



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

Friday Coalition Meeting – Chat – February 11, 2022

00:07:49 - Sally Perkins: - The County dates are on the County Council web site, too.

00:11:03 - Janet Runbeck: - Happy 88th birthday to Tina Louise from Giligan's Island

00:13:12 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Zoom Norms

Mute yourself when not talking.

Use Zoom's raise hand feature if you have something to say.

Limit distractions by turning off your camera if you need to take another call.

00:13:32 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Community Norms

Lead with a racial equity lens.

Be aware of power dynamics.

Challenge concepts, not people.

Listen to learn.

One person speaks at a time.

Speak from your own experience.

Make space, take space.

Assume best intentions and take responsibility for impact.

Be aware of time and agenda.

00:14:58 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Zoom Norms

Mute yourself when not talking.

Use Zoom's raise hand feature if you have something to say.

Limit distractions by turning off your camera if you need to take another call.

00:15:13 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Community Norms

Lead with a racial equity lens.

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Assume best intentions and take responsibility for impact.

Be aware of time and agenda.

00:16:25 - Stacey Soltoff: - ❤️ your poem selection for the day!

00:17:04 - Sunshine Harper: - Hi everyone!!! :)

00:17:19 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Hi Sunshine!

00:18:47 - Ed Jacobs: - Hi Janeen

00:20:34 - Sunshine Harper: - Sunshine Harper CHAP (College Housing Assistance Program) Navigator at TCC. You can reach me at 253-566-5210 [sharper@tacomacc.edu](mailto:sharper@tacomacc.edu)

00:21:04 - PATRICIA .: - Prayers & Blessings for Maureen ❤️

00:21:30 - Sally Perkins: - Amen, Patricia!

00:21:49 - Richard Dorsett: - During last week's call I was at the 705 encampment watching the sweep. Can we notch out a moment to acknowledge that however many people were camping and were moved from the 705 encampment; none of them were moved into shelter. None. I go again today to watch the end of the sweep. I do not accept what the city of Tacoma is doing to people living on the streets.

00:22:53 - Stacey Soltoff: - thank you for that Richard



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- 00:26:16 - Kasey Burton: - Are we keeping track of WHY people aren't taking the shelter offered?
- 00:27:13 - Rob Huff (he/him): - I heard city staff say that they are asking those questions when doing outreach, but I have not seen any report on what they are being told. City Council members at yesterday's CVS meeting were unaware of that data collection as well...
- 00:28:07 - Stacey Soltoff: - it's punishing our unhoused neighbors for the COMMUNITY'S failure to provide sanitation infrastructure
- 00:29:11 - Sally Perkins: - it sounds to me like 705 was allowed to get to a crisis point...and then there was "justification" to do the sweep...this dynamic is very troubling.
- 00:29:28 - Gerrit Nyland: - Pretty much only congregate shelter space is currently available - not an options for many.
- 00:30:30 - Stacey Soltoff: - can we please stop calling them sweeps like these people are trash & call them what they are?! evictions
- 00:31:12 - Sally Perkins: - Don't the congregate settings require people to leave early each morning and then essentially compete for a space again each night?
- 00:31:57 - Jeffrey Boyce: - That is how it works Sally.
- 00:32:27 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Not all congregate shelters work that way
- 00:33:05 - Sally Perkins: - Thank you, Jeffrey. I have friends who have been referred to congregate shelter who left the first morning and did not return. Congregate shelter is not a workable option for people.
- 00:33:07 - Rob Huff (he/him): - I agree, Monique. The city allowed the site to become what it is. That was a decision.
- 00:33:07 - Janeen Provazek: - Its clear that the city set itself up by letting the 705 camp get so large without setting up adequate services and monitoring. Unacceptable!
- 00:33:51 - Jeffrey Boyce: - There is plenty of evidence that smaller camps are more easily managed.
- 00:35:11 - Sally Perkins: - EXACTLY, Richard. No ban, just sweeps. In what universe does this work?
- 00:35:15 - Stacey Soltoff: - we had previously negotiated w the city to provide 2 weeks notice
- 00:35:15 - Rob Huff (he/him): - The system is working as it was designed.
- 00:35:38 - Stacey Soltoff: - VERY TRUE Rob!
- 00:35:41 - Cynthia Stewart: - The Coalition should go en masse to both the Pierce County Council and the Tacoma City Council and demand that new affordable housing be developed as soon as possible, including options for people now in encampments. There is a lack of housing, not just shelter options.
- 00:36:07 - Sally Perkins: - It sets the outreach staff people up to fail, not fair.
- 00:36:08 - Stacey Soltoff: - we've sent letters to the city before. we need a demonstration
- 00:36:33 - Jennifer Ammons: - Successful outreach to people who are chronically homeless requires a LOT of trust-building, which takes time. 7 days is ridiculous.
- 00:36:45 - Cynthia Stewart: - No, I didn't mean letters; I meant attending their meetings.
- 00:36:52 - Monique Brown: - Agreed Jennifer!
- 00:37:39 - Janet Runbeck: - it might be more than supply of affordable of housing, which is real. For some folks, we also need supportive housing, with services for SUD & mental health.
- 00:37:54 - Sally Perkins: - County affordable housing needs assessment says there are some 13000 affordable housing units needed for people at incomes at 50% area median income and lower, who cannot afford market rental rates. 13000.
- 00:37:55 - Cynthia Stewart: - Agreed
- 00:38:14 - Cynthia Stewart: - We need to insist that they put the money in
- 00:39:16 - Jeffrey Boyce: - There are cities that are very successful in helping their unsheltered people.
- 00:39:23 - Sally Perkins: - It is a use of force that is used without any policy direction from the City Council.



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- 00:40:17 - Stacey Soltoff: - we've tried "sanctioned" encampments before. the City undermines them by moving them
- 00:40:45 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - A lot of talk - but Monique (FOB Hope) is the closest to opening
- 00:41:22 - Janet Runbeck: - Low barrier = fewer qualifying restrictions to enter
- 00:42:39 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - We need permanent KOA style campgrounds not mobile half-baked temporary camps that just create division and anger on all sides
- 00:42:56 - Monique Brown: - Yaaaaassssss, Theresa!!!!
- 00:44:00 - Laurie Davenport: - We're seeing a few tents around the little park near the Temple Theatre, 1st Pres., just this week.
- 00:44:24 - Rob Huff (he/him): - I will get to Jeffrey and Gerald, and then we should move this discussion to the chat so we can stay in touch with our agenda for today.
- 00:45:31 - Jennifer Ammons: - Yes, we need significant investment in supportive housing, but our lack of truly affordable housing is a crisis right now. We have so many clients who are being forced out of stable housing by their landlord doubling or tripling the rent! Landlords are justifying this based on the eviction moratorium preventing smaller rent raises for 1 1/2 years, while home values have soared. We lawyers can't stop this from happening, because there is no limit on how much rent is increased, with 60 days' notice. This is putting more people into the homeless population faster than we can all house people.
- 00:46:30 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Thank you for that information, Jennifer. It is the worst kind of perfect storm.
- 00:47:05 - Sally Perkins: - Wow, Jennifer, that's truly awful. But thank you for putting it out there.
- 00:47:13 - Jennifer Ammons: - The city and county need to require that developers set aside more units at ACTUALLY affordable rates for lower income renters.
- 00:47:35 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Outreach workers need someplace to point people toward
- 00:48:38 - Sally Perkins: - Outreach workers need robust services to refer people to, that are easy to access and long term.
- 00:48:42 - Stacey Soltoff: - if I'm being given the choice bw getting slapped in the face or punched in the gut, I'm being given a choice, but is it really a choice?
- 00:48:45 - Christine Lindquist: - I think that we have to acknowledge that if the type of shelter doesn't work for people, it's not working.
- 00:49:48 - Gerrit Nyland: - Total shelter beds available on February 7th:  
Single Adult: 36  
Single Adult - Puyallup Police Referral: 8  
Unaccompanied Youth: 7  
Young Adults: 1  
Veterans (in Orting): 10  
Families: 0  
Mixed Household Type: 0
- 00:50:13 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - "I don't always call them sweeps. Sometimes I refer to them as 'enforcement actions' or 'cleanups.' But I think when you are moving people around who have nowhere to go because people don't want to see them, then 'sweeps' can be accurate. If I was the administration, I think I would be less concerned about what they are called and more concerned about the impact it has on people and communities."

~Cathy Alderman, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless.



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- 00:51:55 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Oppose false dichotomies. We can maintain the public commons AND provide safe public space for unsheltered people to sleep  
We can respect the rights of housed people, businesses, government employees, and people without houses all at the same time
- 00:52:21 - Stacey Soltoff: - thank you for that, Theresa
- 00:54:07 - Richard Dorsett: - I no longer own a suit and tie. My wife gave them all to just threads.
- 00:54:36 - Verda Washington: - We need to be able to educate the citizens to mentally put ourselves in the spaces occupied by individuals trying to navigate homelessness. People without housing are human too. More families will be joining that never expected it to them. Let us live with compassion and empathy.
- 00:55:25 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Just Threads is a beautiful and welcoming space - I look forward to a reopening sometime soon
- 00:55:29 - Rosemary Powers: - Thanks Stacey, Theresa, and Verda. appreciate your thoughtful comments.
- 00:56:10 - Sally Perkins: - The District Court Resource Center is FABULOUS.
- 01:00:44 - Stacey Soltoff: - clothing bank info in the chat?
- 01:01:14 - Mark Merrill: - Where can we take clothing donations for Just Threads?
- 01:01:32 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - This is what Community looks like!
- 01:01:41 - Monique Brown: - [mbrown@fobhope.org](mailto:mbrown@fobhope.org)
- 01:02:28 - Monique Brown: - How do you reconcile that on your books?
- 01:03:58 - Laurie Davenport: - I can't concur enough with Jennifer's statement - every time we do an outreach session I see one heartbreaking case after another, usually seniors/disabled single people on fixed incomes whose rent has been raised and they literally have nowhere to go. They will not survive being homeless.
- 01:04:15 - Michael Yoder: - I believe the donated items themselves can be transferred between nonprofits, the difficulty relates to accounting for the donation; i.e. it isn't legal for both orgs to list the donation on their books
- 01:04:19 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Just Threads: Andrew Gelstin  
Alternative Programs Supervisor  
Pierce County District Court Resource Center  
[andrew.gelstin@piercescountywa.gov](mailto:andrew.gelstin@piercescountywa.gov)  
(253) 798-7595
- 01:04:47 - Andrew Gelstin: - Correction to contact number:
- 01:04:49 - Monique Brown: - Thank you, Michael. I will look into it.
- 01:05:10 - Gerald Daniels: - I'm stepping away for a minute or two
- 01:05:18 - Andrew Gelstin: - MY office new office number is: 253 798 8146
- 01:05:49 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Sorry about that
- 01:06:14 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - LINK to HB 1904 Action:  
<https://housingalliance.salsalabs.org/takeactionhb1904andsb57490/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=0c203b50-c826-4632-a02e-2c5441590029>
- 01:06:59 - Andrew Gelstin: - We are located at 925 Tacoma Ave S next to the old TAPCO across from the County City Bldg. if you would like to drop off donations.
- 01:07:39 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Here is another quick advocacy update, emailed to me just now from Maureen:
- 01:07:55 - Rob Huff (he/him): - I am so proud to share that  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1620&Initiative=false&Year=2021>, the Extreme Weather Protection Act, has passed off the House Floor! Thank you for your continuous support as this



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bill moved through the legislative process in the House. The strong bipartisan support and vote of 68-28 off the floor, shows that legislators recognize the value of this bill to address extreme weather events and provide for our communities.

While the results in the House are encouraging, HB 1620 must now pass through the Senate. I kindly ask for your continued support and testimony as this bill continues through the legislative process.

01:08:20 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - LINK to 2022 Housing Alliance Priorities:

<https://www.wliha.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/2022%20Legislative%20Agenda.pdf>

01:08:52 - Rob Huff (he/him): - The text that I shared came from an email from Rep. Mari Leavitt.

01:09:08 - Janeen Provazek: - I have another meeting to go to. Thank you all for your valuable feedback and work!

01:10:04 - Jennifer Ammons: - We have a disabled older client who will have to leave her rented home of 13 years because her rent is being raised from \$900/mo to over \$2000/mo. Her disability income is only about \$1200-1300.

01:10:13 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - Here's my email: [pol@wliha.org](mailto:pol@wliha.org)

Here's Michele's email: [michelet@wliha.org](mailto:michelet@wliha.org)

01:10:37 - Jennifer Ammons: - Thank you for working on that, Po!

01:10:39 - Jeffrey Boyce: - Rep Mari Leavitt is a strong supporter of the Bills assisting those who are unsheltered.

01:10:39 - Christine Lindquist: - Thank you, Po!

01:13:06 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Po Thank you so much for call to action, the great explanations, and the good work you do

01:15:14 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - Thank you, too! We're in this together! Honored to be here, alongside you all.

01:16:55 - Jennifer Ammons: - Thank you, ChiQuata! You are such an amazing resource for landlords, tenants, and service providers here in Tacoma!

01:18:37 - Laurie Davenport: - Thank you Chiquita!!

01:18:47 - Laurie Davenport: - Chiquita!

01:19:05 - Jennifer Ammons: - Any estimate when the portal will be back up?

01:19:08 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - ChiQuata: are there any City funds to help people who offer low income housing to bring that housing up to code if they agree to keep rents low? Particularly when a code violation might shut them down

01:19:55 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - No one is higher than you Valeri

01:20:11 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Happy almost birthday!

01:20:21 - Jennifer Ammons: - Well, then we need to raise your pay grade! ;)

01:20:42 - Jeff Rodgers: - Valeri got a pay raise January 1st

01:20:53 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Happy 10th anniversary!

01:20:53 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - You're awesome Valeri!

01:21:08 - Patty Schneider: - Congrats

01:21:20 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - Thank you so much!

01:21:34 - Valeri Almony: - Absolutely Po email me [valeri.almony@piercescountywa.gov](mailto:valeri.almony@piercescountywa.gov) if i can help anyway

01:23:21 - Janet Runbeck: - Syphilis is on the rise: pass out condoms!!!

01:23:24 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - Saved you in my Contacts, Valeri! Happy Birthday and thank you for all your work, thus far!

01:23:50 - Valeri Almony: - Thank you so much and thank you for all of your hardwork

01:24:24 - Jeffrey Boyce: - Janet, sources of free condoms?



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- 01:26:15 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - I lost 8 loved ones last year to Covid. THANK YOU for this!!!
- 01:26:56 - Monique Brown: - I'm sorry for you loss, PO
- 01:27:04 - Rob Huff (he/him): - So sorry, Po.
- 01:27:21 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - This is why we fight, y'all! Much love and thank you.
- 01:27:38 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - Thanks Jennie!
- 01:27:41 - Janet Runbeck: - The T-PCHD has them in the STD office. I can get some, and Narcan. Let me know how and where to meet.
- 01:28:28 - Jennie Schoeppe: - Vaccine info: <https://www.tpchd.org/vaxtothefuture>
- 01:28:41 - Jennie Schoeppe: - Testing info: <https://www.tpchd.org/gettested>
- 01:28:43 - Gerrit Nyland: - Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness Adoption Schedule:  
\* It will be in front of the County Human Services Committee on Tuesday, February 15, 9:30am. View the proceedings or make commends at <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/5179/Human-Services-Committee>
- \* In front of the full County Council - Tuesday, March 1, 3:00pm -  
<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/4516/Council-Meetings>
- 01:28:51 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - Thank you Verna. <3
- 01:29:19 - Jennie Schoeppe: - Sorry for your loss, Po <3
- 01:32:38 - Serena Thomson: - anxiety and shortness of breath / not my best self
- 01:33:15 - Stacey Soltoff: - chronic hyperventilation - breathing from the top of my chest instead of my belly
- 01:33:37 - Kristina Lamb: - My blood pressure goes up and I feel disconnected
- 01:33:40 - Betty Beer: - cry
- 01:33:41 - Jennifer Ammons: - Always tired.
- 01:33:53 - Sally Perkins: - Irritated much of the time.
- 01:34:29 - Laurie Davenport: - Angry, rushed, not myself.
- 01:34:38 - Kristina Lamb: - I lose my appetite and it does not take much to make me want to take a nap.
- 01:34:40 - Jeffrey Boyce: - tightness between shoulder blades.
- 01:34:47 - Monique Brown: - I cry too, Betty!
- 01:37:09 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - 100% Verna. Thank you for this reminder!
- 01:37:13 - Stacey Soltoff: - this is why loving-kindness meditation includes oneself AND others!
- 01:40:27 - Stacey Soltoff: - the perfect is the enemy of the good
- 01:40:52 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - I love that spot!
- 01:41:08 - Sunshine Harper: - This looks like Titlow!
- 01:42:04 - Stacey Soltoff: - anything worth doing is worth doing poorly... no time for a hike? take a short walk around the block
- 01:45:04 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - Love this analogy..
- 01:45:09 - Monique Brown: - Veterans press 1 when they call the crisis line
- 01:45:16 - Sunshine Harper: - I love it too!!!
- 01:45:19 - Jennie Schoeppe: - THANKS, Verna!
- 01:45:35 - Jeffrey Boyce: - Thank you Verna!
- 01:45:41 - Monique Brown: - Thank you, Verna! I needed this today!
- 01:45:45 - Christine Lindquist: - Thank you, Verna! Lovely.
- 01:45:46 - Sunshine Harper: - Thank you so much Verna! With work and personal life, this helped me so much!!
- 01:45:46 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - It must work - I didn't want to open my eyes



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01:45:47 - Stacey Soltoff: - cool thing about your breath is it's the only autonomic function we have conscious control over. we can use our breath to hack into our autonomic nervous system to switch from fight-flight-freeze into tend-and-befriend/rest-and-digest

01:45:52 - Po Leapai, he/him, Housing Alliance: - Verna, thank you so much!

01:45:52 - Laurie Davenport: - Thank you Verna! That helped!

01:46:01 - Stacey Soltoff: - thanks Vern!

01:46:07 - Verna Lilly: - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration (SAMHSA) National Hotline

Call: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Website:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>

01:46:11 - Stacey Soltoff: - \*Verna

01:47:00 - Stacey Soltoff: - at work. not able to fully participate in groups 🙄

01:47:43 - Jennifer Ammons: - also having tech issues!

01:48:43 - Stacey Soltoff: - there's a proverb: you should meditate for an hour a day... Unless you are v busy. then you should meditate for two! sounds like you need to meditate, Rob 😊

01:52:46 - Stacey Soltoff: - ot's not like they're looking at them over the weekend 😊

01:55:08 - Stacey Soltoff: - no. mine was clipped off & I called her Vern 😊

01:58:05 - Janet Runbeck: - Room 9: Wake up each morning with gratitude. Words of wisdom from our UWT student.

01:58:49 - Stacey Soltoff: - of course they did 😊

01:59:33 - Verna Lilly: - Room One - Biking, walking, music, activities that require mindfulness take us out of our stress

02:00:02 - Sally Perkins: - I am uncomfortable with the word "camping" describing unhoused people trying to shelter themselves...--are there any workable alternative words?

02:01:31 - Rob Huff (he/him): - If others took notes in their breakout rooms, please share here.

02:02:04 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Camper may be a more welcome label than homeless - but good to talk about alternatives too

02:02:51 - Johnathan Hemphill: - sally can we connect on the lived experience piece id like to hear more

02:03:21 - Sally Perkins: - Sure Johnathan, can I e=mail you?

02:03:37 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - What was the term for camping during the dustbowl? Nomads?

02:03:52 - Jennie Schoeppe: - Breakout (can't remember room #): shutting off work communications at night (not answering work calls), treating ourselves with the respect and love we would offer others/friends, appreciating our own stress but also not 'catastrophizing' -- "is this my worst day"?

02:04:17 - Johnathan Hemphill: - yup! but also call me as well so times my email its flooded

02:04:18 - Jeffrey Boyce: - refugees

02:04:39 - Johnathan Hemphill: - [Johnathan@wearelec.org](mailto:Johnathan@wearelec.org)

02:04:43 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - economic refugees?

02:05:01 - Jeffrey Boyce: - I like that

02:05:12 - Jennifer Ammons: - Love it, Theresa!

02:05:47 - Johnathan Hemphill: - gotcha rob

02:06:03 - Sally Perkins: - Internally displaced people.



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- 02:06:06 - Johnathan Hemphill: - will id love to give an update next friday
- 02:06:10 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Gerrit: You should have actual hats to switch, I have some thought on the styles you could use : )
- 02:07:33 - Stacey Soltoff: - love it Theresa! economic refugees!
- 02:08:28 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Another nudge: can we end these meetings at 10:50 to give people time to pause before 11 am meetings?
- 02:08:28 - Jennie Schoeppe: - Another thought from my breakout room: We agreed that Verna's advice to do what you can vs think you have to do ALL THE self-care things, is great advice!
- 02:08:35 - Gerrit Nyland: - If you didn't see it, the County's Behavioral Health - <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/2779/Solicitations-and-Competitive-Bids> - If you have any questions please direct them to [Kristy.lysell@piercecounywa.gov](mailto:Kristy.lysell@piercecounywa.gov)
- 02:09:33 - Tim Harris: - Tripod Slideshow Series, Feb 18, 7pm Center for Spiritual Living. Dignity City: Streetpapers and the art of homeless empowerment. <https://www.facebook.com/events/625319178588148/?ref=newsfeed>
- 02:11:30 - Nicole Fortino: - Thank You
- 02:11:38 - Rob Huff (he/him): - [rhuff@mdc-hope.org](mailto:rhuff@mdc-hope.org)
- 02:11:59 - Sunshine Harper: - Thank you everyone!! See you next week!! :)