



## Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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### SUMMARY KEYWORDS

coalition, garrett, folks, shelter, encampments, sites, meeting, tacoma, people, work, health department, week, pierce county, community, move, plan, county, rosemary, maureen, homelessness

### SPEAKERS

Dominic Stevens, Jeffrey Boyce, Gerrit Nyland, Laurie Adams, Calvin Kennon, Cat Green, Carolyn Reed, Leah Ford, Ed Jacobs, Rob Huff, Joe Perva, Russ Blunt, Josh Castle, Rosemary Powers, Gae TJ, Maureen Howard, Carolyn Weisz, Carol Colleran, Sam Lewis, Janet Runbeck, Carmen Burka, Valeri Knight, Jenny Lorton, Monique Brown

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### Rosemary Powers

Good morning, everyone and welcome to the work of 2022 It's good to see so many of you that I know and new people that I haven't met yet. I look forward to meeting today. Welcome to the opportunities for collaboration that our coalition in homelessness makes possible. The trips around the sun that each new year announces reminds us that we can begin again that we can plan and act again that we can keep on building and working to create the healthy community where all our neighbors have a safe and secure home and for those who do not have them are able to participate in helping the solutions to happen. For those of you joining us for the first time today know that we want to be tried to be an aim to be an open table where all who are committed to ending homelessness are welcome to engage respectfully in promoting solutions. As we come together to share ideas and resources and strategies for action. We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional lands of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians who have stewards of this land from very early times and continue to do so today. We join with them in respecting the land as well. To assist us in our commitment to respectful engagement. We have developed a set of norms for interaction we don't talk about these in detail every week, but it is the first meeting of the year. And so I'd like to read those today. And I don't know if you have them ready to post Rob, but if you could, that would be great. Just to remind us of our agreement. So since we meet on zoom at this time, these ones will be obvious to most of us but if you haven't used in our group before, we ask that you mute yourself when you're not speaking, that you use the zooms, raise hand feature or



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it doesn't work for you, if you're on the phone, try some other way to get attention. So we ask you to do that. That we limit distractions by turning off the camera when we're doing other things, taking calls or doing other things in our setting. And that we use the chat as a place to make announcements and to have discussion. We don't consider this a distraction. We want to be a network where people can share with each other as we go along. And then the norms for our interactions themselves. I'll just read those that we seek to lead with a racial equity lens that we all commit to being aware of power dynamics that we challenge concepts and not people that we listen to learn that one person speaks at a time that we speak from our own experience, that we make space and we take space that we assume the best intentions and take responsibility for impact and that we be aware of time and agenda. At the end of our meetings, we ask for ideas about what we what worked and what we could do better. And we don't get a lot of feedback there. But we really do want to hear how we can improve. And we also invite you then as part of that join us after the meeting if you have ideas for things we should cover resources we should feature ways that we should interact. We meet for a short time to plan the meeting for the next week. So with that, I'd like to invite everybody here to welcome each other. And for those who are new, we'd like to know who you are so we can engage with you in the areas that you are concerned about. So what we do in this little portion of the meeting is if you're new here today, just to unmute yourself and just announce who you are and if you have relationship to an organization, let us know which that is it's not time for a long discussion, but we do want to welcome you and know that you're here. So anybody can begin.

## **Carmen Burka**

My name is Carmen burka, and I just started working as a navigator with inside passages. Pierce County.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Welcome currents very much. Wonderful to have you here.

## **Carmen Burka**

Thank you. And good morning everyone. My

## **Dominic Stevens**

name is Dominic Stevens and I have also started working with inside passages as a CTI navigator.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Welcome. Welcome, Dominique. Wonderful to have you. Good morning.

## **Gay TJ**

My name is Kay TJ I'm also working with inside passages. I am the referral administrative coordinator. Well, it's wonderful to have you and so many folks from inside passages today. It's great.



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## **Sam Lewis**

Morning. You go first. Okay. My name is Sam. Lewis. I'm also with insight passages. I'm a rehire. I was originally a navigator and now administrative coordinator, specifically focusing on EHV

## **Rosemary Powers**

welcome, Sarah. It's wonderful to have you to

## **Calvin Kennon**

Good morning everybody. I'm Calvin kin and supervisor for Homeless Outreach here at comprehensive life resources. I'm new, but I wasn't part of the coalition early on, and I'm glad to see that you guys are building still going and making a difference. So I'm glad to be here.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Welcome back. Calvin. I knew I remembered you and I'm really 100 Wonderful to have you join us again. Thank you. Thank you

## **Cat Green**

My name is Cat green. I'm not new to the coalition but I am new in a position with insight passages. I am the exceptional needs care coordinator for insight passages.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Well cat we look forward to hearing more about your work and how inside passages is having all you wonderful people doing the things that you're all going to be doing with them so great to you.

## **Laurie Adams**

Hi, I'm Gloria. Oh, go ahead. Okay, I'm Laurie Adams. I'm just an interested citizen. I have spent several years phone chairing at the Nativity house. And I'm just interested in being helpful wherever I can.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Laurie, there's plenty to do so welcome to joining us. Thank you. Good morning.

## **Russ Blunt**

I'm Russ blunt. I am the interim city manager of the city of Fife. Been with Fife for a couple of decades but in my new role and much more involved with the folks living outside in Fife. We are working on a jobs program for some of those people and and housing options and many different things I'm sure working with many of you also to help house the people in Fife in the area. Thank



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## **Rosemary Powers**

you. Thank you, Ross it's a great example of small a small community working together to help folks who need it so welcome here and we look forward to working with you. And thank

## **Carol Colleran**

you. I'm Carol collar and I get to attend only infrequently because I do something else usually Friday morning but I got tested positive for COVID. So I'm staying home and enjoying today and I'm part of revenue for housing.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Welcome Carol. Sorry about the disease but that's how it goes, isn't it at least we get to have you here.

## **Rosemary Powers**

That's great. Well, this is wonderful. Lots of new folks today. We look forward to the the meeting and how we can hear from you and please if you're interested in helping us form ideas for future meetings. Think of staying after if you have the time to do that as well. So, Rob, I'll give it back to you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you rosemary, and boy, it's great to see so many new people today. And boy inside passages must be must be doing something right

## **Jenny Lorton**

where we're moving and grooving in the new year everybody. That's awesome. That's awesome to be expanding our team.

## **Rob Huff**

Very cool. So the first regular standing item on our agenda as we ask every week what people who are doing direct outreach are seeing what changes they're seeing out on the streets, and we are going to right after this the this week on the streets portion of the meeting. Talk about the cold weather response that happened last week. So we'll dig into that in more detail. Next but I'm curious with folks who are doing direct outreach or taking things to folks who are living outdoors, what you're seeing this week, so I opened the floor again, please just use the raise hand function if you can or even just physically raise your hand if you're on screen and I'll call on everyone as soon as we get going. Yeah, Calvin

## **Calvin Kennon**

Alright, sorry. I went prepared and mute. Yeah. So being back you know, I just want to kind of you guys an update and let you guys know what we're seeing at the here on our end. We've upped our outreach, you know, typically we on our mobile clinic, we have been doing outreach for a mobile clinic one day a week, but now you know, I've had my staff at the request of James and obviously they need to three



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days a week and we're going to locations that we've previously gone to we're going to new locations, and a couple of those those nuclear locations that we are previously doing mobile clinic and outreach charges 84th and 82nd. Of course, obviously we all know about seven or 575 on pol bath ESAB rebuilt itself, and 30 at McKinley and second G Street. I mean, we're hitting we're hitting a lot of different pockets. Typically we're trying to go ahead and at least visit those locations three, back to back visits at the least maybe two weeks to outreach. Just so we can kind of better hopefully develop relationships and have individuals want to, you know, comply and work with us and access services. You know, whether it be our direct service here at clrv and behavioral health or maybe sending them to whoever reached out sooner them to just whatever service that they really do need. So we've been doing that. Typically, we've been working with providers to join us, you know, I know I want to say see Mario been joining us on a regular and a couple other different providers, but we're kind of temporarily pushing back and just kind of rolling solo right now keeping everybody safe as best we can, you know, because obviously we're in COVID right now. So we're going to definitely look into things on a day to day month to month to see what kind of mandates the governor hands down, see what we could do to all of us work together. But in the meantime, just you know just do what we can with the outreach. And as a result of that, we've also opened our doors on Tuesdays and Thursdays for walking clinics. So we really, really like to, you know, get that relationship going and have individuals come on Tuesdays and Thursdays at one o'clock so we can put the pencil to the paper and really pin our ears back and plug individual sets to the best of our ability with services. Any questions? Yeah.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, any questions? I do see some hands. Raised not sure if they're questions for you, but and if they do pop up, we'll definitely get them to you Calvin. You have your hand up. Yeah, so

## **Monique Brown**

um, I was not out during the cold but my team in Puyallup was out helping people get into shelter. We didn't lose anyone. So that's a good thing. I just wanted to get on an update on the encampment. There was a fire at the spot. Someone burned down the Porta Potti but they are the city is still moving, trying to get us ready. They're having a little trouble finding the the shower trailer that they want. The only one they can find is eight person with bathrooms and showers. I don't find a problem with it. But I guess it's too expensive for the city. So there's the working on the shower trailer and the office trailer. We were supposed to open this first week in January. I really honestly now I think it's like February, but I don't know. I am collecting all of the items that I need. And I'm just standing by waiting for the to be able to get on the property. So we're moving and I'll just keep you posted on what the city says. Thank you, Monique. Yeah, we're all wrong. Maybe I should have said it's a new encampment on 82nd and Pacific for those of you who are new here. It will be opening us. I don't know sometime this month or next month.

## **Rob Huff**

And again, how many folks is that going to serve when it opens



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## **Monique Brown**

25 I'll have 25 tenths with the capacity of serving 35 people so if someone comes as a couple, I am not taking families. I will be running background checks but I will not be taking families just in case to keep everybody safe.

## **Rob Huff**

Right. Thanks. Thanks for your continued work on that money. Ed, I see you have your hand up.

## **Ed Jacobs**

Just mentioned for Calvin, your mobile clinic can it get anywhere close to seven and to call my app because the people living on the street there. I found a rather high incidence of them being ill. So just to kind of a heads up.

## **Calvin Kennon**

Yeah, thank you. I appreciate that. We got we that's one of the ones we've been going to for about six weeks now. And of that population of that location. We do have one individual on the cusp of getting housed. We have a couple of individuals that we were able to make forensic harps for referrals. But yeah, it's ongoing there, Ed and you know, we're trying to do what we can to get individuals to a better place but we'll definitely continue to make our visits there and try and make some things happen. Okay.

## **Ed Jacobs**

Yep. Thank you. Absolutely.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, any other folks with items for this week on the streets? Well as one one reminder that I will make this kind of universal for today's meeting or any of these meetings that you attend is please do continue. Using the chat. Liberally we do retain the information that's in the chat. So if you do have updates that you don't feel comfortable giving to the full group on screen, or you have questions like you'll see in the chat happening throughout this meeting. Please use that as a resource. And and know that thanks to the hard work of Garrett Nylund. With the with the coalition website, you can find information and transcripts from these meetings on the coalition website down the road too. So it's meant all create a resource that's usable for everybody. So if there are no more this week on the streets items, let's queue up and start the conversation about the extraordinary work that was done by so many folks. Last week, because between December 26. And what was the day that you finally stood down at the EEOC, Garret Sunday, but

## **Gerrit Nyland**



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you know, we stood we kept operating Jan and Mike and I threw that Sunday so the 26th or the following Sunday. But the EEOC officially closed on that Thursday.

## **Rob Huff**

So just for those who aren't aware EOC is the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center. And and I I was only involved peripherally in the the effort maybe I can turn this over to Garrett if you're comfortable to talk about some of the partners who pulled together and helped ensure that we kept people alive throughout the extreme cold and snow that was in our region for more than a week. So Garrett, would you be comfortable? Doing sure

## **Gerrit Nyland**

I think I'm going to start off with a bunch of numbers and and then maybe folks can kind of chime in a little bit with the more personal stories. Again, cold weather came in so a few of us kind of started work I think the day before Christmas, trying to get a bunch of things going and the Emergency Operations Center. Let me take a step back. So Pierce County Human Services hasn't taken a role in terms of really trying to support a crisis like this in the past. And so we're not really designed to do that. Yet. And then because of that, and some other things, the emergency operations center open. So basically, we requested help. I don't actually know the full details on how all this happened. And the Department of Emergency Management stepped in. So basically they're the group within the county that steps in when you're past what you're capable of doing. And so that group got stood up so they work on things like like they've been working on a bunch of creating another testing site, right, that's beyond what the health department's able to do. So the resources of Emergency Management step in and so they invited Mike moisture and Jan runback and I to sit in with them in the Emergency Operations Center, which is again kind of new for them. And it was new for us and really healthy to to help direct what they were doing to respond to the crisis. Okay, that was a lot of words with no numbers. I'm going to do numbers. So one of the areas was trying to support our outreach teams and things that they needed. Were hand warmers, gloves, socks, blankets, water, we were able to pull off blankets and water pretty well. We handed out or we provided 960 Blankets um, that went out for the hands of people like Ed and Jeffrey and our outreach teams. And 117 cases of water went out as well. And we had four different distribution sites. So hats off to folks helping get those going Catholic Community Services has been generous with the stability site, and then South Hill Baptist church opened up a distribution site in Pierce County, Lhasa and Lakewood open their facility up for distribution and Lehigh opened up Aspen court. So always Hats off to folks doing things that ain't in their contract, but it helped meet the need. And lots of folks hit those spots and we had a slow start and one of our challenges is that our formal outreach teams operate mostly during business hours and sometimes outside of it rescue missions operating every day, but they've kind of got set patterns and how they do things which doesn't equate well to responding to kind of this emergent needs and that's something we all kind of need to talk about is do we really want our community to have that and how do we pay for it? In terms of shelters, that's kind of one of the big desires, right, basically trying to help people either in shelter or where they're staying. Right. So not everyone's willing to go into shelter, but we did increase shelter. And so, you



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know, over over a normal night like six months ago, we probably had an additional 340 People sheltered over this period, and that was in basically 10 different sites that got stood up in varying sizes. So new hope. Right, Paula's crew helped set up three churches to operate shelters. In East Pierce County, which is pretty amazing. And they sheltered a lot of people. One of them had 45 Another one had 20, something another 115. We had two county run sites, so they stood one up at the sprinkler recreational site and five was kind enough to allow the five community center to get used as a another site and the five sites served 77 unique people over the period of time they were open there really is only about 15 sleeping there a night but a lot of people coming through to get warm and to get some food and in 50 folks were served out of this sprinkler site. And again, just hats off to those communities to just allow those groups to come in and use those spaces. We had the City of Tacoma established the lighthouse as which was a senior center but they've been using it for various uses. So community center, and that was used and served about 35 people a night and is continuing to operate. So they actually have a contract with vallejo Vallejo just picked up from Lehigh. And again, all of the folks that came in to run these sites like they put their vacations on hold, like Lehigh basically brought 24/7 staff in, um, that had been on vacation. So hats off to the organization and all those people and all the folks that like we had, you know, security at five and sprinkler, but we just we, other folks just called in favors. And then folks, they're like, they're all folks, you know. And so that was just neat to see people willing to, you know, Oh, do you mind working from, you know, midnight to 8am for the next seven days? Sure. People said which, you know, good for them. And we had three sites that expanded and capacity so the rescue mission has had long standing policy and inclement weather of just anyone that comes in accommodating and Catholic Community Services of the Nativity house as well and both of them have some funded expansion, but they also stretched and Rice did some interesting expansion. They're almost a new site in a way they have some tiny house but they opened up the gymnasium and their facility and really just took a lot of people in and then we asked if they take some more and they said sure, so he sent more cots over and I don't know how they staffed it, but he was really important to help as a relief valve for some of like rescue mission when it was filled up. And we had St. Vincent DePaul had 90 households in hotel rooms. So that was a neat tool to have during this emergency. So households it couldn't be safe outside, couldn't be safe in a shelter couldn't get in for various reasons who are well served by St. Vincent DePaul, and that work in Gig Harbor decided to do something this time around and the police department set up a phone line and they kind of had a two tiered approach and they ended up helping to households with hotel nights. And so I just really appreciate folks like dipping their toe in unfamiliar territory because running shelter is is nothing for the weak of heart. It's it's a commitment to people right like you're committing to take care of them. And so that's, that's great that they decided to take that on. And that's all that I really have on the numbers side and I just can't say how much the coalition's and the connections I was thinking about kind of the Edward Moreau kind of in the final three feet, and that you know, like you can do so much with diplomacy but if you don't have the relationships, right and the drive to get something done, you can't and and that's what the coalition to me really brought into this was the final three feet. You know, when Jan called and when Mike called people, and yes, because we've developed kind of trust by being honest and blah, blah, anyway, we rocked it. I'm sure that there is going to be people that we identify as having passed away so we didn't





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we're not as amazing as I wish we were right that we don't have a perfect shelter system. It's not nearly large enough, our our reach could always be larger. But I think everyone stretched themselves and we did some good things. So hats off.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay, that carrot. I was hoping we'll do some of this in a breakout shortly as well but I was hoping we could talk with some of the folks who actually helped provide services or who are working there and Emergency Operations Center to talk about some of the challenges our hope, just like with the the heat dome that happened last summer Our hope is that we learn from each of these experiences, and we go into the next one more informed and more ready to to respond. And you know, I know people cringe when I say it, but that was this was a December storm and our winners definitely not done. So there's the possibility of more winter weather before we're out of this season. So Jan, I saw your hand up and then I know Josh castle from Lehigh wanted to say a few words and just want to get some other voices involved.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Thank you. Um, when Rosemary introduces us at the beginning of every Friday meeting, we have a chance to see who's in the room by coming to this room on Friday mornings. You are saying who you are and who you represent and what your interests are during the inclement weather. And three of us from the coalition were called in to the Emergency Operations Center. I had the privilege of being in in that nerve center. And I just added a quick list of the number of people that I called, emailed or texted. And every one of you replied, maybe not with an answer that I wanted. But you gave me an answer, which means we can redirect and go another way. Most of you gave me an answer that I wanted. So when Derrick talks about the blah, blah, blah, I'm here to say what the blah blah blah is. So during last Sunday through last Sunday, I made I made at least 31 calls to you. So just just sit and listen. My hat's off and thank you for being there to Dionne Jacobson St. Vincent DePaul Joe Purva Lehigh, Harry Frankie C Mar, Vernal Lilly Medical Reserve Corps, rep Trombly Medical Reserve Corps, Gabi Hubbard, health department, Zoey health department with 495 donation. Jenny sheppy health department, Sue Jenkins. Isolation quarantine team Health Department Susan Aaron's Vallejo Jeanette Williams rise and thank you for marrying Gerald Sue Potter nourish Edie, the Pete Fisher Chief of Police for the city of Fife. Mike sorrow Chief of Police for city of Lakewood Nate Cooper TRM Julianne Taylor nativity house, Laura MacIntyre city of Tacoma hot team. Tyler Food Not Bombs. Nora hacker First United Methodist street outreach, Richard Berg hammer, street outreach, Don bowl Catholic Community Services, Keith Helga, social worker, Virginia Mason, CH i, then on a daily basis on a daily basis, we could count on, on interactions and support from Jeffrey Boyce and Ed Jacobs are our informal street workers. The leadership teams at TRM and the tivity house Luis and Fatima Jan Hutchins Lhasa Gerald Williams rise, Paula Anderson, New Hope, Teresa power Judas Judas, Our Lady Queen of G Street. Um, let's see more and Maureen Howard are walking encyclopedic, collective memory. Now there are 50 people on this call right now. I just listed to 31 People 31 People I listen. Only the chiefs of police are not regular members of this of this app and I'm pleased to see the city of



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Beifuss year in anyway, it was amazing. I'm going to give you a short story of how complicated it is to extend a hand and do the right thing. I got a phone call from rise. A woman had contacted them because she was being evicted from a hotel because the St. Vincent DePaul hotel voucher program was expiring. I'm sitting at the table with Garrett who's representing Human Services Pierce County. Garrett can immediately extend the contract services for St. Vincent DePaul. They extend the number of days available for her to stay warm in that hotel with an eight year old child. I get a phone call later from the hotel manager where she's staying, saying that she has nowhere to go after the warm days or after her voucher is up. I've talked to two people in the room. I give her the phone number for Bethlehem Baptist which accepts families and that the family day center which has case management so on the third day of that I get a phone call as I'm leaving the EOC about five o'clock at night and it's the woman she's crying she's crying with happiness, right? I mean at work. You guys all get together it worked. Okay, okay, glide, glide glide.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you so much, Jan. Love that. Sorry. Um, so, Josh, did you want to share I don't know. If you're available right now. I'm not seeing your

## **Josh Castle**

sorry, my phone just I took it off mute. My phone just rang right away. So thank you, everyone. And I wanted to actually we have the guy who did it all who was do it all but worked with everyone on in this capacity with Lehigh. Joe was Joe is able to spend a few minutes sharing about that. And and I so I wanted to hand it over to him to share about that. Then he has to jump off and do more intakes at Aspen court. And then he has a meeting with the City of Tacoma later, he's a busy guy. So and then I can share later about just sort of generally I updates pets. How do you add that to the agenda? So thank you for doing that. So Joe, take it away.

## **Joe Perva**

Hello, everyone. So yeah, that's actually made. So we got we got about 75 different individuals who came in during the cold weather time. You know, some things are awesome is that so they had a projector screen thing here so we bought a projector in for kind of like somebody entertainment. Um, you know, the community was really good. It was nice because I got stuck in the snow bringing some supplies and the gentleman came by and asked me It's okay and I was trying to get unstuck and I told him I was bringing food to the shelter is so heavy though. They jumped out the car and started digging me out. They're like, we're not gonna leave you stuck. You're bringing food to a shelter. So that was super cool. And then David came out and helped try to clear up some of the snow. Linda still was made in the city because she they hadn't come clear everything up because we had a couple individuals the wheelchair so we needed that wheelchair ramp cleared up. So she got that term really quick. You know, and we had a lot of videos coming in I helped give some dinners and we even had like, catered Chick fil A one night and a lot of people came together. Angeles. She was have a lot of friends because a lot of people came from home cooked meals. So that was super awesome. It was great. It's amazing.



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And a blade will be taken off today. So I'll be training them at 10 o'clock. This one kind of trying to get it out there real quick. I'll be handing it off to him and then I'll go to Aspen and then we'll do some intakes. Um, and so yeah, so I mean it was just an amazing experience was a lot of you know, a lot of people really helped out they came in you know, that we were actually serving they came in they're really, you know, really hopeful. They just you know, get stuff together. It was just, it was nice. It was amazing experience and I'm happy to be a part of it. You know, and I appreciate Garrett you know, calling Garita making gifts, blankets, can we get some of this and you jumping on it? And I really appreciate that, you know, a clear there are so many people that help I really appreciate it. You know, I'm we're a couple hour shifts. So if I'm a little foggy right now, I apologize. But, you know, it was it was great. It's beautiful experience and you know, so many amazing people chipped in a lot of people that I knew from church came in, and actually some of the workers here we had workers who came from other villages as well, you know, around that lived experience. So they were great to to there. So they you know, they, they definitely, you know, interacted with them but then when it came in really well. It was a beautiful experience, you know, and then that's all I have to say

## **Rob Huff**

thank you so much Joe and I see Jeffrey has his hand up

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

Good morning everyone. Just a kind of a I'll try and keep this short but on Christmas Eve. Service I talked to my congregation and said, there may be some hungry people, so be prepared. Now mind you in this congregation, there are several retired school cooks and they love to cook so on Tuesday, Monday, I put out the word yes we did make some meals they provided for huge pots of soup. Three huge trays of lasagna. So I call dad and said eight. We're going to need a hand here and Jim Warnock who is a vicar and I went out. We went to eight encampments and fed soup and sandwiches to somewhere around 75 people on No, it was more than that. On Friday, we went out again with the lasagna reheated and all told between the two days we fed about 200 miles. We covered pretty much. We tried to cover as much of the encampments into come as we possibly could. We were handing out water ending out blankets. The blankets were greatly appreciated, believe me. Most of these encampments stayed together 34th and Pacific the one out on the planet fitness. They were all so appreciative. And then on Yakima, the 14th in Yakima sight, I ran into a lady I hadn't seen since sweep in since they swept eight and Yakima lived to see if she was still alive and doing well. It was just one of those things. stores were closed is hard for people to get around there were there was no way that these people out in these temps could cook their food and get out of their sleeping bag. So we've had them we've had them the best we could. And my hat's off to All Saints Episcopal church they did an incredible job. And I'm really proud of really did something special. I do want to make one comment though. I was very disappointed that I did not see or hear of this city out to commerce, outreach teams being out in the encampments. I talked to the campers about that. Have you had any visitors? No. Mostly only at night, which would be TRM God bless them. But I was really disappointed that the city of



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Tacoma had no outreach people checking on these people. We were in dangerous weather condition and they were not to be found. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

For your observations. Jeffrey, Maureen, you have your hand up

## **Maureen Howard**

half the behavior modification not to just talk. The other half is to unmute myself when I get to talk. Um, but just a couple of things. One, when we go into the breakouts, bring forward you know everything you can think of that would be helpful. And but the other thing is I want people to know that to come a safe stepped up in ways that people may not be aware of when Jerry Jensen went out in a panic about how to get a shelter staff to shelters. I worked with her and she agreed to use their existing lift account, but she didn't she could forward funded but she didn't have any funding source for it. So we still had \$1,400 in the MRC account, and the coalition and Jan Renae Beck agreed to let us use that to cover the first 1200 of of the lift costs. And I went to Tacoma safe I went to Angela Connolly and asked them to step in ahead of the coalition. And Angela came back immediately with a \$500 commitment. So it turns out we don't need to use it. Her the common safe commitment. We don't need to use the coalition's MRC money because Sherry was able to work with the I think it's her city contract to be able to get reimbursed for those costs. But it's so it's so it's a couple of things. One is, you know, partners we don't normally think of who can quickly respond to unusual requests and the other one is how much going forward. We've got a pre plan these things. We need more lead time than others. So

## **Rob Huff**

Maureen, I see. I see Jeff or Ed has his hand up as well.

## **Ed Jacobs**

Um, before we go into the the breakout, a bit of reality. We did lose two people to the weather during this timeframe and it's interesting and we can talk about it at another time, but when you stand in front of a row of tents and start calling out to people who you don't know. And there's a hand that comes out through a zipper that says yes, I want a blanket or I want socks or that we can hand water to because they don't want to open the tap to come out because they lose all their heat. And the 18 hour hand warmers other hand warmers are good. The 18 hour hand warmers as one man was explaining to a group of people you get in your sleeping bag and you open one of those things up. And you go to sleep and you can wake up still warm with the confidence and so those were really important and socks. I mean it it became a standard operating procedure to ask people if their socks are wet. If they can't tell you then the next question is have you felt your toes lately? And it leads you down that path or if they say oh well if I had socks they'd probably be wet. Okay, but those those things to connect the last three feet. The second time you come by. They recognize your voice. And you start getting responses right



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away. And you get started getting people to say Oh, well John lives in that tent but he's at work. Right now. So he's gonna need this. It was a very worthwhile experience. So thank you

## **Rob Huff**

and and follow you have your hand up and then we'll we'll go into the breakouts following Paula's comments.

## **Cat Green**

Yeah, I just wanted to thank everybody that at the leadership level that helped us out this definitely went a lot better than the the hot weather that we had earlier this year. Hats off to people just wanting to do whatever it took. Garrett actually was a private chauffeur for us one night when we had to shut down one of the churches early because of a COVID outbreak and helped us get transport people who tested negative to you know another location so they could still be warm and safe. And I just want to say that I feel like you know the churches did an outstanding job, the ones that that were up and the folks that that came together are used to doing that in our neck of the woods just because we usually have freezing nights and because of COVID we hadn't had it. And so I think honestly more needs to be done in conjunction with cities along with county to try and put together this plan so that cities can't opt out. Which I feel like happens all the time. In our area. They opt out of trying to be a part of what's going on and and a part of a response to a situation that impacts everybody in the county. I I just feel like that's something that we really need to work on and somehow come to, to an agreement on. So but I think I think the support that we had within our group, those of us that are used to getting it done, we got it done. And we relied on each other and I think and I just thank everybody, Jan Mike Garrett, everybody on down to the volunteers of the churches, so it just I feel like that response was from the heart so we're the heart of the county guys.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Paula. So here's what I'm going to do. We'll spend the next 10 minutes or so in small groups. I'm going to assign everybody to the groups of five or six people and if someone in each of the groups could take some brief notes the the purpose of this section is is both to have a chance to get to know each other better, but also to collect some thoughts around this question. What would help you better respond to needs in the next emergency? We don't know if the next emergency is going to be the same situation that we had last week. But um, you know whether it's heat or cold or earthquake or whatever, what is going to help you. So let's spend the next 10 minutes what I'm going to do is set up the rooms here very briefly.and away we go.

## **<Breakout Sessions>**

## **Rob Huff**

Alright, so it looks like everybody's filtering back into the room. I hope that everyone had a good conversation. I know it was a short period of time. But again, as a reminder, if anyone in your room took



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some notes, please use the chat to paste those in and we will move forward with the rest of our meeting. We're almost on time with the agenda. The next item on our agenda is going to be some additional updates from the low income housing Institute. And Josh, are you ready to do those now?

## **Josh Castle**

I am and I know Rob, you're you're trying to talk with me just before I jumped into the breakout room so

## **Rob Huff**

it all works out.

## **Josh Castle**

All right. Well, I have a I just want to provide some quick like here today that there's only could take a couple minutes and then I need to jump off to a meeting with a faith partner. So I'm just going to provide some quick updates and then kind of how things are looking regarding our our community advisory committees. So just to, you know, call out to the community about folks who are interested in that but first, just some quick quick guide 2021 basically kind of like a snapshot annual report on on on our sites. So we have we now have five sites in the coma five shelters or tiny house villages. We have served if looking looking over the whole year 163 People that are six in orchard site 73 people 69th In proctor which is combining together the other the folks who moved there from 68 and McKinley 32 At our to our tribe of Indian sight 60 And then at Aspen court 45 people so so basically all told, we have served about 313 people over that time. We have about 55 people who moved into permanent housing overall, some sites you know recently opened so we're kind of in the process of getting folks to the case management services, getting them their IDs, you know, getting them the support that they need. And and looking at housing options out there and in starting to apply for those things. So we're kind of early in the early in the process, but um, it was overall about a 41% Extra rate to permanent housing, the others other you know, we have a lot of beat up beyond that, you know, that's it could be we always want to be higher, right. But beyond that, we have moved movements into other forms of shelter, we move movements into transitional housing, people got reunited with, you know, with family and friends. So there's some numbers that are not reflected reflected in that number that I just shared. So there's beyond that there's there's a number of other positive move outs beyond that. So I just want to make sure that that that that is clear. So we move you know, we moved from 16th and McKinley to 69th and proctor at basically the end of September. We added another 20 houses serving another 20 to 25 Folks, so it is now no longer a tiny house village is now a tiny house. Metropolis. And you know, we're basically have we have our 24/7 staff we added to our case management we have like we have three case managers out there now working really hard to get everyone the support they need and moved into into permanent housing. On December 13, we opened Aspen quarters the formerly the Comfort Inn. So we renamed it the fancy title Aspen CT. And we have we now have Isolite I think I said the wrong number earlier we've added we've moved in some more people recently. That was just what our HMIs showed, but it's now it's now actually 63 People who have moved in in 56 rooms. We have another 30 Plus rooms available for folks. We sort of had a pause a little bit on intakes because of the



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weather and everything going on people couldn't get to the shelters. That's another thing that we can always talk about is improving transportation, right. And so we will learn about something just across our region. When we get hit by these storms, like how we get people, you know where they need to go and how in the system the assistance to do that. And we play a role in that too. So we'll you know we actually will drive around and pick folks up and you know, we're a part of of doing that but we can always do better on on that score in our in our region that that doesn't get hit by a snowstorm too often. And I'll just tell you, I don't you know you don't want me you don't want me driving on the road in the snow. I'm not a good snow driver. So I totally understand that but yeah, we can always learn learn lessons on that. In two years. We're going to convert Aspen court into permanent supportive housing. So we're gonna we're trying to you know, get moved towards that. And I wanted to share something that on I'm just going to read off of this really quick. So we had a turn sure there's anything that I missed on here. You know, um, I think that's about it. Okay, so yeah, that's all I had to share on that. I just want to look through my my summary to make sure. And then. So one thing that I wanted to mention, just about a minute or two here, we have a community advisory committee that oversees the it's basically neighbors and businesses and faith communities and schools and others who are in like local neighborhood councils and things like that. Who are part of these committees in each of these villages or shelter. We have a we have a CAC Blossomy CAC that we're getting together for Aspen court. And so one thing I just wanted to put a call out that on some of the CAC, we could use a few, a few more members. I think there's a lot of people that are around the site that don't realize that this committee exists and and that it's a big part of the success of the village. And it's a big part of education out to the community on how we do this. You know how we do this program. And it kind of like, you know, it takes the mystery off of, you know, off of the whole thing. And then people understand, you know, they really, really start working with with their unsheltered neighbors. And and they're part of the, you know, are unhoused I should say they're their shelter so we want to get them to that place of being a being permanently housed. So it just kind of it kind of increases that understanding reduces those, that anxiety and those those fears and stereotypes people have. So it's really a chance to come and be a part of those committees, and learn about the village you hear from operations management staff you hear from case management, we provide a report out, you know about how things go on there, how residents are doing the outcomes for the month, you know, any sort of any any challenges that we could use a little help with donations needed. We're collecting a lot of winter donations. So the CAC is they provide oversight, but they also provide support so they basically provide advisory input based off what they hear but then they really turn into bodies of folks who become the biggest supporters and champions of the villages success and ambassadors to the community about the village in the in the village program in the shelter program. So they provide a lot of education out to the community. So when their neighbors are asking about it, they're wondering what's going on inside that they're there to provide that information to them. We tried you know, Leah, we tried to do that, you know, as well. Everywhere we go, we provide presentations and everything else but it really is getting getting that word out, you know, is the CAC are a big part of that. So, you know, if we have these sites, I don't you know, I won't read out the address for each one. But, you know, you can look that up really easily and you can see if you're kind of close to the site. So we're bringing on neighborhood stakeholders, but you



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don't have to be that terribly close. It's basically, you know, living living close by working close by serving at a nonprofit attending a faith organization, you know, church close by being involved in the community in some way. It's kind of a loose definition of what a neighborhood stakeholder is, but, but that's kind of what it is. And so if anyone's interested, I'm going to put my information in the chat. Please reach out to me if there's one of those sites that that you know that you're pretty close to that you're you're involved in the neighborhood somehow or involved with an organization please, you know, let me know if you're interested and at least you know, one thing you can do is if you don't want to commit, these are an hour and a half meeting, by the way, a month. That that's the only commitment is attending the meeting that you can go you can go well beyond that, but that's what it is. And they're virtual. This time we're going to stay you know, we're probably going to be doing that for a little while longer. We might eventually go back to in person or do a hybrid of both in person and virtual once we get to that point. So and we always it's always like a four it's we always meet in the on a weeknight, never a Friday, and it's always you know, four or five or six in the evening so you can kind of get done with work and not be bombarded with calls and emails. And all that while you're in the meeting. So So yeah, so let me know if you're interested in anyone's particular sites, joining the CAC even just coming to one of the meetings to see what it's about before you make that commitment. So I'll leave my information in the chat and I really appreciate this time and thanks for adding me to the agenda. Rob. Cheryl, this.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, thanks for being here. And yeah, I think if there's an easy place to point people about what the COC ca C's are, and what the commitment is, that might be really good to refer folks. So yeah,

## **Josh Castle**

absolutely. I can send that I actually have an informational sheet that that goes over that. So if anyone's interested in receiving that, that's, that's, I'm really glad you brought that up. I can send that to anybody who wants to and I'll just put it in my email. I have it ready to fire off, along with the CAC application if anyone wants, you know, for those who want to

## **Rob Huff**

apply, you could just send that to the coalition mailing list and then everybody has it. That'd be awesome.

## **Josh Castle**

I'll do I will do that. Thank you. All right. Great to work with the City of Tacoma. All of our all the neighbors, the community folks, the allies are faith partners, that we have several faith sponsored sites. And just really, you know, really grateful to you to the Tacoma coalition. And I mean, there's so many people that think it's it's a little bit overwhelming. So thank you for Thank you, everyone for being you





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know, being a partner in this and helping these sites be successful and educating out to the community. So thank you. Thanks. Jeff.

## **Rob Huff**

So speaking of the City of Tacoma, so the next item in our agenda is our regular government updates. We don't have someone from the city of Tacoma, I don't believe on the call. I'll be quiet here for a second just in case we do have somebody. I wasn't anticipating that we would, but I do it.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

I'll do a super tiny update from so last night there was a community meeting about the lighthouse warming shelter. And so I just wanted to let folks know that it was not terribly well advertised that I know and so there's only three of us attending. But they didn't talk a little bit about that transfer to Vallejo. And that's going to be slightly reduced capacity of around 25 instead of 35. But hopefully, at some point we can get Sherry to give us an update on that. That's all I have.

## **Rob Huff**

Right Garrett and I do have some information that Allison Griffith from the city did email me last night so I'm going to paste that into the chat. But and there's kudos in there for for Josh and Joe's work at Lehigh as well. A lot of recognition. I will want add one caveat. When I paste this in, it's going to talk about how many folks were at Aspen Court yesterday, Josh gave us a new number. So there even though the city says 58 I would go with Josh's new 63 number. But I will paste that in the chat and move on to Pierce County updates. Let's see. Didn't see Jeff on the call earlier. Garrett Did you know if there was going to be any updates from Pierce County Human Services?

## **Gerrit Nyland**

No idea. I'm so sorry.

## **Rob Huff**

That's that's fine. I do know Valerie was on the call earlier. Valerie, do you have anything to update us about?

## **Jenny Lorton**

Sure. Um, so thanks for having me a couple quick updates is the portal is currently closed. It will reopen no later than February 1. And the reason for that is because we have a new vendor and a new portal. Josh you have a call coming

sorry about that.



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## **Rob Huff**

Go ahead, Valerie.

## **Jenny Lorton**

Sorry, I'm still muted. Okay, so when the new portal opens, it will have additional languages. It will be easier to use for both tenants and landlords and provide greater reporting and updates for our jurisdictions. So super excited and very, very thankful for Pierce County for allowing us to do that. It's a very big shift. So we've had to shut down for a couple weeks for data quality, but landlords are being updated consistently. Emails are going out to tenants every week. And so for spending, we are actually at 98.37% spent for our DOD funds, which is the Treasury dollars. We did request more money and were denied. They had too many people come in for dollars. So we did not get that additional bucket and then our trap dollars were at 99.53% spent. So those are buckets that we won't really have to worry about. Moving forward. But we do have state dollars and American rescue plan dollars that are still available. So we still have over \$53 million available with an additional 23 million coming once we spend one of these buckets. So process continues. We're not issuing any huge changes at this time. We're just trying to really refine the process. And then outreach events. So in person outreach events will continue in February. I am off starting today and I will not return until the 18th so I will not be available via email, phone or really anything. That's my goal. And so if y'all need anything, please email that HS rent email box and the amazing V will respond to you. But if you have questions, please just give her some time because we're going from a team of two to a team of one so yes, thank you all and I will be back on the 18th with additional updates after that.

## **Rob Huff**

You enjoy your vacation. Valerie.

## **Valeri Knight**

Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, so Shifting gears over to an update from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. Leah's here with an update for us today.

## **Leah Ford**

Good morning. Everyone. Turn it on. There we go. Um, so as a reminder, the number for Inq needs 8204684 Make sure you throw that in the chat, but give them a call for folks in need of isolation and our quarantine as of this morning. Unfortunately, we do have zero beds available. We are continuing to work on, you know building that capacity. It's been just a busy time with variance sorry. And so, you know, really trying to find a quick solution to increasing that capacity there. Um, yesterday, the CDC updated their isolation and quarantine guidance for schools K through 12. At this time, there's no



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changes to congregate settings but just wanted to share that that's something that could come in the near future. Um, if we hear anything, we will obviously share that out. But I'll also put the link in the chat to the CDC website and scroll to the bottom for congregate settings. My mom as of the fifth we have four shelters and outbreak so nativity has to come rescue mission. leavin, Bethlehem Baptist and all but to your M are currently able to resume activities. And we also our leadership skills supporting allowing shelters and outbreak status to accept new guests if it's necessary, especially due to the cold weather. And then if you have any specific questions about that, I'd recommend reaching out to Tim or q1 and happy to facilitate that communication as well. Um, and or just reach out just for your normal chain of communication. Our testing branches working to get our testing plies, testing supplies out to those who need the most obviously we're working with you all when there's some individual outbreaks that locations as best as they can. Also waiting some more flexible options with take home tests. That are like a rapid style. We just haven't received this shipment yet. And I'm sure you all have heard there's a high demand for testing in the county currently and so it's just kind of like a struggle over around. There was a temporary site that opened this week at the gold law at the Washington State Fairgrounds. It does end today. Ours are 10 to five you don't need an appointment. And then just to share the Cheney stadium site and Bonney Lake Park and right testing sites are now by appointment only. They can only take 600 appointments a day and they're looking to hire as quickly as possible. So more to come with that. So if you do have any testing needs, obviously you can reach out to us. We can try to support you as best you can. You can call our call center number you can check our website. And then the home test kits are available at Pierce County intercom and public libraries. So appeal at public libraries when they have them on hand. Um, what else um, our contractor ambulance is continuing work on the routed site clinics have several vaccine events scheduled at shelters through the month of February and then any other community events that you're aware of serving this community and definitely share with us we'd love to support and get folks out to offer vaccine or testing or whatever you think would be helpful and just want to throw out a reminder of the flu and you know, we're working so hard to help stop the spread of COVID and it's flu season as well. So we need to fight that too. And respiratory illnesses in general are just really high right now. And in our county right now flu is low and it's only been like minimal for EDI and very low hospitalizations. No deaths from flu and long term care facilities have reported an outbreak of flu like illness and that's the same for the state but in the US. The flu activity is increasing especially in eastern and central US and so just as everything it makes its way and so I did anticipate that coming and so just want to throw out the reminder for the flu shots. I'll post info in the chat about that and a flyer as well. And we can also get that to you all in other languages. And so if that's a need, let me know. And I'll stop there. That's your questions.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks, Leah. Any questions for the health department? All right, not seeing any at the moment. Thank you for the links you're putting a chat to All right. And our last government update would be I don't know if we have anybody from the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management on the call. I think they're quite busy with running testing sites. So pop up testing. Um, so shifting gears. Garrett, did you want to do a quick announcement?



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## **Gerrit Nyland**

Sure. Thanks, Ron. Today we are being joined by a high school class for the Science and Math Institute. If you're not familiar, that's a kind of targeted high school I don't know it's called the Tacoma Public Schools has three high schools that sort of focus in on areas and the Science and Math Institute So pretty cool one I'm kind of biased because my kids both go there. One did one is they have a weird schedule that allows them a mini term in January. And so they spend a month basically doing an intensive look. So basically the same class every day all month. And one of the classes is focusing in on homelessness. And so there's three teachers and I don't know 4050 students, and part of their class is kind of community engagement and they're attending today as their class. So a big welcome to them. They will be working on some projects. So they'll break into small groups with projects and I suspect there might be places where they could use a little help from folks like us in the room. So I I think you might end up getting an email or two, and so would love us to kind of support these students as they figure out ways to help support their community and learn more about homelessness. I'm going to throw in the chat a little bit about Sammy. You can learn more but anyway, it's a neat way that our public schools are really doing targeted universalism in their work to get folks graduated.

## **Rob Huff**

Fantastic. And yeah, we can see if you look carefully you can see the screen with a number of the students backlit So, hi, everybody, we can definitely see you and thank you for being here. Sorry, we use so many acronyms. So let's shift gears, once again, over to advocacy updates. And I'd invite Maureen All right,

## **Maureen Howard**

thank you. Thank you very much. And thanks to all of you for allowing me the greater part of the last month except for the cold weather to focus on my family. And so all right advocacy and glad to have those semi folks, especially those of you who are 18 and can vote or who will be soon but for everybody, okay, things to remember. Yes, nonprofits can advocate. What you cannot do is endorse a potential candidate. All right. Check with your agency to see what their policy on advocacy is. You might have to use your personal email address your personal phone, your personal time. Each organization is different. And the government agencies all have rather strict policies. So just check. Know who represents you at the state level? It's [ledge.wa.gov](http://ledge.wa.gov). Everything you need to know it's his it's one of the easiest, central website addresses that you'll have available to you. So your elected representatives want to know where you live and where you vote. All right, because they want to be reelected and they want to represent you well. But it's also important that you know who represents where you work, and that you know what committees they might sit on what their particular interests are, what bills they might have, for instance, if you're in the 28th Mary love it has an inclement weather bill that was pre filed before the session started. The session. Oh, I know. The other thing is, don't be discouraged if the representative through the senator's office says talk to my staff person. When I started, Gd Darnielle former senator Jeanie Doornail was state senator Lorraine well John's legislative



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assistant alright so you never know what somebody is going to become over the years. So trust the folks who represent the people who represent you. The session starts Monday, January 10. It will last 60 days. The governor can convene an extra 30 It will be virtual. All right. That's good. Because that's equal access for everybody. You don't have to worry about transportation. It's equal access as long as you have communication. And if you or the people that with whom you work, don't have internet access. Then we'll figure it out. The phone number you need in the phone that you can use to contact your legislators is 1-800-562-6000 That's the central number for the Washington State Legislature 1-800-562-6000 and take the time to put the contact information for your particular elected representatives. And Senator into your phone or into your you know, address book where contact list wherever so that if you need to contact them in a hurry. You don't have to look them up. And Rob um, I Yeah. So there is a great simple document from disabilities write Washington, on how to testify. It's clear, it's a sink, and you don't have to be a policy walk or anything else. It's just in simple, straightforward language. The really good news is there's money available. I didn't check the most recent figure someplace over five and a half billion dollars available. And that always makes for a happy session also makes for a lot of people who want the money the governor has put on the table in excess of 800 million for housing and homelessness and the coalition our coalition on our last meeting adopted the Washington low income housing alliances legislative agenda, and we will follow that and so we've got through them a full time policy person and lobbyists Michelle Thomas, and then also Nick Federici on a contract basis and then a collection of people who are known as the Public Policy Committee, Cynthia Stewart representing the League of Women Voters Rob Huff, representing MDC and myself are on that public policy committee so we have some additional opportunities to gain information into shape responses. We this coalition we will sign in as requested by the Washington long term Housing Alliance either for or against, depending on what our position is, with the Alliance's position is your organization or you as an individual may well have a different position and you can do that as representing yourself or your organization. But for the coalition, we will follow the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. It's the beauty of having these overarching, coalition's and different structures. Let's see, I will forward Alliance information to the full list serve. I will try to target those of you who might already know have a particular interest in something like people who work on criminal justice because the housing Justice Act is a priority for the Washington Oregon Housing Alliance. And I will also I invite you to email me if you want to be more involved. I'm going to try and do some targeted zoom meetings. I'll put the invitation on the listserv. We'll see who comes I'll try and be really clear about the topic. And we'll see how that goes. And that might be a way for people who otherwise and I'm not going to ask for when you're available or anything like that. We're going to work to my schedule. So best I can do so it helps me if I know that you or your organization has a public position that significantly differs from the Alliance position. I'm not going to try and make you change it it just helps me know the lay of the land a little better. And the same if you have you know, intelligence that you think is helpful if you've got a one on one relationship with a state senator or with an elected representative because when push comes to shove, that's the connection that we need. Now, all of those folks in who are joining us today from Sammy, you don't have to be 18 to participate, only to vote. So I encourage you and I make myself available to you if it fits in if you want to talk about how high school students can be



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engaged. We have an incredibly open state legislative process. So use it. Alright. I think we have a few minutes for questions, comments, thoughts?

## **Rob Huff**

We do so if you want to use the raise hand function that'll that'll be a great way to be able to call on you. If you have any questions about advocacy coming into the session looks like we're good for now. Um, I did share those links to the to the testimony page and to the legislative front page essentially. And I definitely would would re iterate. There's a lot of value in being able to sign in and support bills there was last year. It's quite likely that'll be the case again this year. And I was hearing in a in a meeting regarding planning from Community Action organizations. Across the state earlier this week, that there's the line of thinking that that thoughtful email messages to our to your representatives also could be more helpful. The caveat there is that they get a lot of email, so don't expect a super long response. But you may may be fortunate and be able to provide some background information that would really swing their thinking so

## **Maureen Howard**

and also support their position. Don't assume because your elected representative generally supports what we want. That you don't have to talk to them. No, they need to be in a position where they can tell their colleagues who do not support the position that I have heard from every district or you know 15 organizations or whatever it is supporting me in this position, so it just strengthens them going forward. If you haven't been part of this legislations like sausage and you don't want to see it all, ultimately there, it's just one negotiation after another. It's our job to keep the folks that we represent these folks who are living without homes, front and center in every single conversation. There is also a piece on the Alliance's agenda that has an I just haven't had time to check and see if there's actually a bill or not, but I had flagged this earlier for you and I want to flag it again in a really important way. And that is workforce capacity and sustainability for nonprofit homelessness service providers. So be thinking about that and as that Bill begins to take shape. This is where we will have an opportunity to weigh in on how important it is, in my mind. That's that whole laundry list from living wages, through opportunities for professional development, through housing benefits, through whatever it is that keeps people who want to do this work able to do this work. So and I and it's really pretty exciting to have that on the Alliance's agenda. So I think it's going to be quite a ride. So stay tuned.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, it'll definitely be quick. 60 days is here and gone in no time. At all. Thank you, Maureen.

## **Maureen Howard**

Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**



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And actually Maureen and Garrett are going to kind of lead the next next layer of the conversation and that is related to the to the Pierce County. comprehensive plan to end homelessness. That was drafted by carrot written by Garrett and was led and guided by a steering committee that included Maureen as a representative for the coalition. So the focus of this is what happens next. So Garrett and Maureen

## **Maureen Howard**

so can I start here Would that be alright. Thank you. So um, I was not able because of my family responsibilities to attend the last steering committee meeting. But Rob, thank god attends to everything and and reminded me that we've been asked, you know what the coalition's role should be going forward? Should there continue to be a steering committee, things like that. So these are my thoughts and then Garrett, and you all can weigh in. So by way of background, if you're just joining us, I believe we can draw a straight line from the beating of the two women in their tent, and Patrick's death in the Evergreen encampment in late 2020. To my email to Mayor Woodards and the resulting safe shelter summits that the coalition can being in December of 2020. And in January of 2021, and from there to the coalition adopting Garrett's proposal, that we could actually end street homelessness by November 1 of 2021. And we could have a county wide plan not to manage homelessness, but to end it. So now, obviously, we didn't meet November 1 for lots of reasons. But we do have that comprehensive plan to end homelessness. And we as a coalition have adopted it. And so now, for me, it's how do we want to be involved in making sure it's implemented? A lot of us worked on this in a lot of different ways. So, Garrett mentioned Edward Moreau earlier and some of you have heard me talk about this and for about eight years in my life, I was a US diplomat, a public diplomacy officer, and we used to talk about the last three feet and that's the connection that makes whatever it is happened. This coalition to my mind, we are the last three feet to the solutions to ending homelessness. We know how to close the gap between the good intentions and the policies to the actual personal and public responses. We know how to prevent homelessness. We know how to provide safe shelter. We know how to ensure permanent housing, where the people who know and value the people who live without homes, and who must be central to every decision that we make, and some of us are the people who have lived without homes. We have the experience the knowledge, the skill, that commitment, and what we don't have we know somebody who does. We are not so arrogant as to think that any one of us has all of the answers to any of the issues between us and among us. We know everyone who needs to be part of this county wide solution. And the county I really believe that this comprehensive plan to end homelessness, and all of our thanks to Garrett for this design gives us a framework that we can work with him. And so for me, these are the questions. How should this coalition be involved in ensuring that this comprehensive plan is implemented? Remember, it's a plan alright. It's not etched in stone, it's going to change. So how do we want to be involved? As it gets implemented? How do we want our respective organizations, our agencies, the Civic or faith based groups that we belong to, to be involved? And how do we as individuals want to be involved? So now, Garrett, it's yours.

## **Gerrit Nyland**



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Well, so my job is continuing on at the county. I'm a temporary employee, but my role is to see this implemented so I guess I'll be there for a while and we actually have a meeting today with some of the Human Services. We're the human services director, John Barbie telemar. And we're going to be talking about how we're going to implement this plan. And there are so many question marks about that. What do we focus in on first, right? We cannot possibly do all these things at once. So which ones do we need to start now? So that they're ready when we're ready, what things are of highest priority? And who needs to be involved in in a way who needs to own it? Alright, there's some elements around race and equity in that I would love that to be in the hands of perhaps the continuum of care the Race and Equity Committee or, or something similar within the coalition, right? And what level of ownership of that and support by the county versus ownership by the county and support by that group? So I guess I'm I'm saying I see a lot of flexibility in how we do these things that my role is to see that they get done. My role isn't on all of them to be the one that's driving it happening simply making sure it happens. So as I was putting a plan together, I was looking almost I think there's 24 Sort of like separate initiatives that I was sort of laying out right that need to happen right things as small as increasing coordinated entry to meet the demand. To as large as figuring out how to, you know, end exits from incarceration to homelessness, right? That things that are a funding problem versus things that are collaboration, societal data, like lots of complicated parts to it. So I guess, I guess my ask is for help on thinking through what parts are of most importance and what parts the coalition absolutely wants to make sure that that we're prioritizing, or that we're making sure that the coalition or certain members of it, are very active in it or even leading that that's feels a little vague, just because there's so many things in that in that comprehensive plan. I wish I had a like in a pool answer yes or no, please. And so this is sort of a vague ask but then maybe it's really just you need to let me know the parts that your organization or you as an individual care about, but then also a conversation within the coalition about what the coalition wants to be active with that helpful marine Rob, help me out here.

## **Rob Huff**

No, I think I think it's a good place to get started. Um, one thing I was hoping no, Garrett was the the I think the distinct question that Michael Mira asked us to ask the coalition today was just to get a sense of the what should happen next with the steering committee, and whether the current steering committee is the is the group that should continue the carrying the work forward or whether the coalition or some other entity should be helping, you know, carry that work forward? If Is that am I recalling his question correctly?

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Sure. So let me throw just like two minutes of context around there. Right. So the steering committee was created at the request of Pierce County Council to draft the comprehensive plan. So to say I drafted the plan is is generous. I was really the secretary doing the work of the steering committee, and so that group completed its work and could have been disbanded, but requested instead. To have some continual oversight because they're heavily invested in this plan and want to make sure that it gets implemented. And so that brought up the question of, well, what role would that steering





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committee have is that the right group of people to be sort of monitoring this and it's a bit up in the air. We're bringing the steering committee back bringing the band back together at the end of February to talk a little bit about that, about that and and so I think input from this, you know, group of folks in the room I think will will help to inform what role they have. And I don't control all the levers right. So I'm talking about some things that I don't have final saying, right, but I work for the county executive and take his direction right through the layers until you get to me in the hierarchy. However, the county council is also heavily involved in this and is providing direction as well. So I'm sort of in a weird spot between directors from the county council and directives from the county executive. But I think that what we all want, so I'll wrap it up here. Well, we all want is to be successful with this. And so those political bits are not nearly as important as us making sure that the right people are in the room making decisions and the right and that we're transparent enough and accountable enough to the community to that you can watch us as we implement this and you can and you can implement it with us. And we can help you implement it, all of those things.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, that helps set a context. So I thought, I'd like to just kind of open the floor for a couple of minutes of saying what folks thoughts are. I'm pretty confident that the 52 folks who are in this meeting, want to see the comprehensive plan, move forward and want to help guide how it moves forward. But I wanted to hear from you guys not make assumptions. So what are your thoughts Carolyn,

## **Carolyn Weisz**

yeah, figure out how to how to is my virtual hand. But so thank you Gary, I want to start by saying thank you for all the sustained, really important work you've done to convene and the coalition and Maureen and so many people for being just instrumental in the plan. It's so great, and I really am excited to see it go forward. I just wanted I'm not speaking on behalf of the COC Racial Equity Committee, but I do I am a member of that group who worked on some of the the goal parts of the plan, particularly the universal targeted universalism, and the idea of really rethinking what the the homeless system, kind of large scale organization would be in that that goal to bring in maybe a consultant led process to do that kind of long range planning, while also as Garrett said handling all those many other really important imperatives that our hands on that make a difference. And so all I wanted to say is I do think there's a sort of wisdom to keeping the steering committee together, because I think the coalition needs to be an active partner and play a role in accountability alongside some of the other, you know, in particular, the CoCs Racial Equity Committee, I just appreciate that you put that in the room because I think there's really good work to be done to keep those partnerships alive and also that you mentioned, maybe there is a chance for this kind of project oriented collaboration between the coalition's Racial Equity Committee and rosemary as powers. leadership there, and the COC Racial Equity Committee as well as the folks who have already been on the steering committee. So I'm just saying that I think just support for those those ideas to maybe keep the steering committee involved and really thinking about how the coalition plays a role in accountability and involvement.



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## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Carolyn. And I see Rosemary has her hand up.

## **Rosemary Powers**

So thank you, Carolyn, for that. I think that's a good thing for us to talk about at our next meeting. As you said, I have two things about this question. One of them is I support the idea of a steering committee continuing with a specific focus on accountability. I don't know of any time in the past, the county has had a group of people holding them accountable to a plan. I think that it's a great model, and I think it could work in other areas. And I agree that the coalition our coalition has a role to play in that sort of same kind of accountability question. But we have a lot of other things we do with groups and organizations. And I think that that key focus for that group could be a really powerful instrument for the county. Also, in just terms of priorities, one of the things that I know that we've talked about it new connections so much is that the the lack of available housing and the lack of land to build available housing, sort of puts everything in a place where we're all kind of stuck at the helping people stay alive rather than helping homes be built. So I think the purchase of land or the beginning of a land bank or land trust or some down that road, it doesn't say, quote, solve homelessness immediately. Some of these projects would go for years before they got built. But when the land is so expensive, it can't be purchased anymore. There won't be any potential to do it. So that's a that's a point I would like to see high on the list. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, rosemary, and Carolyn has her hand up as well. Carolyn Reid.

## **Carolyn Reed**

Thank you. I agree with the accountability idea, of course and getting more land for the housing. The other critical thing is going to be the funding. And I don't, you know, Maureen said we can advocate maybe as individuals of our organization, but I lead a group of revenue for housing and it would be very powerful to have people on a coalition, maybe show up for some forums in the districts that are not supporting funding sources, other alternative funding sources so I'd be happy to help with that. In order to get some sustainable funding, where they can bond against it and leverage against it and pay for, you know, this supportive housing and you know, specifically the 1/10 of 1% tax is what we're working on now. But that's, you know, really a drop in the bucket of what they need. So I think if we could keep pressure on the county to put some skin in the game, to, you know, show up with some money, and I'd be happy to help with that. And it'd be great to coordinate with you guys on party guys, but you know, more closely

## **Rob Huff**

for sure. And Monique.



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## **Monique Brown**

I'm just and I may be missing it. I'm just looking over it again, the plan to see if I could find it but I see that there are targeted populations. But I don't see anything in the plan as to how these targeted populations are going to be addressed in terms of like, how do we find these targeted populations and what do we do differently for these target populations than we do for other populations? Is that something that I'm missing in the plan?

## **Gerrit Nyland**

You're not missing that in the plan? And so that's a level of detail that's not in the plan, and, and basically working on those targeted populations that sort of starts and ends with data, but all of the middle part is about humans. And relationships and and cultural appropriate comfort level with services. Right. And, and I don't know how that's going to shape up, you know, or how it's going to shake out. I think the goal is really identifying groups that we're serving poorly, either because our data shows that we're not serving them well. Where they're missing from our data, because they're not even coming through the front door of the system. And then we're gonna work with those groups, hopefully long term, like a lot of it's like, and you know, come up with our strategies and then review them every six months with, you know, with major stakeholder groups or whatever that timeframe needs to be right you know, to get us going and then to continually monitor so the goal is a bunch of tools to monitor and then just trying to leverage our our community groups that know certain populations and and what we need to do and some of them might be changing our programs and how they operate and some of them might just be really working hard to make sure that bipoc organizations are running homeless programs or, you know, Latino organizations or running homeless programs or, you know, our LGBTQ community, right is got their hands in how we're running our, you know, homeless program. So that's the strategy but none of that's in much detail in the plan. And that's the that's the importance of the implementation is making sure we do that stuff, right, because lip service gets us nowhere.

## **Monique Brown**

Exactly that my concern is that I fall into many of those targeted populations, right. And I don't see a subcommittee of someone who's going to be focused on that. So that is just my concern as a person who would has many intersections there.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

And intersectionality is really going to be challenging. I've been working on some data around that. It's like there are some groups that don't show really poor outcomes until you put the intersectionality together and then it's horrific, and you know, in the way we fail to serve them. So, yes, so

## **Maureen Howard**

on the steering committee, we made some very deliberate recommendations to Garrett on the structure of the plan, that we not try and include every single strategy in the plan, but rather, that it be clear a



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limited number of goals that we felt addressed the breadth of what needed to be done, and, and to have a resulting document that elected officials could grab on to and easily grasp and understand and hopefully buy into. And we heard that those of us who are on a call earlier this week with councilmember Melo Anzeiger, both of them very different in their, you know, positions by both of them really endorsing the plan and feeling proud about it. And so, I think you know, when I my questions about how do you want to be involved how your organization and stuff? I mean, I think we we got Garrett listened to us, when members of the steering committee said we need to expand these working groups beyond the steering committee to bring in people who have expertise and that's how the CICS CLC is Race and Equity Committee get out there. That's how we got it some housing people and that sort of thing. So, Garrett, set up a portal, we can just dump stuff into questions, ideas, you know, whatever, that it's one stop shop. Kind of thing. So that you, you have it and we know you have it.

## **Monique Brown**

Right. And I understand that this does not get into details and I don't want to take a whole lot of time. I understand it doesn't get into details. But if this is a target that we're looking at, in terms of bipoc and disabilities and LGBTQ Two Spirit and all that, then why would it not be a subcommittee? That's that's my concern.

## **Maureen Howard**

There aren't any subcommittees right now.

## **Monique Brown**

I see. I see it on the plan that there's some subcommittees. That's why I asked

## **Maureen Howard**

their war. Why was the target universalism

## **Gerrit Nyland**

so many money I'm not gonna, I'm not gonna be able to probably satisfy you until we actually are successful in some of this. But there will be an implementation plan specifically for this work and it will have that level of detail in it and it will be a committee working exactly on this and so obviously, we want you they're working on that with us. If you just didn't have that day job that took all your time, but now like you're not ready to shelter yet what are you doing, but not Kidding, kidding. My point is, is that right, we're going to have as much community involvement as we possibly can and the vast majority and, and so I think that, you know, finding the, you know, we'll be posting our implementation plans on a website and making sure that you know, I get them out to the folks that I think care about them so they can review them so that we, we are doing the steps that we need to do because, again, we you know, we can't continue to we can't continue to sort of struggle with certain populations when, right



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there's people here that know how to better serve them and we, we are, you know, we're obligated to to really take that, take that expertise and put it to good use.

## **Monique Brown**

Right and just, you know, being a boots on the ground type person with the excuse me with the work that I'm doing, you know, I just I'm concerned that with it's not something that's on paper for people that say, Oh, great, we've got this and let's put it in a file. I want to be sure that takes it those last three feet like we're talking here, right. Thank you. Thanks

## **Maureen Howard**

for your responses. And I want to make sure on the coalition's part, that when Garrett talks about reaching out to people he knows or concern that we broaden that outreach. So that people who may not yet know are concerned have an opportunity to also voice their you know, interests, their experience and everything else.

## **Rob Huff**

So to sum all of this up, and there's way too much here to sum up in the 15 minutes we've spent with it because it was months of work and I can't remember how many hours I don't think I want to count them. But um it sounds like there's a lot of support for the steering committee continuing, whether it's the current membership or substituting in new members, that there's a lot of support for that. And there's a lot of support from those in the room here today. To help make sure that this claim can move forward and get implemented. So I guess my question to you here it is. I know you're going to do this already, but I trust you will use the Coalition for good to move this forward. And let us know where there are gaps and things where we can help. Do like Maureen mentions the outreach as well as actual boots on the ground, helped to move the program move the plan forward. So the point of today's conversation was just to get a temperature of the room and make sure that some of these concerns can be raised so we know they're front and center and you're muted

## **Gerrit Nyland**

because I don't know how to use them when I say like you know it'd be interested to see like if the Race and Equity Committee at the coalition or the COC wants to lead something. I don't mean do all the work, right. I mean, direct county staff and doing work right. So the it's no sense of getting free work, right. The goal is your expertise and some of your time to help us with that or as much work as you want to do, but that there isn't an expectation that that you're responsible for staffing right, that continues to be a responsibility of the county and hopefully our other jurisdictions, right like the more we can bring the City of Tacoma and the city of Fife yay for being here and, and the city of Lakewood and pew all up and, you know, and then not cities of Parkland or you know, like our other areas that the more we can bring them in, the better. We're gonna serve our community. Yep.



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## **Rob Huff**

Well, thank you for that and I'm nervous fleet looking at the clock. Let's let me know. Let me fill you in. One of our goals moving forward in this year is to try to wrap these meetings up a little bit early. Fittingly, the first meeting of the year we're failing at that. But the goal will be that we try to try to end by 1050. So people have a little bit of space before maybe they have an 11 o'clock meeting. I know we have other items on the agenda. If somebody has anything that's super critical that they need to share here in the last minute or so. This would be an opportunity rosemary, I saw your your hand go up.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Yes, I just wanted excuse me to announce that the race and equity committee will meet next Thursday at 3pm on Zoom and we'll put the information in the PC homeless webpage as soon as I create the Zoom link of but that if that's not a good time for you, we will be planning when we'll have meetings for the coming year. So I put my email in the chat and if you could just send me or if you have the agenda from today I'm at the very top when I did the welcome you'd have my email there as well. To let me know times that do work for you so that we can consider those when we set up future meetings. So for this coming Thursday, January 13 At three o'clock

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you rosemary, and we are at 1059 I always like to provide some space for people to offer their feedback on what worked well in today's meeting and what could be done better next time. I invite you to use the chat to provide that and I do want to do one final thank you to the to the class from Sammy, I see you guys on screen and I appreciate you again being here. And that's a wrap for today's meeting. If you would like to help plan next week's meeting, we will hold a short planning meeting right after this after we take a five minute break. So have a good Friday and a safe weekend everybody.