we have all these HUD VASH vouchers, and nowhere to spend them. So my thought was get these veterans signed up for HUD VASH vouchers and then put them in in the HUD VASH voucher would pay. You know they don't offer much on base but they would assist in helping pay for an encampment of you know, like 800 Something for each person with a HUD VASH voucher.

Yeah, yeah. So there's and that 80 Some million dollars from the county. There's a whole lot of housing options. I'm a huge advocate of there's a spectrum. So there's needs now there's needs to yours, but I'd also like to be part of building a what's our 40 year Community Impact look like that? That's really long term helping also. So I think that we're in general and I'm on the code the committee, one of the committees at least there's in general agreement on that how that will work. We don't know. Right now we're just trying to get the money so that we can get to that question next.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks, Duke. So I did want to carve out some time for us to have small group discussions on the topic. Does anybody have one? Final comment or a question for for Steve or Duke? Teresa?

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Just this that there are so many people on this call who have been advocating for purchasing and holding land for long term low income housing in one way or another? That I think you're going to find a lot of support there. I do hope that there will be. This will be a community land trust and not some something that can be lost in the future because it's a huge investment. So I say, go forward with acquiring land absolutely on property, but do it in a way that holds it in the community land trust and if there's equity to be earned, let it be earned on the buildings and not the land.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Teresa. So I'm so Dukan Steve, I'm not sure if you guys want to hang out for the conversation. What we're going to do is break into breakout rooms and encourage folks to have a conversation about what's been presented to ask questions and kind of discuss it amongst themselves





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and then maybe afterwards share their thoughts in the chat with somebody taking notes. What I'll do is I'll set up breakout rooms with five or six people in each room. And I don't think we'll have time to do discussion of it when we come back here. But I'd be very happy to share that information with you guys. So any final words before we go into breakout rooms?

## **Video Speaker 5**

Just thank you for giving us some time. To talk about this exciting prospect.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, thank you for coming. All right, so since we are a bit behind on our agenda, why don't we spend the next 10 minutes in breakout rooms having conversation about this? If you need to leave thank you for being here. See you later Angela. And we will come back here at 1011. Again, if somebody can take notes in your breakout room and paste those into the chat when we come back. That would be great. Here we go.

< breakout rooms >

## **Rob Huff**

Welcome back, everybody I know 10 minutes is really not a lot of time so I'm sure that cut some of you off. My Reminder would be please do share notes from your conversation in the chat. And if you have additional points or things that you wanted to raise that you didn't have time to do. During the breakout groups, please use the chat for that as well. So moving on with our agenda. Again. Now I want to thank Steve and Duke for being here for the presentation this morning. So our regular standing item that we usually do at about 10 or a little past that is regular government updates. So I'll run through the list of folks who are typically with us. I'm not sure is anyone from the city of Tacoma on the call All right, I didn't receive word if somebody was going to be here today. So we won't have a city of Tacoma update. I'm not sure if I saw Jeff Rogers on the call. Jeff, are you here with any updates from Pierce County?

## **Valeri Knight**

Jeff's off today but he asked me to provide an update. Perfect. Okay, so update from homeless programming is there is a Notice of Funding Availability that has been released. You can find it on our website. I'm sure the link isn't here. It is for hotel sheltering, rapid rehousing and Sri outreach \$4.3 million dollars and applications are due by December 3. So a little bit of a quick turnaround. So please go and take a look at that there will be the NOFA application materials are all posted on the website and there should be a q&a session. So please read through that very carefully. Make sure you submit in accordance to requirements. If you miss the deadline you won't be funded so please, please please get it in by the cut off because there are no exceptions to that rule. So otherwise for that's the only update I received from homeless for rental assistance. We are in 25 locations throughout the county. This is like the only time I've sat in this chair this week. For Treasury we are at 8.85% spent that's \$18.4



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million. We have We are getting ready to put in our request on Monday for somewhere around 40 million more dollars because Treasury has anywhere from 1.8 billion to several 100 million available so we're going to put in our ask for additional dollars for trap which is the state dollars. We're at 84.4% spent on that as well for 36 million. So that's \$54 million spent just since March 1 And those two fund sources. And then with our American rescue plan dollars, we're already 26% spent as well. So lots of new contracts going through with state dollars federal dollars. Lots of changes being made to make sure we're as efficient as possible. But we are out in the community we were at sunder family on Monday I think I'm getting very confused Buckley. today. We're at Key Center Gig Harbor. We're in multiple locations next week. And then next week we're also presenting in Spokane, and then I am presenting to the Washington state legislation on Friday at 8am. So if you know someone who needs assistance applying to come a pro bono is there with us at every one of the visits so stop by say hi to either of us we both have candy baskets. Theirs is better. than mine. But that's okay, mine is prettier. I decorated it I was very proud of myself and stop by having something on apply if they want updates. They can always stop in and apply or get an update the landlords can stop and get updates and then to come pro bono is they're offering a whole slew of amazing services. So feel free to get people to us and if you have a location that would be beneficial for either of us to come to you. We are always happy to to make an except to make a rule and just come visit you. So if you're a landlord, if your service provider, a lot of food banks have been reaching out we're getting ready to do all the Tacoma libraries. So just know that we are on the move throughout the entire county and we will continue doing that until next year, so feel free. Oh, thanks Lori. I worked very hard.

## **Rob Huff**

Alright, Thank you Valerie. Any questions for Valerie? Too bad Maureen left I'm sure she would have had a question.

## **Valeri Knight**

I'm sure she knows my number. She'll text me.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah. All right, so let's shift over to Jenny with any updates from Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.

## **Jeannie Schoeppe**

Morning everyone. I have a team working on a tree in our yard right now. So I'm hoping you can't hear that background noise. Um, kind of general updates from me. I've also got my kiddo behind me getting into covered so sorry in advance um, general bits for me. isolation and quarantine. We we're we're really excited to see you know, fewer outbreaks in the shelters which is amazing. Obviously for everyone. We are building still working on building up the isolation quarantine capacity for folks who need safe places to stay if they are awaiting a COVID test result or are positive with COVID Currently,



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let's see as of yesterday afternoon, we've got 21 beds available throughout you know the adult family home system that we have set up on Monday we'll have two new adult family homes coming on board to provide isolation and quarantine services and boost that capacity and they are committed to being low barrier sites. So what that means is that things like criminal activity behavioral health issues. Drug and alcohol use will not be immediate denial of you know, will not be things that immediately cause denial of placement. So we're hopeful about that as well in terms of serving the most most vulnerable folks. Um, let's see, sorry, um, yeah, as of Monday, we don't have any active COVID outbreaks and the shelters which I'm very happy to report. We're getting back in and doing a lot of immunization work. So we have 20. I counted this morning with 20 COVID vaccine clinics scheduled for November and December. That's just the work happening at shelters. And day center. So that doesn't include other community based food bank and church based events. But that's going directly on site and those are through our contractor ambulance. I am starting I haven't looked at this is just sort of my knee jerk, like looked at the data real quick. I feel like we're seeing bigger numbers at these at these events, which is really heartening. I'm really great. And working on a few more kamin outreach efforts from a departmental support standpoint, but also greater lakes is continuing through this month to work with medical teams international doing kamin outreach outside the city of Tacoma, um, Medical Reserve Corps is doing some flu vaccine clinics and there was a successful clinic at home rescue mission yesterday, which is very exciting. So there were COVID vaccines and then flu vaccines as well. Um, and the department's really busy rolling out pediatric vaccines right now. So I'm working to make sure that our contractor ambulance is able to incorporate peds pediatric vaccines into their work at shelters where that is needed. On family shelters, and that our department keeps keeps attention on the vulnerable population and community of folks living homeless as we incorporate all different kinds of competing priorities. So I'm going to drop some links in the chat about boosters and things like that. In our website, helpful places on our website. But I also want to mention finally that I'm in December my role will be shifting back to a more normal I don't know what that is but more normal role of serving the communicable disease division as a whole here the department so it's been very COVID focused for the last year and COVID is not going to go away. But I'm hoping that my liaison role between the department and our homeless service providers and folks like yourselves, will be able to encompass a more wide range of topics under communicable disease so, not so heavily focused on COVID 24/7 Um, what questions you have for me

## **Rob Huff**

feel free to raise your hands ask a question.

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Oh, Monique.

## **Monique Brown**

Hi. Jeannie. Is it Jeannie Jenny?



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## **Jeannie Schoeppe**

It's Jenny. We just had that conversation that breakout room the IE, throws people off. It's Jenny.

## **Monique Brown**

And I noticed there's no a and I'm like, Oh, wait. What Anyway, listen. So the encampment that the city of Tacoma is going to be setting up for us to run when we open which is supposed to be December. Is it possible to get a team to come out and make sure we've got all the vaccinations done for everybody living there?

## **Jeannie Schoeppe**

It is possible I'd love it if you would email me I'll drop my email in the chat um what I can't promise anything but what's happened we we were able to partner a mobile team with comprehensive life resources to go to three city encampments. Um Like I said, greater lakes which works outside of the city. I'm Trisha Munson has been leading that I work with medical teams International, so a different vaccine provider than us doing a lot of outside the city work. And then I'm trying. I hit some roadblocks this week with getting our mobile teams to take on three more direct to vaccine direct to encampment vaccine. efforts. But I have some other options. So I'm working some angles. And I Yeah, and I need to become more familiar with what you're referring to in terms of the new city, you know, a connection or collaboration. So if you wouldn't mind emailing me and we can, we can chat about that a little bit more. That was great. Thank you. I need to say like, for full transparency, that department so actually, you know, having our mobile teams deployed to encampments is not sustainable for us. It's coming to kind of a close and so that's what I mean in terms of working other angles, working with our contractors but also making sure that that's that that's agreeable to the outreach teams to work with another contractor and also seeing what what truss is doing is greater lake so just want to you know, not over promise anything but we'd love to chat with you more about it. Right we

## **Monique Brown**

do have a van where we could load those up and bring them to you. We just need to know where to where to take Yeah,

## **Jeannie Schoeppe**

okay, great. Okay. Yeah, let's talk more. Thanks. Thank

## **Rob Huff**

you. Perfect. Thank you, Jenny for the update. And let's shift to I'm not sure if we have anybody from Pierce County's Department of Emergency Management on the call today. I didn't notice raging or Jodi checked in as anyone else from the am on the call. That's okay. So Well, I'm sure there'll be back with us at our next meeting. So the next item on our agenda, I was just going to do a very brief mention of



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Pierce County's comprehensive plan to end homelessness, the work that's being done by the steering committee as well as the shelter plan work group. Let me paste the link to that page on the Pierce County website related to the efforts the Mike Moisture represents the coalition on the shelter plan workgroup. The reason that Mike hasn't been here is that the shelter plan Workgroup has not met yet since the Request for Information closed that the county had out so I expect they will I expect to hear that they will have a meeting again coming up soon. But that hasn't happened yet. I'm looking at the webpage that link that I put in there. The steering committee will meet next on November. 19th. From one to 4pm on Zoom, the link to join that meeting anybody is able to join that meeting and participate just as a member of the public. They do take public comment during the meeting. So if you have an interest in that you can actually join that meeting on the 19th through that website. There is a current draft of the comprehensive plan to end homelessness that is being fleshed out by our our friend Garrett and his team at the county. So there should be more to share there soon. And then again, as a reminder, it would be Maureen speaking right now, typically because she's our representative on the steering committee for the for this comprehensive plan to end homelessness, but she had to go to another meeting. So that's why you get me so any questions from folks about the comp plan and homelessness or the shelter plan work group? If you do have questions Do please pop them into the chat I Teresa you ever hand up?

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

So I was hoping that you would talk a little bit about some of the issues that you raised at the steering committee meeting. Could you would you do that in this group?

## **Rob Huff**

I can. Uh, if I remembered what those issues were. Can you give me a little reminder what I was talking about there.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

So there, there are just some some questions about I, I believe they were around the that you and Maureen were both raising they were around the way is it coming back to you?

## **Rob Huff**

Yes. So. So Maureen and I both have participated in a couple of the subcommittees that are helping inform the overall plan. And among those two sub the two sub committees that I serve on with Maureen are around homelessness prevention and actually encouraging the county to stand up a more robust prevention effort. So that we don't have more people sliding into homelessness and then also permanent housing. And Maureen express concerns specifically around the permanent housing elements of the Comprehensive Plan. She's kind of expressed some concerns throughout the entire process that that comprehensive plan to end homelessness doesn't include a separate look at hat long term housing and affordable housing. It relies on the efforts of other outside efforts around affordable



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housing. So so that's a concern that Maureen has been expressing and that I can see that I have a couple other hands up so Teresa and then rosemary.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

So specifically to the zero to 30% AMI is that seeing that being really focused on and a plan for addressing that especially when we hear this morning about some of the the very precarious positions people who are low income are in with landlords and even at the with the mobile homes, to say there there needs to be a very strong way forward there and we are hoping and expecting the county to take the lead in that and to see it in their plan really well.

## **Rob Huff**

Rosemary, your hands up as well.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Well, I was going to make that exact point that Teresa made so that that's that. But I was just really thinking of if this comprehensive plan to end homelessness is addressing the idea of of a of actual street homelessness and wherever else it's going to address but not addressing affordable housing, then it needs to be really clear that that and demand that that be addressed and I think that's Teresa's point as well but but it will I remember in the video today, the point on community was really powerful that the someone made the claim that housing won't end homelessness but community will and that's only true to a certain extent because that's a that's a metaphor for the importance of community but it does not at all negate what we heard about this morning when you can't afford a house you're homeless. So the county has to step up and be a leader that's accountable for that.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, and it's on each of us to help make comments on the plan and ensure that that that that does get addressed, and that that would be another opportunity to talk about that at the November 19 meeting as well for folks who want to attend. All right, so if you have additional comments or questions about the comprehensive planning effort, please drop those in the chat. I can refer things to Maureen and Mike moisture to be answered directly. So I think we all know we want to advocate for addressing this issue as quickly as possible. Next item on the agenda so we can shift over to an update regarding safe sites for all Jan.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Yes, we are pleased to announce that the pilot program for safe parking network has now moved into this next stage. We have evolved into a recognized program under the county. The county has picked up the funding for safe parking network. There are currently four sites and I will put into the chat the new phone number Cullen is working on other projects on homelessness he has moved on. He still is going to be helpful but the instead of MDC being the fiscal agent going forward it is new hope. Paula



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Anderson is our new Cullen. Without weird said, Paul Anderson is our is our new go to person. So um, we have we are fully funded through the end of the year at which the new initiative that we all have been working on we'll move forward to expand the number of units, the number of parking places, so I know Gopala, Gopala. So I will put in the new there she is Paul, I'm gonna I'm gonna put your number in and just come in and take a bow, Paula.

## **Paula Anderson**

Well, you know, obviously I just stepping in here. It was great to meet with the county last week. Again, this is only to continue the funding for the four existing sites, one of which is one that has been trying to come on but will eventually come on. It is a limited funding. And then I'm hopeful that the other NOFA that comes out will be coming out sometime soon, where we can then apply for additional funding for some of the safe parking expansion that we wanted to look at. But, um, you know, we're looking for partners in that as well because that's a that's a big chunk and we were looking to kind of keep the safe parking to that we were working on to East pairs and South Pierce County where there aren't as many services as there are in deployment like but and things like that, and then looking for another agency, perhaps associated ministries or one of the other ones to take over some of those other ones if that funding comes out and if we all are willing to do that. So this is just an interim piece and I just thankful for the committee because Colin and Jan and the rest of the committee members are the ones that have really built this program. And so it's an easy just step in and just be the fiscal manager basically on this we will have a phone number I just put that in there. That is a call for referrals. New Hope will take over doing the background checks, and then working with the contacts at each one of the safe parking sites just to make sure that everything is going the way that it should be going. Thanks, everybody.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Paula, and Jan for all the work to keep this going moving forward and then again we'll have funding for next year. For expanding even further. So that's great news. Um, so the next item on the agenda is whether we have any coalition committee updates, I wasn't sure if we had anything that needed to be shared this morning. Rosemary.

## **Rosemary Powers**

I don't think so today.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay. That's great. We just keep that as a standing item since we do typically have something to share from one of the committees working for the coalition. So let's shift into our good trouble announcements, and we're actually ahead of time on our agenda, which never happens so we can have a pretty robust section here. One of the things that I thought I would share some of you may have been aware that the city council, Tacoma City Council on its agenda on Tuesday night had listed the



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first reading of the camping ban, use of public property item that had been on the agenda earlier in the year. The city Council actually took action in the front part of the meeting before any public comment to move further consideration of that legislation to the council's community vitality and safety committee. So CVS is a committee that includes a portion of council members, and essentially they're going to dig into details and some of the concerns that had been raised by a subset of the coalition members earlier this year regarding concerns with the RE imposition of any public camping ban. The community vitality and safety committee was asked to do as much as they could to resolve questions to bring the legislation back to the city council before the end of the year. That is, is a pretty tight timeline but because of this request, the committee the community vitality and safety committee will hold a special meeting on November 18. Starting at 4:30pm It's something that is available. The link will be available on the city's website. I don't believe it's there yet. But there is an opportunity if you have an interest in expressing further concerns, wanting to ensure things or in or out of that ordinance. There is an opportunity at the committee level to make public comment. So if this item comes back onto the agenda before the end of the year, we will hear about it through those community vitality and safety meetings. Any questions about that public camping ban item? Okay, and then I also wanted to just do a general coalition announcement regarding our schedule for our meetings going forward through the end of the year. As you all know, Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching. We have decided that we will not hold a coalition meeting on the 26th the day after Thanksgiving because I know everybody's going to be celebrating with family and or working to help people on directly on the streets. So so we will cancel that particular meeting. We also if you look forward to December, we have meetings. We had the potential of having meetings on the 24th in the morning and on the 31st but the steering committee talked this week and decided that we would go ahead and cancel those two meetings as well. Unless there's something that pops up that is a critical need that we need to address as a coalition. So you can know that you have those three Friday's coming up that will be available. It also means that we don't have a whole lot of Fridays left to do coalition work this year. So when we wrap up today's meeting if you have the ability to stay on and help plan for the rest of the meetings through the end of the year. We'd love to have you in that little planning group. Any questions about coalition schedule through the end of the year? All right, so I open the floor for other good or the Order Items. Jan.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Oh yes, I am pleased to announce that the grant monies that the coalition received on behalf of promoting COVID vaccine of those who are living homeless, we were able to buy 478 cards \$50 net \$50 each card and the bulk of those cards have either been given out these clinics that Jenny has talked about or are in the pipeline to be given at the at the clinics coming up. So if you are with a shelter or with an outreach team that is scheduled to be having a clinic of COVID specific Neph Lu COVID specific and you think that \$50 makes a difference between somebody getting a shot or not contact me.

## **Rob Huff**





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Fantastic. Thank you, Jan, and thank you for all your work on that. Others with questions or comments to share Timothy?

## **Timothy Harris**

Yeah, so I have exciting news. The dignity city website and news blog is up and running. We are planning let me just like do a little thing here. them um, we are planning on launching street sales of the paper in March. We are entering what I think of as the community organizing slash fundraising stage of development of this project. I haven't had nearly as many direct conversations with folks who have been doing this work in Tacoma as I would like to going to be reaching out to people would be delighted if anybody who has you know, concerns, questions, things that they want to help with. Just get in touch with me. I'm all ears. i You're going to be seeing a lot of me over the next several months. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Timothy. And would it be wise for us to maybe next week have you do like a five minute introduction again of digging into that and yeah, why don't why don't we put that on the on the calendar. I saw a thumbs up from Teresa who helps set those up. So fantastic. Thank you, Teresa.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

That was actually going to be my segue to say, ask if you would come and do the community spotlight next week and also to say to other people. Please be in touch if you have maybe you're somebody who's been in the Coalition for a while, but you have a new project you're doing. You don't have to come and tell us everything about your project. Just come and tell us about that thing that you are starting out and how people can access it who's eligible? Just it's pretty simple. It's a five minute spiel and then people can ask you questions and it really helps. It's part of why I'm doing this is that I love so much to hear about the projects that are happening. Sometimes this is the only place people do hear about them. So I'm going to put my email again in my email address again in the chat and just reach out to me and we'll set up a time.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Teresa, Jenny.

## **Jenny Norton**

I just thought I'd get a quick emergency housing voucher updates. Um, we have now received 55 referrals we have processed 44 of those Referrals Out of the total of 135 available 22 of those households have vouchers in hand. Of course, we are now in kind of a bottleneck situation is what I will call it because those households have their vouchers, but finding them housing within fair market rent, or FMR is now our challenge. So we are kind of our entire team is in a situation of almost 24/7 looking for housing that can utilize those vouchers. So we are working on that. Day and night pretty much is what I can tell you. So we have leased up a couple of households so far. But we're continuing to, to



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work on that and we're working with every single resource that we have at our disposal to do that work. So hopefully over the coming weeks I'll be able to tell you we have more households leased up quick update on Pierce County Housing Authority and their eh fees. They just started pulling referrals last week. So they don't have anyone that they have processed or worked through on that yet because they've just started to pull referrals through and they have 62 vouchers available just as a reminder to everybody.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Jenny. One quick question about the vouchers. So what's the timeline is are there a deadline at which those vouchers have to be come in?

## **Jenny Norton**

Yeah, so I can give you a quick timeline on that. So not technically, but HUD did set a pretty aggressive timeline with some additional financial incentives. So the first timeline was November 1, and that was for households that were leased up with the vouchers so they want them used as quickly as possible. The second timeline that's going to be coming is December 31. So however many households we can get leased up by that time. But it's not that if we don't utilize them, we lose them. That's not the case. It's just a financial incentive for the housing authorities. So if you lease up households then they throw some additional money into the pot for services basically, is how it works. So that money is just kind of off the table if we're not able to lease up those households. But these can be utilized through 2023. So we technically have until then, to use them but of course we are pushing as fast as we possibly can can to get these these households vouchered and leased up as quickly as we possibly can.

## **Rob Huff**

Awesome, thank you for that update. Anyone else with items for the good of the order? Okay. Well, I It looks like we might actually wrap up ahead of time, which

## **Sheila Miraflor**

is Sheila, it Sheila real quick. I put in the chat, that I'm still collecting quality resources from the coalition to submit to Garrett to have it posted on the website. So just send them to me my emails in there. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Sheila. And thank you for taking that on. So I wanted to carve out a little, a couple of moments here to offer folks. If you have any feedback on today's meeting. Let us know things that went well. Things you like things you didn't like, what we should do better. This would be an opportunity just to open the floor for those kinds of comments. And of course you can use the chat for that kind of feedback as well. So anybody with thoughts for today's meeting? Monique.



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## **Monique Brown**

So Rob, I always loved the format this meeting. However, I noticed today that when we went to breakout rooms and came back we lost about half the people. So I don't know if that was because they had other meetings or if there's something up with having to go into the breakout rooms but it was just something I noticed today.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, I think that that that we do see that happen. Even though we do try to do small breakout rooms because it's it would be more comfortable for a lot of folks to be in smaller rooms rather than a big room. Some folks do don't like to do breakouts so. So I do think we do lose a few folks folks that way. So thank you for that observation.

## **Monique Brown**

If they don't just click this if they don't click into the room, it doesn't force them there at a certain time, or can they just stay?

## **Rob Huff**

No. What happens is, is I ended up sitting in kind of like a holding room where we're not having a conversation, and we had probably nine people who were in that area and that is one thing I could make more clear. If you don't want to participate. You could just stay in that room. Because essentially, it just gives people we have people who are multitasking who can't jump into the entire breakouts. So yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay.

## **Theresa**

Also we had a number of people who were presenting or part of a group and they all left after they did their presentation before coming into the breakout. So that was I think that's why there was a greater drop than usual. Yeah.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you for that feedback. So anyone else who wanted to offer anything about today's meeting or future meetings? Before we all say Have a great weekend? And I see your comment in the chat, Jennifer, thank you for that too. That's a great, great ad. So I want to Can

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I just ask one more thing, because we're planning we're kind of trying to look at the rest of the meetings this year. If you can't come to the planning meeting, but you have something you'd really like to be sure we get on the agenda. Can you just put it in the chat or speak it out? Because it's great to hear from people saying we really want to talk about one thing or another, though, put it out there and go ahead and finish Rob sorry.



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## **Rob Huff**

I was just gonna wrap us up. So that's a that's a great way to end the full meeting on that note. I hope everybody has a good weekend if you do have an interest in staying around to help plan the future meetings. We'll take a five minute break and then we'll be hanging out here to continue the conversation. Have a good safe weekend everybody.