



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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SPEAKERS

Tori Forsman, Jeannie Schoeppe, Richard, Patricia, Tory Green, Andrea Haug, Janet Runbeck, Gerrit Nyland, Verna Lilly, Kasey Burton, Sally Perkins, Laurie Davenport, Ed Jacobs, Rob Huff, Jennifer Ammons, Ned Witting, Theresa Power-Drutis, Joanne Iverson, Rosemary Powers, Wolf, Linda Stewart, Avelino Estrada, Elizabeth Clark, Valeri Knight

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Rob Huff

All right, we're almost at the top of the hour. I'm going to wait just a little bit longer and see if we get a few more people in the room. But I will say I'm I'm not sure how many folks I expect to see join us today. Due to the Point in Time Count taking place. I don't think many of the direct providers are likely to be able to join today. But it's good to see everybody and if it seems like I'm dragging it's because Garrett kept me out too. Late last night doing the Point in Time Count. Since we don't know how many folks are gonna be able to join us this morning. Why don't we go ahead and get started. Before I have rosemary do our traditional welcome. I did want to let folks know that we are going to have a slight change to the agenda. I was contacted by the City of Tacoma last night close to five asking first some additional time on the agenda for Linda Stewart and Tory green from the fire department to join us this morning for city updates. So that will be coming a little bit later this morning. But welcome to this morning's meeting of the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness and rosemary. Would you like to get us going?

Rosemary Powers



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Thank you, Rob. And thank you for doing the point in time. Count out over the night. That's what's really important. And that's the focus today. So I thought about the word count just a little bit. It reminded me of a quote that's often attributed to Albert Einstein that really was from a sociologists, which is my background, Bruce Cameron. In 1963. He said this not everything that can be counted, counts, and not everything that counts can be counted. So I revised the court just a little bit to focus on our experience. And the way I have it set here is not everything about us that can be counted counts, and not everyone who counts can be counted. So we have the means to make sure that everyone counts yet 1000s of people in Pierce County, live with the reality that they don't count enough to have a safe and secure shelter. So we're here to change that. And for the work ahead, walking and working along people who should count. I want to be sure that we are counted in so little play on that word count there, huh? So I want to welcome you all today. And we do have for those of you who are new we we usually post in our chat, the norms we have for our group, and for zoom just to be sure to keep yourself muted if you're doing other things. So that we don't have distractions. Raise your hand, use the raise hand function, if you have it on your computer. Usually it's at the bottom of the screen under reactions or something like that. Or if you can't, if you're not able to do that because of the device you're using. Try to find some other way to get the hosts attention that if we do have that raise hand we can kind of keep order with the order of people who are interested in speaking. And then we do use the chat as a as a place for conversation. It's not a distracting thing for people who should be, quote, paying attention to what's going on with the main agenda. It's a place to make connections with people that you learn about through this process and want to be sure to share information and announcements. So Rob, I had that ready to post that. I don't know if you have it accessible if you could post those norms that be great. I just did. Yeah, thank you very much. So those are in the chat and for our community norms. It really is respectful, speaking, taking space where we want to take it but not taking too much space since we do have a lot of folks with us today. So, with that, I'd like to welcome any of you who are new, and our usual practice is just to ask you to unmute and just say who you are, what if you're with an organization just to say what it is. It's not a time for a long introduction, but we want to know who's with us and then we hopefully will let you know more about ourselves as we get to have the conversation for today. So anyone who is new, just ours returning from a long time away, reintroducing themselves, just unmute into it. Yes, sorry.

Tori Forsman

I had to mute myself. Sorry about that. My name is Trey Foresman. And I am currently a junior high in high school public school teacher. I teach Spanish and English as a second language. But my dream job is what I've been doing as far as outside of my school hours, which is volunteering my time to promote the well being and advocate for the Latino population in Pierce County in the in Bonney Lake and Buckley area. And I've done many things to work with that help students to graduate help families find new housing, navigate the system. So got loads lots of stuff about me but that's it in a nutshell.

Rosemary Powers

Thank you for joining us and we look forward to working with you.



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Avelino Estrada

I can go Good morning, everybody. My name is Sonali Noah stretta. I'm the vice president of programs with Easterseals. Washington. And this is my first time joining your meeting. And we used to have some operations in in programs in Pierce County. Now we are going back to Pierce County and I want to know, what is everybody doing there? What's in the needs of the community and how can Easter Seals Washington, provide support to all of you or you know, collaborate with all of you?

Rosemary Powers

Thank you, Lena. You're come to the good place and we look forward to working with you. Thanks.

Elizabeth Clark

Thank you. I Elko next. My name is Elizabeth. I am Outreach Director for Bhima believing in myself again. Wonderful and what we do is we're transitional program. We have transitional housing, we also do a lot of community outreach.

Rosemary Powers

Welcome, Elizabeth and there are other folks doing similar things that you can connect with here. That's great.

Ned Witting

I'll jump in. My name is Ned wedding. I'm Deputy Mayor the city of pol open. I've been away for a while and I just wanted to get reengaged Thank you.

Rosemary Powers

Good to see you again that it's wonderful to have you paying attention to these issues. So thank you well, that's great. Thanks. All of you are new for being with us. And I hope this will be a useful event for you and that we'll see more of you and be sure to use the chat if you want to put your contact information in for those who may want to contact you and follow up with more of the things that you're doing. So, Rob, it's for you now.

Rob Huff

All right, thank you, Rosemary. And yeah, please do use the chat. We we retain that and use it use that information going forward to inform the work that the coalition does, and we'll be talking about that a little bit later in today's agenda. But the next thing up on our agenda is our regular this week on the streets segment. And so this is a opportunity for folks who do direct outreach to people who are currently homeless around the county to share what they're seeing what the needs are, if needs are changing, and just offer an update on on the temperature of what's happening around our community. I do know and most of you know the Pierce County Point in Time Count is underway started last night



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and continues through the day today. So if there's anything to share from excuse me from that, that would be good fodder for this section of the meeting as well. So let's go ahead and if you just want to raise your hand, I'll call on you and I see the first person with his hand up is Wolf. Hi, Wolf.

Wolf

Hi, it's good to be back on I haven't been able to jump on one of these meetings in a while but just to update y'all on what's going on with our program at certain people to coma. And we've been doing two days a week of distribution that camps around the hilltop, stepping up to about between 102 100 meals a week. Plus lots of warm gear mattresses, bed frames, bunch of winter gear and hot drinks. I have to actually jump off this call to talk to a white male from Channel Five about the one time count. But if you'd like to support you can send us a message through our social media. You can also get in touch through email at certain people to come at Gmail. I'll put that in the chat before I hop off. We'd appreciate any donations, monetary or in kind. Please just reach out if you have any questions. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Wolf. Good to see you. So others with updates from what they're seeing on the streets this week.

Elizabeth Clark

Hi, this is Elizabeth. So are these updates for what what's the point in time count or these or is this just like events or things that are happening?

Rob Huff

Um, so it's kind of inclusive this morning typically these this just happens to be happening. This update today is happening at the same time as the Point in Time Count. Obviously there's if there's anything to share related to the account that that would be this would be a great point to do. So on typical weeks. It's just updates from folks and what they're seeing out on the street and we don't have something like the Point in Time Count happening.

Elizabeth Clark

Okay, thank you. Cuz I know I'm supposed to present our event that we're having on Saturday. Just be an attempt to do that or no.

Rob Huff

Oh, yeah, you could. Yeah, that'd be great.

Elizabeth Clark



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Okay, and first, I want to thank Teresa, thank you so much for posting our flyer in the chat group. So Teresa posted our flyer on Saturday. You're having a blinky tribe for the homeless, across the street from associated ministries. 13th and I in that parking lot, will have tents up. We'll have blankets, hats, gloves, body wave snacks, and we'll also be serving hot seat to the homeless. And so we would really love if you can get that out to any folks that you are working with. I think the word has been spread pretty well. Thanks to all of you and others in the community. And we thank you guys for your support and collaboration and partnership. Thank you

Rob Huff

Elizabeth.

Tori Forsman

I'm new to this coalition. So I'm just kind of giving you a feel of what's going on in rural Buckley and the Bonney Lake area. And as I said I work in the school district but I do a lot of my passion is what I'm doing on my own time. And I started out because there's a big need there more. I'm going to say Latino population because that's our greatest minority. Sorry, my dog Cody sorry about that. No problem. It's my baby. And so since we're a rural community, and we're getting an influx of more Latino families moving in the area, the school district is a little bit slow to meet the needs of these families. And so I have been, there's farm two families, they provide food boxes with fresh food, so every week called deliver 10 boxes to families that I know that reached out to me. Um, there's a lot of families that are displaced and so they use the program McKinney vento for the school district. But that means that students sometimes have to get up at five in the morning, catch the taxi bus and don't get home till six at night. Just to stay in the school district. So I'm doing a lot of volunteer work on my own time and I'm just looking to get paid for what I'm doing because there's a lot that needs to be done, especially in this area and there's just not a lot of resources, basic needs. I volunteered the clothing make fun of the Spanish speakers don't have access because they don't speak English very well. They're learning and all the forms are in English. So I guess that's just putting that out there. See if anybody has any ideas for me. Any connections networking, like do to help these families? They really need support.

Rob Huff

Thank you. And yeah, folks have have suggestions for Tori please some drop those in the in the chat and share the resources especially in the Bonney Lake area.

Avelino Estrada

Tori I just send you a chat so you can connect with me to get my help.

Rob Huff



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Fantastic. So anyone else with updates from what they're seeing on the streets this week, I saw Richard d'Orsay, he dropped the information about the city's upcoming encampments sweep at 70 cents south or east 72nd and highstreet. Anything further to update about that

Richard

I forgot how this works. Of the encampments I go to 72nd and I is it's kind of a rough encampment. It's seems to have disintegrated since I was there a couple of months ago. It'll be interesting to see how outreach works. People are mostly getting high and staying high and don't seem to have a lot of interest in shelter. So whatever, whatever outreach the city is doing, it'll be kind of interesting to see. It's a peculiar encampment, it's quite exposed to the elements. It's there's not a lot of trees. It's just sort of open. And I'm starting to develop the theory that because it's off 72nd A lot of the drug dealing that goes on I mean people cruise there, they these these drug dealing cars come through. They don't really like seeing me when I'm there. So it's it's it's not it's not what I would consider a typical encampment and so I'll be out there. I think it's Tuesday. This is coming up to kind of watch how it goes on but it's anyway, that's the next on their list for for sweeping. Yeah.

Rob Huff

Thanks for that, Richard. And yeah, Garrett and I were out with a team doing a point in time count out there last night so I can concur about the state of the of the camp at this point. So anybody else Theresa?

Theresa Power-Drutis

So just I'm glad to hear there's somebody from the fire department. coming today. I posted a little image of a fire tent fire that happened on last Saturday. And but I'm hearing from people and I don't know the origin of this 10 fire. That's one of the things that I would love to have some way of tracking what's causing these fires because we'll often have a fire and there'll be a lot of rumors but no facts, facts being spread around. One thing that I do know is that people are using the hand sanitizer, putting it in little containers and lighting on fire to heat tents a bit. And that's just you know, it really is a signal that we need to do something about keeping people warm that doesn't have them really reduced to using whatever fuel they can to get whatever heat they can so that may or may not be the cause of that particular fire but I'm guessing it's not a safe way to heat your tent.

Rob Huff

Yeah, I think that's safe to say.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Oh, but I should have started by saying no one was hurt. They typically people are typically not hurting in him fires because you can get out but all of this gentleman's belongings were destroyed.



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Rob Huff

Thank you for that Teresa. And yes, I do want to acknowledge I see our fire chief is on on the call this morning. So good to see you Tori and Linda Stewart has joined us as well. So Hi, Linda.

Tory Green

Rob, did you want me to speak to that?

Rob Huff

Yeah, if you could, that'd be great.

Tory Green

Yeah, I can speak to that. So you know we we unfortunately don't often do investigations on the cause of fires and encampments. Typically, it's from warming or cooking fires that have gotten out of control, for the most part, and so, we we I don't have an answer to your question about what the origin of that specific fire was. And even if, in given that there are a significant number of these types of fires, we we actually don't keep a whole lot of record on we keep a record that they occurred but we don't do a lot of investigation into what into the actual cause. There are, you know, anytime you have a significant amount of, of quite frankly, of debris, and then you introduce as to your point and open flame, it's a recipe whether it's your house or in a cabinet. It's a recipe for a fire and a significant fire. And so that's that's more than likely, what the cause of that was. I don't know if that answers your question or not.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So I'm just because you are keeping records do you have Can you are you going to present later about fires or? I will leave my question alone. If so,

Tory Green

sure. I am planning to speak to fires a little bit later. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Brilliant. Appreciate you being here, Chief. So let's go ahead and wrap up the this week on the streets segment of the meeting. Does anybody else have new information that they thought would be helpful to share with the group this morning? All right, I do want to acknowledge that. We are aware that there are a lot of folks who do direct outreach, including Jeffrey Boyce is actually out doing the point in time count this morning. So I was unable to be here. So next week, I'm sure we will have more detailed information to share about what folks are seeing out on the streets. So let's move on in our agenda. And the next item that I have on the agenda is an advocacy update. And I do know that Maureen Howard is on the agenda to do this update but she's unable to be here this morning. So I am going to be a poor substitute for marine and just offer some some of the things that she thought would be the most important to share with everybody. So she gave me a bulleted list. Apologies. I'll just be kind of reading



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from this but she mentioned that 5662 remains under discussion with the governor's office and was Senator Cooter. And there should be a new draft coming soon. And she's tracking the issue and following along with the the tactics being used by the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and as you'll recall, the coalition earlier this year, actually, I think late last year, did vote to to approve and follow the blockchain Low Income Housing Alliance agenda going into this legislative session. Maureen also encouraged if people haven't done so that you should register for housing and homelessness days. It's free. And let me dig up let me share the link to the pit to the registration page. housing and homelessness days. take place this next week from Tuesday, February 1 to Thursday, February 3 And this is the link to the registration page.

Rosemary Powers

Rob, if you're making any reflection on a bill number, could you just repeat the bills context or content?

Rob Huff

If I had it, I would oh if you had I have a chance because of last night's

Rosemary Powers

okay. Yeah, I can find that one. Anyway. Thank you. Anyway,

Rob Huff

let me also share the link to the page on the state website where you can look up that Bill maybe yeah, let me post this page and it's just that you can look up any bill that's under consideration, including 5556 62 That Maureen wanted us to follow on this page from the Washington State Legislature. And then the last item that Maureen thought would be important to mention is that the city of piala is still accepting applications for the two temporary case manager positions to work with the homeowners of the meridian mobile estates. So, Ned, just so you know, Maureen is still tracking that issue and and we're excited that the city is adding those two temporary staff positions to help help the folks who are living in that space

Ned Witting

just on that subject is Ned. Yeah, Tory is has applied for that position. So we're, we'd be excited to see if she gets it.

Rob Huff

Fantastic. I sense that there was planning involved in Tory being here today. I'm Rosemary, you have your hand up. Is that still related to the earlier question?

Rosemary Powers

No, sorry.



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Rob Huff

Nope, no problem. Um, so any questions or any other additions related to advocacy? This week? Okay. So I am thinking about shifting the agenda around a little bit. Linda, would it be helpful for you and the fire chief to speak to us at this point rather than waiting having you wait through our next conversation?

Linda Stewart

Sure, that would be great. We just want to be respectful of your schedule. We can wait or go now.

Rob Huff

I'm fine. I think it would be good timing since you guys I know the two of you are super busy. And it's pretty easy for me to shift the timing. So I need to take the floor and let us know what you wanted to share this morning.

Linda Stewart

Okay, thank you. So, a couple things, but some housekeeping things first, but I want to just thank you all for your patience. Well, Neighborhood and Community Services has been unable to send a consistent presence and basically any presence to these weekly meetings. And I think you all know that we have been missing the homeless program manager since February of 2021. That's a year ago, and that I as the director and then Alison Griffith as the assistant director have been sharing the work load of assigned to all of homeless program management. And we've also been operating in a 30% vacancy rate for our department. And so we're very small department of 34 people and we've had between 11 and 12 vacancies for the past several well for the past year. And it's just been really hectic. And so I say all these things, so that you have an understanding of if we have this staff capacity, we would certainly be here. But we send the updates every every Friday to you Rob and I hope they get posted. And so again, thank you for your patience. On the hiring front. We are in the process of making some offers to two new homeless program managers one will be the strategy systems and services manager and then one will be the manager of the heel team, which is the new name for the homeless outreach team. So we used to have hot and now we will have heel heel is is homeless engagement alternatives liaisons, and it just feels better for me not to have Can we talk to hat staff? It didn't feel right. And so I really want to be able to talk about heel and how our team is going to really be engaging and and talking with with folks and encampments about alternatives. We have added two outreach workers to our heel team. So we went from two very beleaguered staff. To four we have four outreach workers now. One additional outreach worker will come on board after we get a manager in that in that position. So we will have gone from two to six. And so this has been a vision that I've had for a couple years to build this team. But we have again experienced a couple things number one, difficulty being able to financially manage adding to the team and filling vacancies. We got the authorization last quarter of 2021 to start filling those vacancies. And so we're pretty happy about that. Moving forward. I want to give you an update on the camping ban discussions. I don't know if anyone tuned into community



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vitality and Safety Committee last night, but the camping ban discussions that are underway at the council. So again, this is a council policy development consideration they are being held at Community Vitality and safety committee. Those meetings are the second and the fourth Tuesday of every month. And that is a standard schedule. And they start from at 430 and they run generally till six o'clock. We were there till about seven o'clock yesterday. But that's where the camping ban discussion discussions are had and and you can always look at the videos of the CBS meetings on the city website. The other item that I want to make sure you're aware of and this is why chief green is here with me today is I want to make sure that you are aware of a very late breaking decision that the city has made as of this morning to clear the encampment and remove the encampment under 705 100 705 bridge. And and this is because of the imminent threats to public safety that are present in this encampment. So the city manager has authorized staff and directed us to post that encampment for removal. We're posting it later today. And the cleanup will begin next Friday, February 4. We have counted about 60 to 80 individuals at this location and outreach workers are going to bring be starting very focused Outreach at the location beginning next Tuesday. And and obviously outreach will continue through the week and and we're here to answer questions about that but I did bring chief green here he agreed to to be here. With me because there are significant concern concerns about fires that have have been down in this location and he would be the one to speak to that. So I just shared a whole bunch of information for you. I hope some of it is is good news for you. And we're open to to answering your questions.

Rob Huff

Chief green Do you want to address the fire danger issue?

I can and so I the only thing I can speak to quite frankly is what we've what we've witnessed I cannot or experience down there I cannot speak to how that and other factors may have weighed into the decision about the encampment relocation for clearing. So what we have seen down there we respond to that area under 75 fairly frequently I think that goes should be fairly obvious in fact, we have over 1000 incident responses down there. Over the last year. More than half of those due to fires. The majority of the time when we go down there it's for warming or cooking fires and for those fires as long as they're under control. Now, I will add that that fires our fires on public property property are simply illegal and fires on private property that receive complaints from those nearby becoming illegal. These fires would fall into both categories. We rarely put those fires out if it's determined that those fires are for cooking purposes or for warming purposes especially this time of year and they're manageable in size and and not a risk or danger to the surrounding area structures. What we've been seeing more frequently are larger fires. Just yesterday, we responded to three fires down underneath the 705 Bridge and that in in that area and and it's not just fires that we respond to obviously respond to EMS calls but the EMS calls have been the area has become such that we are that the folks responding have become I've been threatened and have been feeling unsafe in that area. So much to the degree that we send multiple response units to a single call for for EMS calls. And so we're sending people we're sending three total companies to a call that would have normally received 101 unit response. And part of that is



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not only to ensure the safety of the crew, but also to ensure the security of the the rigs because we've had multiple occasions where stuff has been taken off of the apparatus. So that's been our experience down there. Again, that's that. I don't again, I can't speak to how that contributes to where we are today in this morning's announcement. But that's that's what we've been dealing with regard to that account. Thank you, Chief.

Rob Huff

So I'm seeing a number of questions in the chat. I don't know if you can see those Linda, and would like to try to address them or if you'd like me to read them off. Let me take a look.

Linda Stewart

I don't when I'm presenting I don't Yeah I understand. Yep. So let me say camping ban shelter beds camping ban so So again, the camping ban consideration is is that is a council initiative and and the role of city staff is to respond to counsel requests for information to help them make the determination about whether or not they want to implement a camping ban. And so these types of questions about well, these types of questions would be appropriate to direct to council members because they are deliberating on this and see their persons with disabilities live in at 705. Will there be specific outreach there will be specific outreach for all of the people at under 705. So if there's someone there with a disability, we will try to match them up with services that meet their needs.

Rob Huff

Can you share again how many people you believe are living under

Linda Stewart

60 to 80 it fluctuates it actually fluctuates. And actually when we when we have we've been going in there for several months, but people obviously they they they either will not come out of their tent or they they several times we've gone down there and people just kind of run run out. And so we can't really tell who's who's there or not living there. Right. It's difficult. So we are saying 60 to 80 at this point in time. I'm back to here is this a response because we're Tacoma safe, I don't know. Population size of 7560 to 80 other than open fires. What are the what are the other 50% of the 50%? This seems to be a terminal disease often but rarely defined. So I'm not sure I understand that other 50% I can

speaking to that that's that it's EMS calls, its emergency medical services calls. And so the real risk is this with with those calls, if we're sending three apparatus to to a call that we would normally send one. We don't have the resources for the next call available. And so that's important, right? Because that means that when you call 911 for your heart attack or stroke or for your kid or your mom, we don't have an apparatus that's close by to get to you timely and for us time matters. It literally means the difference between life or death. And so, um, so for sending on, you know, responding to, you know, roughly 500



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calls of EMS calls to an area with more resources than we normally would when we're quite frankly already under resourced. It's impactful. And so that's that's arguably the the risk to public safety.

Rob Huff

If and I see you have your hand up

Ed Jacobs

Yes, I have a question for Linda. In the deliberations and and decision to sweet to do us sweep. Does the city manager take into account the other sweeps that are going on at the same time because if my memory serves within a couple of weeks, there's sweeps going on down in Fife there. There'll be one on East ice Street. Now you're clearing underneath 705 That's a lot of people. And I'm concerned that not only are the options for them to relocate into shelter, are going to be limited just because the size of the people that are are disrupted out on the street so my question is, does the city manager and the council take those into consideration or do they even know that the others are going on?

Linda Stewart

Well, it's it's our job to keep and is this as a city manager's role administratively to make the decision. And so it is my job to keep her informed of of what other activity there is to clear encampments. So she is aware of because she authorized the 72nd and I street clearing. That outreach is underway right now. There are actually 12 people there yesterday and to accepted services and are waiting to be processed into the next available units that come up. And so our outreach workers will now shift their focus and I was very specific when when I talked with the city manager about this. We will shift our focus away from 72nd Eye next week and and focus on the 705 encampment again. There was a significant fire there yesterday morning. Is that correct? Chief green, and that's when after that that fire and you heard chief green say there were 1000 responses. There have been 1000 responses there. Over the last year that fire yesterday morning was was basically the tipping point in terms of the dangerous conditions there. And so what I advise to the city manager is that we could only manage the situation and focus on really getting that location clear. If we have all of our outreach resources redirected from 72nd and I over to 705 because we need to really get in there and see who can can be relocated, who we can assist. And then at the same time slow down the the clearing date. Most likely over on 72nd And I so again, this is really late breaking. This is like a 730 this morning discussion, but I knew this was going to be the result of the discussion this morning. That's why I wrote to you yesterday Rob, we wrote to you and said hey, I think we need to talk to you tomorrow. Because I think I know what's coming in terms of the five of clearings. Again, that's that's the city of Fife that's that that's Washington State Department of Transportation and and I'll tell you we have seen some some transfer of individuals from those that location under two under 705. So we do know that there are impacts and I appreciate that question because what's the solution here it's it's more in diversified shelter, right? And so if anyone on this call and we usually say this when we come here if anyone on this call has an idea about a location or a provider, please come and talk to me. Thank you,



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Rob Huff

Teresa, I see you have your hand up as well.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Just that I realized that Chief green talked about a really serious issue. And I didn't I was responding to the thing about the camping ban instead of doing what I want to do now, which is to say no, nobody here wants the people working with you or any of our outreach teams to go into areas that are unsafe. And we recognize that is a difficult issue and it's a resource sink, and it probably won't change until what Linda just said happens which is we have all those alternatives. So we do have a lot of ideas. That's something that we're real rich in here. And and I think it really does have to start with some public property being devoted to this and some really real art alternatives coming up where people can build communities that can keep out some of the folks who are going to really be destructive and harmful. And then we have to figure out how do we keep everyone from freezing freezing to death. So thank you for coming and thank you for the work you do and I just want to make sure you know that we recognize that it is hard work and and not what we want to be sending our public book into.

Linda Stewart

Thank you, Teresa, thank you and and go ahead chief but I'll jump in after you Chief Go ahead.

I was just gonna say I really appreciate that and I want you to know that this is stuff for us because we you know we do want to this this business to help people and help people in their worst our their worst day. And and this is this is a situation that makes us feel extremely helpless. And, and and in addition to that, you know, folks when they go in and they feel threatened, it's it's it makes it more complicated. And so I sincerely appreciate your comments. And I just want you to know that we we as a department and as the people of the department really want to be partners in the solution on this. We just don't know how

Linda Stewart

and if I can just follow up Teresa again, thank you for those comments. But the use of public property I wanted to get back to that. So we are we are behind and getting the 82nd and Pacific location up and running. That is a that is a relatively low barrier mitigation site that will be operated by Forward Operating Base FOB there will be 25 available beds over there. We could not locate a shower trailer because guess what? Everyone in the country is looking for shower trailers and we also have supply chain issues. We finally secured the shower trailer and now we can't find a a little unit to operate as a as a kind of a meeting trailer right for staff who are there so on the supply chain and the competition for resources is is real. But we look where we finally got I think these things nailed down and I think we're going to we're about two weeks away from being able to activate that that's Tacoma Public Utilities on



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property. So that is public property. I also see someone asked about the 36 and Pacific. We're in conversations right now. So there are two pieces of property there. There's a there's a city on piece of property and then there's a county on piece of property. So the county the city on piece of property is going out for bid for affordable housing, but we are in conversations with the county about using that property temporarily for several years to to create temporary emergency shelter over there with the hope that we can establish some sort of emergency shelter, temporary shelter where folks can go there and then ultimately go into the affordable housing that's being built about next door. So in addition to or an answer to this question here Yes, the we are looking at that. There was one other on here. Are there plans for cleanup and fencing? Yeah, whenever we we ask folks to relocate and we try to remove individuals from a location it is standard process for us to for the city to clean up the area and return it to the state that it was prior to the encampment and in this particular case, it's Washington State Department of Transportation owned property. And we are on as soon as the location is cleared. And cleaned. We intend to fence it at least temporarily but then we are going to the city is going to lease it from the from the state for to return it for use as a parking lot and so it will receive permanent fencing and then once it returns to parking lot use, it will have it will have some monitoring and some management there. So that answers that question. Think up Rob. Do you see anything?

Rob Huff

Yeah, I think I think that's it from the chat. I do see Patricia has her hand up.

Patricia

Typically instead of having a trailer to use for outreach we there's a specific type of sort of like tenant canopy with closed doors. And we've been able to put air filters and and heating devices. I can try to give you those specifics that are used sort of for lived experience and through King County if you'd like

Linda Stewart

I'll put my email in the chat and anybody who and my phone number and anybody who wants to reach out to me knows how to find me. And thank you for that.

Rob Huff

And Linda one quick question about the conversation about the 36 and Pacific property. So if that is able to move forward, would you class, kind of characterize that as a small additional stabilization type site that would be used to transition people to the affordable housing

Linda Stewart

we don't know. We're still trying to figure out how we get the property and the and the use agreement with it with the county. And so our real property and the community and economic development departments are working with that on that with the county. But once we once we get that agreement then then we'll we'll go about the business of saying okay, what what is the what is the need? And who



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are the providers who are willing to step in? So one of the issues that we have, of course, as you all probably are aware is not exactly a plethora of provider options. And so I am actually talking with some folks here up in the Seattle area to try to bring them down to see if they are they are willing and this is where five hope came into into play because they they have been upgrading up in the north. So But to answer your question to be determined, I think it's going to be a huge hurdle to get over to get the get the lease agreement because it took months to get the get a lease agreement with our own public utility. So so there's a lot of steps for that. So once that happens we'll be thinking about that. But it will be super important for us to hear from from you all, as well as balanced what we're hearing from folks and encampments about what that temporary shelter site would look like.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Linda. And just to interject a little personal thought Garrett and I joined with others from comprehensive life and some elected officials from the county last night and doing the Point in Time Count under 705. And I can definitely attest to the discomfort in doing that overnight. And the fires that were on site overnight. So really appreciate you being here and talking with the coalition this morning. I don't know if Garrett if you had anything you wanted to add.

Gerrit Nyland

Now just to I'm glad this site's been swept as much as I don't like to say that ever about folks getting moved, but it's one of those sites that reached that sort of point of danger. Like it's the only site that I've had drugs be offered to be sold to me in broad daylight and I'm not the sort of person anyone offers to sell drugs to. So so I you know, again, I think we all struggle with having sites swept and but there is a point in a site when it is simply not okay and I'm also on the board of the furniture Bank, which is located right next door and in the impact on a nonprofit that is working hard to serve these exact people. It has been pretty, pretty severe, pretty severe and I think that that again, these are these are struggles and I mean hats off for balancing as long as you know, not doing sweeps until you absolutely have to and and I just I appreciate the I think the thought that is going into how to do these and when. So thanks.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Garrett. Jenny, your hands up. Hey.

Jeannie Schoeppe

Yeah, thanks, Garrett. Thanks, Chief green and Linda and everyone for the great discussion. I just, I'll try to keep it simple. I wonder if and this is MIT possibly their issue but just from a public health perspective. I know each sweep will be different all the circumstances are different but really bristle a little bit when I hear the the generic term public safety used so often and rarely defined. I think it gives fuel to strong anti encampment and anti homeless sentiment in our community and I I would just urge us, all of us, including the chief and and Linda and other city officials to think about whether what we're



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talking about as a public health issue is a healthcare resource diversion issue, which is really what in my opinion, Chief green is talking about in this case in terms of 50% of the calls being health health issues that sounds like and that causing diversion of EMS resources which we all understand is a really tough situation to be in but just want to just want to caution the use of public safety as a generic sort of catch all term that that we use. And again, I acknowledge this as a bigger, a much bigger issue, but I feel like from a public health perspective, if I didn't say that this morning, I would be I'd be I'd regret it. So thanks for listening. I appreciate it.

Really appreciate the feedback. I agree. I think public safety is a big catch all but quite frankly, I consider public safety people staying warm at night when it's freezing cold outside right and so I agree it's it's a it's too generic term and I appreciate the feedback and be better at that. Thank you Chief pressure.

Rob Huff

Alright, any final questions for the chief and for Linda before we move on with the rest of our agenda Okay, um, Linda, did you want to either you or Alison to send me something that I could post to the coalition mailing list regarding this emergency action or that that might be helpful. Oh, and you're muted?

Linda Stewart

Yes, I can send you I can send you them that a message. The messaging on it? Absolutely. I can send that I'll email it to you when I'm finished here. Okay, thank you. And and Rob and everyone else just again, thank you. I know they're I think last week, someone someone reached out to a council member and asked, you know, why isn't the city participating at these coalition meetings? And Rob, you know that we provide you updates every every week and we've been letting you know that we just don't have we just don't have staff and and as soon as we do, we will be here we will be here with you again. And and in special circumstances like this. You will see me coming over to talk to you and so I just I just on behalf of the city just appreciate all that you're doing. And we appreciate your support of this decision because it was a very difficult one.

Rob Huff

Just to be clear, I don't know that all of us support it. But But I do think we understand that. If if we've got first responders struggling to be able to safely to respond to the site, that it's a different level.

Linda Stewart

So So I won't say that there is support from the coalition but I think any of you who do support it, and if any of you want to talk with me more about it, I'm happy to discuss and and talk with you about other



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options for folks and encampments. I put my email and my telephone number into the chat if you'd like to call me.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Linda. All right. So since I blew up the agenda, why don't we go ahead and continue with the government updates before we double back and discuss do a follow up discussion on last week's breakout conversation. So I'm going to go down our list of government updates and see who's here. I'm not sure if I'm actually pretty sure Jeff Rogers is not here. But let me look. Yeah, so I don't see Jeff on the call. So I don't think we're gonna have an update from Pierce County Human Services because folks are quite busy with the point in time count this morning. But Valerie's here, Valerie, do you have an update for us?

Valeri Knight

Yeah, of course. Yeah. They are all counting. It's super weird to not be at the point in time count this year for the first time in like 13 years. I actually slept walk last night talking about Point in Time Count. So so thank you. I have actually not been here for a couple of weeks because I took off some time to go on a cruise. So thank you all for not blowing up my email and supporting the during my time off. I appreciate it. So rental assistance updates. We 100% spent down all of our funds for 2021 which is huge. So all of our Department of Treasury funds all of our trap 1.0 funds. We are currently very actively spending our American rescue plan dollars are trap 2.0 and the state is going to go ahead and release our E rap 2.0 funding because our goal is to not have any limitations. We also know that housing bill 1277 is going to release some rental assistance dollars to all the counties so we'll be releasing a Notice of Funding Availability in the coming weeks and months for that program. So those are all happening. Our portal is currently down because we are doing a new portal, which is amazing. And it will open on around February 1. So Tuesday, we will have a few changes in there you'll see some new questions, just really to support the program and to get the providers a little bit more documentation more quickly. So it is just very user friendly. Super easy to use. And I really appreciate the county for allowing us to go that route. And so that's the new process. But other than that housing help events start back up with us. I know Tacoma pro bono. Y'all been doing them for the whole month, January but we will start back up in February. So I sent that calendar out. Just last week, just a couple days ago to the coalition. One change is the Puyallup Tribe now has their own funding. So if you have someone connected to any of the local tribes, please refer them over to pol tribe. They have their own fund source of rental assistance now and they have a couple million to spend. So just a note that that may be the only event that we have to cancel moving forward. So other than that, happy to answer any questions that y'all may have. And for everyone who helped out with the Point in Time Count, I will send Jeff thank you

Rob Huff

any questions? For Valerie?



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Valeri Knight

Cool, everybody have a good Friday.

Rob Huff

All right. Welcome back. And Garrett, you wanted to do a quick county announcement.

Gerrit Nyland

Yeah, I just wanted to say that the the one of the larger nofas the Notice of Funding Availability dropped on Monday. From the county. That's called the HDHP typically, which probably stands for something. So I'm going to put a link to that and really encourage agencies This is the broad span of funding the funds much of our homeless system, so it's got to get money from kind of all over the place. consolidated in one grant. So it's, um, it's something that if your agencies never applied before, then might be a great opportunity. And, and if your agency relies on that money, I'm sure you're working on the grant to keep it going. So I'll put that information in the chat and they'll definitely be a bidders. Conference, which is a great time to learn more about it and ask all the questions he got. Thanks. Great.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Garrett. Jennifer, you have your hand up.

Jeannie Schoeppe

My question was actually for Valerie. Sorry, I

Jennifer Ammons

couldn't get my hand up fast enough. Valerie, glad you got some good time off. You totally deserve it. We were wondering at this point is Pierce County pay paying any of those funds directly to rental households if the landlord is completely unwilling to work with the program?

Valeri Knight

No, we are not. We've only had two landlords who refused one we convinced to accept it but due to the really the the fraud but we are not at this time issuing any payments directly to tenants we issue payments only to landlords and utility companies. Okay, thanks. You're welcome.

Rob Huff

All right. So let's shift over to Janney from the health department for updates.

Jeannie Schoeppe

Hello, good morning. You're trying to wrap this up at 10 Right?



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Rob Huff

No, no, we're gonna go past him.

Jeannie Schoeppe

I'm way too. I'm way too verbose for that, but I will I will keep it short because I think the the discussion was really needed to be had earlier and I can always share my link. So I'll drop links in the chat. We kind of kind of same old over here. We're continuing to work on bolstering our testing resources so check the Get Tested page if you're in need of testing that's getting updated every day. Also drop a phone number that you or clients or guests or others can call for questions about testing. Um, get vaccinated. You've all heard we have a new variant or some variant of omachron it's called VA to it is being called stealth but that shouldn't make you think it's more dangerous or scary. It's simply what a virus does mutates and there are variations and there's every reason to think that our vaccines our current vaccines are protecting us from that so please, please please get vaccinated encourage others to do so. Um, my colleague Rachel has been sending great like weekly digest every week to this group, as well as the shelter group and the outreach distribution outreach teams, distribution groups, with a lot of the information that that we talked about in these meetings, so refer to her email from Wednesday for a lot of different links but that's that's it from me unless folks have questions

Rob Huff

aren't seeing any quite yet but Rob,

Valeri Knight

can I add something? Yeah, no. I'm gonna do a public shout out as someone who has to COVID patients in this house. It is so much easier to get tested in Pierce County than anywhere else. I had to deal with my in laws getting tested in Kitsap County chaos I had to deal with people getting tested in King County. When we did our crews. We had to get tested. Pierce County, you deserve so many props, for your drive up sights, your testing options, you're late and I'm not even working with Jenny on a daily basis. So this is not anything to do with me. But I mean, it is so much easier and more efficient to get tested in Pierce County than everywhere else. So kudos to y'all and for me personally. With COVID kids in the house. Thank you for everything that you've done because it is literally a game changer. Game Changer.

Jeannie Schoeppe

Thank you Valerie. I hope you all get better so soon and I will pass this on to that on to our testing group. They have been working so hard and receiving lots of abuse and social media, all of that. But yes, I know they're working hard and I know they're improving everyday. So thank you so much for sharing that and of course,



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Valeri Knight

people are coming down from kids have to get tested and peers because they can't get tested up there. So it needs to be said and also order your free kits from the state and the feds. I already got mine. So order your free kits. Yeah, I have a septum test at home. Super easy, super, super easy. So that's my that's my thing for the day.

Jeannie Schoeppe

I don't know if Pierce County library systems is restocking but Tacoma Public Libraries also free kits. That information is in the email that Rachel sent sent out on Wednesday. And also, I think, hopefully on our testing page. So yeah, get kits and keep them at home. Just have them on hand. Yes. Oh, great.

Rob Huff

Great, thank you and thank you for the reinforcement of the public service message there, Valerie. All right. So I don't know if we have anybody from Pierce County Department of Emergency Management on the call but this would be an opportunity for update from those folks.

Gerrit Nyland

Okay, at the risk of talking way too much. I just want to throw out we did have a debrief between Pierce County Human Services and Department of Emergency Management and the coalition on Thursday, Jan. They just yesterday and I thought it was a I thought it was a good conversation. So I'm just want to say that we're looking at how we respond next time around more effectively and that they are committed to to Jan and me showing up with Mike again. So I think Dan and Mike left a good impression and I'm just carrying through on the coattails.

Rob Huff

Thank you Garrett and Patricia.

I was just gonna say that the currently doing the FAST program so I think that's why Ivan's not here. I'm currently participating in that to develop Yeah, fast participants for emergency sheltering. So just wanted to give him a shout out on Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Patricia. So if there are no additions to the government updates, I don't know if Jenny if you wanted to say a word or two at all about housing vouchers out of the blue and you're muted right now, but you might be speaking to someone else. So um, let's shift over to talk about follow up conversation and with with the full group regarding the question that we asked during the breakout conversations last week, so I'm going to share a document in a moment but if you were here last week, you'll remember that the topic that we we asked everybody to talk about is what are three opportunities you see for the



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coalition in the next year. So many of you shared your the notes from your group back into the into the chat during last week's meeting and I took those raw notes and Teresa and rosemary worked late last night to put them into a little bit of a more sensical order. And so I'm going to share my screen to show this document and can somebody confirm that you're saying the document?

Yes.

Rob Huff

Okay. Great. So I am just getting my screen arranged here so that I can see everything. So we'll just walk through this briefly and have a conversation. What we heard everyone say kind of got grouped under four main topics, networking and collaboration, advocacy, emergency response efforts, and then community education and outreach. Teresa and rosemary Would one of you like to kind of talk about how you group these and and offer some thoughts about what you saw in the document?

Rosemary Powers

I can start briefly and then Teresa just add to it. We we went through everybody's comments and tried to see what were the places where people were making suggestions of our work and what could be better with our work in the coming years. So we don't know if we've reflected everybody's thoughts exactly. But we tried to group them that way. So the networking seems to be something that people were continuing to say we do this we should do more of it. We need to be sure we get more people in the room, get more people who should be at the table, more people who are have diverse experiences, that all came out really strongly and so that was a strong, strong support for that as an opportunity to continue what we do and then I'll speak to advocacy, and maybe Tracy, you could talk about the other two in this area. We know that some of the things following if you could move just down a little bit. Make sure I got all of that in there. Thanks, Rob. That many groups talked about our advocacy advocating for things to happen that need public support that we as a coalition don't have the funds to do but that we can advocate as individuals as agencies, as an as a whole coalition for some things we already are advocating for but there are opportunities to do more of it. So these are listed that way. stablishing safe campgrounds is something we can advocate for. We have a group working on safe parking and we continue to be creative in presenting ideas to the council and to governmental units about importance of safe parking. RV lots and campgrounds that have been determined as sanctioned by these groups. So that's something we think many of you were were saying we should continue and do more of and then our i a number of ideas for funding for the things that we are supporting. In crease interest in mental health and housing for sure. Some people were saying very clearly that the the importance of paying attention to the increasing housing crisis and the fact that in our discussion earlier today about the sweeps that if we don't have places for people to go, sweeps and camping bands will just be an inhumane way to deal with human beings. So advocating for the funding necessary for housing, and



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supportive services and prevention of homelessness were brought up by many people. So I'll leave for those two entries to leave the rest to you.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So these last two, a lot of people talked about getting even better at engaging with emergency response efforts. I think it was pretty universal that people thought this year was really this last year was a great time to get involved because there were such severe weather issues and that nothing was perfect, but that there was a lot of good stuff that was done. So keeping that up and finding new ways to do that. And then the community and education outreach. That's some of it's the stuff that save sites for all campaign has been already involved in but there are some other things that came up. Particularly one group had a lot to say about housing first that the that a lot of people don't understand what it is and why it's important. Anyway, the rest of it is pretty self explanatory. I'll leave it at that.

Rob Huff

So again, I want to express my appreciation to Rosemary and Teresa for pulling the document together and kind of making sense of all of our input from last week. So we have a couple of options here. We have 39 of us in the conversation this pair in the room still this morning. And I thought we should open up for a little bit of conversation about what we see in this document and see if it resonates with those of us who are here this morning. Whether you were in the conversation last week or not. Typically we would go into small breakouts but with a relatively small group of us this morning. I'm tempted to just spend a few minutes here in the larger group. But do you think Teresa and rosemary

Rosemary Powers

I think the larger group works well and I just maybe add one more thing of context. We are having conversations in a group that's called the governance work group about how the coalition can strengthen its ability and the things that we do well, and it would be useful to have folks clarify confirmation or additions to this to think about are these the things that we want to make sure in any structures that we promote or change that we want to push? As what the coalition should organize itself more clearly around? If there's one that's particularly strong than that would be something that a hearing from anyone in this call about what you want to be sure we focus our energies on would be I think useful for that governance work group conversation to

Rob Huff

thank you, rosemary and Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Just wanted to say I got a message about the acronyms and sorry about that. Some of them we cut and pasted from the comments. I can say that AMI is area median income, that this is in response to



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Elizabeth who sent me a text saying what about these acronyms? So Rob, I leave it to you to solve the rest of them.

Rob Huff

Pierce County Emergency Operations Center. Yeah. And you know, there's nothing more thrilling than watching someone type in public. So maybe I won't do too much of that. But um we can clean the document up and send it an email I know Verna X actually asked if we could send this out and this would be a good thing I think to share with the full mailing list after this morning's meeting. But I'd love to hear if folks have comments about whether they think what resonates in here or what's missing. And we can just kind of start from there. And what I will say is because we have a smaller group this morning, we wanted this to be the start of a conversation. It's really not going to be the be all and end all conversation. And then again with the caveat that I know I'm sleep deprived this morning, so I can't say I'm firing on all cylinders. So my apologies for that. Um, so Sally, I see you have your hand up.

Sally Perkins

Thank you, Rob. I wanted to emphasize the community education outreach piece, both addressing the myths as well as promoting understanding because when there's misinformation or emotionally generated information out there, it tends to influence policy in a bad way. And so what happens is, there's a lot of emotional reaction or there's a lot of overstatement of things, and the result is that policymakers feel a lot of pressure to respond. And when they do, it's not necessarily the outcome that we would hope for. So I just wanted to say I think that area is really important.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Sally. Casey, your heads up as well.

Kasey Burton

Thank you. So one thing that I actually think would be really helpful, especially in the community education component would be how do we gather data and how do we disseminate that data? Because I've been in meetings where people who are against certain things that would help folks are just kind of pulling numbers out of their bum. And you ask them, well, where'd you get that number? They're like, Well, I'm just estimating. It's like, well, that's very nice, but that doesn't really help anybody and some people are taking you at your word that this is. These are actual facts and statistics. So if there's any way that we could start gathering those, that would be amazing.

Rob Huff

Yeah, I completely agree. Let me see. I'm gonna save this document as a Word document. And so that I can drop it in the chat here in a moment. Do others have initial thoughts in response to this? In

Janet Runbeck



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the name of our coalition is the Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness. And the only way to end homelessness is to prevent homelessness. And so if we could have perhaps more of an emphasis on the path into homelessness thought, those were both mentioned in the document and I'm pleased about that. When when we push policy, which is a great approach to prevention of any anything that is not deemed healthy for society. When we push policy, we're yelling at policy makers, decision makers, yet when we don't even fund the city to provide a person that can attend our meetings. So what difference is policy make when they when we won't even agree that the disparity that causes lack of policy makers and decision makers, then then it's hopeless. It's just simply hopeless. So I encourage a strong emphasis on prevention and in order to do that, we have to understand the path into homelessness and any other social determinants of health. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jan. Patricia.

Um, there was a comment before about the data not meant to equal like, sort of client outcomes, because if you don't understand that you won't understand how it's like a lesson learned. The second is preventing homelessness, just a comment in regards to there's different pathologies that people fall into homelessness, but also the lack of treatment, the lack of like addiction treatment, the lack of mental health, that then some people just don't know. So how do you train those basic life skills? It's trying to stop that cycle. And that's really where I think that some of the pathologies are falling into homelessness. And how do you pull yourself out? So thank you for letting me share.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Patricia. And one thing that I think I think we can lean on pretty heavily is all of the work that was done by members of the coalition and Pierce County and other stakeholders including those with lived experience to create the plan to comprehensive plan to end homelessness, that Garrick helped pull together last year. I think we can lean heavily on that document as a source of data. I don't know how comfortable Garrett feels about that. But I know I ended up using the I'm far too active on Twitter and I spend a lot of time sharing with people the rough estimate of how many people are actually homeless in Pierce County, rather than for instance, the point in time data, just because it's for one thing, it's more digestible, but it also is easier to justify and backup than the information from say the Point in Time Count. Spending if you have any thoughts on that, Gary.

Gerrit Nyland

I mean, I think we just always have to kind of have a certain humility in our approach to what we know and what we don't know, and how we make our decisions. I think as a government, like I think transparency is really important, but so that's what we'll continue to do and yeah, the, the comprehensive plan should be basically bringing all of that into a central place. That's what we will be



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doing. And we just have a period of time between when we've decided to do it and when we're going to be actually, you know, executing that well enough, but um, I don't know that's a wandering comment, but i i pretty you know, it is so easy for me to argue lower numbers about how many effort to pick one number right how many people are homeless right now in Pierce County. I wish I knew better Ryan and I were trying to put things in motion so we do know better write better By Name List. Really is kind of the key. But so you know, identifying what we don't know and trying to learn how we can find that information and keep it current and publish some of that I'm in total aside someone asked me recently how how many people have wound care issues that are experiencing homelessness? And I was like, God me boy don't have any idea. And it just points out some of the stuff that you know, how do we develop a wound care program is a master's of public health student you know, if we don't actually know what the need is and, you know, I can connect in with hospitals like I know the people to talk to you but without the data. We really just don't have an ability to to make informed decisions about what needs to happen. So I'm definitely into collecting that. And when you find things that don't look right, I'm happy to identify my sources and work on getting them right.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Garrett. Ed, you have your hand up as well.

Ed Jacobs

Yeah. I guess one of the things that comes to mind is the statistics that we can pull from the data that we use for the homeless memorials, they the numbers of deaths and then the circumstances of death. So I would look forward to providing that information when appropriate to your data gathering. And, and also the, the effect. I mean, we basically have 30 years on average that people lose their lives when they become homeless. And those are hard numbers that we have now, and we'll be gathering more as we go forward.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Ed. So do we have some other folks some voices that we haven't heard, who'd like to share what their initial thoughts are from seeing the document? Around what opportunities there are? In this year? Love to hear from folks. And again, we don't have to belabor this this morning. I recognize we have a smaller group and it actually keeps getting smaller as we go along, which I should probably take is a clue. So we did schedule this morning's meeting to be a little shorter because we knew there wouldn't be as many of us here. But I do want to offer the opportunity still. So let's sit here in silence if we need to for a moment. If folks don't have anything to add, you can also drop your thoughts into the chat and like I said, I will send the document out after I fixed the acronyms to the mailing list so that folks can have an opportunity to look at it and we can have a larger conversation next week.

Elizabeth Clark

Just wanted to add something Hi Elizabeth. I didn't say anything about like harm reduction



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Laurie Davenport

on there. Has that been a topic? So it has

Theresa Power-Drutis

Go ahead. Just gonna say that's kind of the housing first and the safe sites. But all of those are aimed toward that but you make a good point that it's probably good to spell it out. I don't know where it would go but I think it's a good idea.

Rob Huff

Yeah, and I can I can actually add that on the fly here other thoughts? Okay, so, again, I don't I appreciate everybody's patience this morning. As we kind of take a first look at this. And again, I will send this out later today on the mailing list so that everybody has an opportunity to take a look at it in more depth without having sprung on you. So thank you. Um, let's shift to the last few items on our agenda for today. Jan, do you have any updates for the safe sites for all group?

Janet Runbeck

Yes, I think safe sites for all has taken on yet another project that was identified became quite obvious during the inclement weather. One of the options that this coalition has addressed is that there's no network of staged sites throughout the county. for outreach workers. We have amazing outreach workers. Both volunteer and there's an informal and formal system of outreach workers that actually go to the street and talk to our folks who are living houseless. So we will take on the task of starting a network of supply stations throughout the county, leaning heavily on faith based organizations or any community centers anybody that wants to be a partner. And last week we had verta, Washington agreed to be on the part of the solution with Tacoma ministerial alliance. Dion Jacobson. agreed with us. Selvig St. Vincent DePaul, my boy sure agreed, and he's very he's very active chaplain in the greater Puyallup area. Of course, we've got associated ministries, and we got we know a ton of Episcopalians and Methodists that will jump on board too, because so many of them are active in our in our group. So, um, if you have a suggestion of a site either within the city of Tacoma or with work definitely within the Pierce County that might participate as a staging area for emergency supplies and this would be first for the congregants and next for the immediate not next, but as the knee presents itself, those supplies would be there for the congregants for the neighbors because we do know through research neighbors are going to go to a church if the if there's an emergency happening, neighbors will go to church, and then for those who live homeless. So just I will put my email in the chat and then show up on Monday every Monday at noon at our zoom meeting which is listed on our website. Thank you.

Thank you, Jen.



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Gerrit Nyland

Toss something out relative to that. So they HHP which

Rob Huff

Oh no. homeless housing housing programs,

Gerrit Nyland

homeless housing programs grant. We did include language in the expectations of providers around emergency response this time so shelter providers, how reach providers, the expectations are in detail but that they will need to be responsive during declared sort of event. Want to throw that out? Little things are happening just like Jan's working on

Janet Runbeck

well, was was there gonna be a program director of that?

Gerrit Nyland

Interesting question. I don't think we know how the county is going to be designing our response, but there will be assigned roles of that nature. So we'll see. keep harassing me, Jim.

Rob Huff

are gone. Alright, so any coalition committee updates that everybody needs to hear about this morning? Nothing rosemary.

Rosemary Powers

Not just not this morning. Okay.

Rob Huff

And any other just general announcements that would be good for folks who are still in the room? All right, so we ran a little bit over on today's meeting that was expected to be short, but I appreciate everybody being here. If anybody has any kind of reflection on today's meeting, if there's things that you think could be improved, or things that went well, I'd love to hear about them. So please drop those in the in the chat. And if you do have an interest in helping us plan for upcoming meetings, we will have a small group of us staying on this call to plan for next week's meeting and those beyond. So with that, I wish everybody happy and safe. Weekend and have a great day everybody