



## Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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### SUMMARY KEYWORDS

encampments, folks, tacoma, household, pierce county, meeting, housing, subsidy, site, move, chat, week, homelessness, program, put, rosemary, city, coalition, outreach, people

### SPEAKERS

Jeff Rodgers, Richard, Jeffrey Boyce, Jennie Schoeppe, Janet Thiessen, Kathy, Karla Martinez, Laurie Davenport, Ed Jacobs, Carolyn Reed, Rob Huff, Theresa Power-Drutis, Kenneth King, Jess Thompson, ChiQuata Elder, Rosemary Powers, Mike Boisture, Betty, Gerald Daniels, Serena Thompson, Janne Hutchins, Janet Runbeck, Helena, Joanna, Jenny Lorton, Janae Warley

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### Rosemary Powers

Thank you, Robin. Welcome everyone I was thinking about today is the Friday before another federal holiday which because of my state in life I haven't been paying too much attention to every day seems like the next sometimes. But holidays. In general, as I looked a little bit about this, were intended oftentimes to disrupt the ordinary routine of life and give us an opportunity to do some of the things that Verner discussed with us last week to pay attention to the world to pay attention to ourselves and our energies to reflect on what we're doing. And it's a little bit ironic that in 1971, the US Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which is what we have here. The idea was to give American workers a three day holiday so they could plan a little more. And I think for many people, that's probably something they like to have. What it doesn't do is that disruption in the same way that something that happened in the middle of the week, or when you didn't expect it can sometimes make us think a little more differently. And for this holiday, Washington's birthday was established in 1918 85 on February 22 Then Lincoln's I don't remember the date of the finding of it, but it was for February 12. But now we've got Presidents Day so that's what we have. I don't know what anyone be reflecting on about the presidents but there we go. We got a day off those of us who are employed. But the writer EB white makes the point I wanted to just reflect on very briefly here he says. If it were merely challenging, that



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would be no problem. But I arised in the morning torn between a desire to improve or save the world and a desire to enjoy or savor the world this makes it hard to plan the day. I'll put that quote in the chat for anyone who'd like to have it. But of course the challenge is not a mere one, especially for those who spend every day trying to survive in the situation where they have no stable housing. And for anyone who is walking with them on that journey. So we're today we're going to have an opportunity in our breakouts to discuss what is of most passionate concern to us. And so look forward to doing that with you. And it's not really difficult to plan the day when you do this kind of work. There's always something to do around every corner. So welcome to our savoring of our world together. Let me just remind everyone who's here who may have not for me forgotten but just remind about the way we do our work here together. We have an unzoom we ask people to raise us the raise hand function. And if that's not possible for you find some other way to get attention but that's the appreciated way and then to keep ourselves muted when we're not speaking And to turn off our videos when we're doing other things so we're not distracting. We also use the chat as a way to enter to interact with each other. So it's not disrespectful at all to speakers. It's just seen as our way of making connections. So put your questions especially if you're new and not sure what has been going had going on here before. Sometimes a question is that easy to ask in the middle of another discussion, so put it in there and someone will respond. I'm confident of that. Also, we have norms around the way we interact with each other and they're basically norms of respect paying attention to our our words, the power we may bring to a situation making sure we encourage others to speak. So with that, I'd like to invite those of you who are new today or maybe going to be speaking with us later today. To just introduce yourself and indicate if you're with a group or not, that's fine. And you can unmute and do that at this point if you are liking to

## **Joanna**

Hey, good morning everyone. My name is Joanna and I am very interested in helping people with homelessness. So I came across this Zoom meeting at the last minute this morning and was able to get registered and get in to sit with you folks. I noticed there's a new encampment coming going up near my home and I just like to know how I can best help.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Joanna that's that's a perfect, perfect thing to be doing. So thank you so much for joining us.

## **Joanna**

Thank you, I appreciate it. And although next,

## **Jess Thompson**

I'm just Thompson, I am part of the policy innovation and evaluation department at Tacoma housing authority. So I will be presenting to you all about some proposed changes to our housing opportunity program and our college Housing Assistance Program. So thanks for having



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## **Rosemary Powers**

thanks for joining us just to really look forward to that.

## **Kenneth King**

I have not been in this meeting before. My name is Kenneth King. I'm with Pierce County Alliance. I'm on the new Pierce County recovery navigator program coordination outreach coordinator.

## **Rosemary Powers**

And it's great thanks to you for your work and glad you're here.

## **Karla Martinez**

I'm Karla Martinez. I also work for Pierce County Alliance as one of the recovery navigators and the recovery navigator program. And I want to kill us coworkers are just trying to get some more referrals for our program and trying to help homeless people and drug addicted people get homeless services for housing.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Excellent. Carla. We're really happy to have you too. Thank you

## **Janae Warley**

My name is Janae Warli I am a volunteer homeless advocate who has been homeless in the past myself. I'm working on a nonprofit that will with long term homeless and reoccurring homeless issues from people that are disabled otherwise that kind of slipped through our system.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Jana, that's Jeanette Jen Nia, that I'm hope I'm saying it right.

## **Janae Warley**

Please call me Jay.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Okay. If you if you want to make other contacts here, you put your name and contact information in the chat and then people can refer can talk with you later off after this. Meeting. That'd be great. Thank you all right. Welcome, everybody today, and so we got to meet some new folks. You didn't get to meet all of us, but we'll have a chance to meet a few more later in the meeting. And Rob, it's up to you now.

## **Rob Huff**

Oh boy. Thanks. Rosemary. And it's great to see everybody this morning. 63 of us in the room. That's a good turnout. So let's get started with our this week on the street segment of the meeting. So we've



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devoted quite a bit of time to this morning's meeting after having such a robust conversation about what people were seeing on the streets last week. We wanted to carve out good time for that this week. And so this during this portion of the meeting, we urge folks who are interacting directly with those who are living on the streets, outreach teams, those kinds of folks to share what they're seeing, share what the needs are, and what changes we're seeing in the last week. And really counting on Richard being able to share a little context today. So let's go ahead and get started. Just raise your hand if you have something to add.

## **Richard**

Okay, sure. Obviously, the 705 in campus sweep was front and front center. I think the thing to pay attention to is there been one to policy that was a sweep and fight at 72nd and I and now the 705 and Jeffrey and others you may add on to this too, but what I'm seeing is a whole lot of people moving around some onesies and twosies encampments springing up. And I guess what's on my mind, too is one a the possibility of an after action review might be a welcome thing, particularly if the city were able to participate in and then I'm also considering where's the next sweep going to occur? When are they going to post and the one thing 705 As far as I know, people go out there besides myself. Frequently I'm out there alone. I'm the you know, other than the city people. It would be useful that maybe we could huddle up and coordinate and be present when when the next when the next event occurs, which probably isn't going to be too long. They fence the 7052 days ago. Fencing costs \$1,200 plus, plus labor and staffing and all that went on so the sweep was not inexpensive for the for the week. And then there'll be there's a about two stragglers on the south side, or whatever side that is the lower side of the encampment, and then I suspect tightening up the fencing. As the final campers are. Leave the he leaves the encampment. So that's kind of what's going on. It's kind of a ghost town, ghost town down there right now.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Richard and I know a number of folks have been going out to seventh and Tacoma Avenue, as well. So there might be some folks who have something to say there. I'm Helena, I see your hand up.

## **Helena**

I'm from serve the people and so I wanted to speak. We're alternating me and ZEV who was here last week. I'm speaking to people last weekend. There was a pretty high in awareness of kind of how there is the local ordinance but also how they view themselves to be impacting businesses in the local community. In thinking about how they like are they see people crossing the street or going around the block to avoid encampments and that they also have a desire for things to be cleaner. But also, like, of course not wanting to be swept or evicted from their their homes. We've been able to up our program a little bit by gaining better access to a food pantry with a lot more food. And so we've kind of cut that out and we can grow and develop our food service much with much more recipes and healthy things. So that's kind of where we're at. And I'm glad to hear about kind of how things went with the 705 sweep



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because I wasn't aware of where people are but I'm definitely seeing also like the movement that he just spoke about from people. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

So I thought I would share. I also was out last weekend just running in the far south part of town and did notice a relatively large number of folks living just off of McKinley in vehicles. Not far from where the Planet Fitness site was that 72nd going to hell street so that area and around blueberry Park look like where a number of folks settled but but not in a similar manner yet to what was at 72nd in hell Street. One other thing I did want to throw into the mix and I'm sure those who have been doing direct outreach or have been paying attention but excuse me, the weather is actually predicted to get kind of cold in the next week. down into the 20s to be a continue Carla There we go. Um, so there's gonna be a continued need for cold weather gear and help for folks who are struggling with staying out outdoors during that cold weather. So I just wanted to plant that seed as well. Others with thoughts about what they're seeing on the streets this week. I've been oh sorry. Yeah, going on in it.

## **Joanna**

Yeah, I was just, you know, we've got a small little encampment happening to starting to happen this last week on C Street and about 140/3 You know, I've got a couple of one really large tent going up another small tent. I'm concerned about weather coming as well. You know, what can I do as just John Q Public? How can I be of help? With these? Folks?

## **Rob Huff**

That's a great question. It might have some thoughts, because I know Ed did it direct outreach during the cold weather there at the end of December and early January in terms of that short term, help to get through the cold head.

## **Ed Jacobs**

Yeah. If we can get blankets to hand out and water clean and dry socks are really important in that environment and the 18 hour hand warmers make a huge difference because they can actually start the hand warmers, put it in their sleeping bag and go to sleep knowing that they're still going to be warm. or semi warm when they wake up. I'm I'm seeing just a lot of of movement of people, some of which have landed at 10th and 11th and I in that area. And it it looks to be to have some folks in there that will clean up after each other so over the last few days they've been been policing the area and making sure that the garbage is picked up which is great.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you for that ad. Janet. And you're muted right now.

## **Janet Thiessen**



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Thank you. I was out just one day this week with Richard for a few minutes. And people did seem to be settling in at L whatever it is 11. No. But what I also did I'll just mentioned quickly I spent some time with the business people there by Johnson candy that have had windows broken and I've had some really great conversations about what they'd like to see happen. They do not want the homeless people to go into jail. They don't want to criminalise they don't want. They've had a lot of people coming around and talking to them. I think from winning, kind of wanting to just sweep them out, you know, wherever and then yesterday, I have a friend that lives right. Right by the donut which is on 11th and bi I very progressive young woman now has a baby and has a business downtown. She will not she said her biggest thing was the trash. But not only the trash, she's got a baby. She cannot take the baby in the stroller. I can't take you know can't go for a walk anymore. And I feel such an urgency that if people you know like you all that are doing all this great work. If we can't get some of this taken care of that we're going to go to more draconian measures. So that's just my personal you know, being out there but lots of good conversations with with the unhoused and with caring very caring business people and residents. Thank you,

## **Rob Huff**

Jeffrey.

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

Well, I'd like to add my common themes for those who have been saying what can we do? Garbage bags, garbage bags, garbage bags. I can't stress that enough. And the city will pick them up. And we just have to let them know where they are. But they've already made arrangements to pick up the garbage bags. If they're if the garbage is in bags or a box and stacked appropriately. They will be picked up

## **Richard**

it Jeffrey Is there a number I had the same conversation a little bit with some Catherine Rasika yesterday. Is there a specific number to call to let them know the pickup for example. semithin Tacoma right now. There's a whole bunch of garbage stacked in the corner. I don't know who to call. Let us

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

go No. She's the one she was my connection. To getting that done.

## **Richard**

Yeah, but that's not really an efficient way to do it. I think

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

she has not passed on that information to me.



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## **Rob Huff**

Okay, thank you. What's that? Again, Jeffrey was that with the purple bag project that was doing the pickup or was it separate?

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

That was separate program. What it was is they had used the companies that were cleaning up the sweeps after the sweeps to pick up the garbage during the week. And they've usually identified where all the sites are and been been doing it. And maybe I just need to get a hold of us again and find out who their contact is in the city to get back going again. The garbage getting the garbage picked up. Really helps the rest of the community tolerate at least a little bit the encampments. And it keeps it safe for the campers to because it keeps rats out. So I would say everybody here let your council people know that if the campers are going to do something then the city needs to do something if the campers are going to put their garbage in bags, and the city needs to pick it up.

## **Richard**

So this restaurant again I am putting emphasis now on seventh in Tacoma with garbage pickup and also just interacting with the folks that are living there. By way of good news, the woman I met online last week, cooked up 25 Hot chili lunch meals for me about two o'clock before Super Bowl kickoff that at night took to 11th and I and then apparently she's cooking again this weekend. So anyway, there's things that people can do and food is always welcome in the encampments.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Richard and Janet, you have your hand up is it still from before? Okay. Not a problem. And the one thing I wanted to say for Joanna is I'm not sure that the same garbage pickup would apply outside the city limits. And then Stacey had a question about the garbage pickup pickup being separate from the typical municipal waste management is that's actually working with a contractor isn't it Jeffery? So you're understanding. Okay,

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

yeah, should we separate contractor

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, the city retains a contractor and I think it's the same contractor that they used for the actual cleanup on the Remove site. Yeah. Yeah. In the name of that does not, does not infringe

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

Yeah, I'm not sure who it is. Yeah.

## **Ed Jacobs**



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So just a reminder, the The colder it gets, the more water people need. It's not just in heat situations. Yeah.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah. Great point. So anyone else with any final items related to what you're seeing on the street this week?

## **Janae Warley**

specific question about necessity. Have we looked at like emergency blankets and things like that that are lightweight that will retain heat that can be outputted quickly is that a need that you guys see currently? I know when I was almost it was something that was dire. So

## **Rob Huff**

yeah, it thoughts on that are Jeffrey Jeffries doing a thumbs up so

## **Ed Jacobs**

yeah, as as soon as the weather turns, turns colder. That's necessary and I'm not sure. When we had a bunch of snow on the ground we showed up at the EOC but where we can pick up blankets. That's that's a good point. If it's two or three days away, it gives us two or three days to find somebody with a bunch of blankets.

## **Janae Warley**

And not only that, but emergency blankets that are like that. Don't retain water so they don't freeze on you. And that is specific need is that if you have an emergency blanket between you and your cloth, you're not going to suffer that freeze damage. You're not going to get as much permafrost and damage from being out in the cold that way. So I'll see if I can't find a way of getting some of those to you guys.

## **Ed Jacobs**

Um, Jenny are you talking about the the blankets that reflect heat back? Yeah, okay.

## **Janae Warley**

Yeah, those are like thermal metallic blankets that you use in your emergency and things like that super lightweight that aren't going to cost him any weight to carry. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

One final thing that I'll add here, I'm going to paste in the chat the phone number for the lighthouse activity warming center. If you see people who need help overnight, to stay warm, that's a resource within the city of Tacoma. That will be open. It's open 24/7 According to the latest update on our PC homeless.org website, there were four spaces available. That was as of the 16th. So I do remind folks,



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if you do run into people who you might be able to refer to any of the shelter resources, you can go to PC homeless.org and see the latest updates of spaces that are available. As I look at the listing, the way that carrot Nylund at the county usually puts it is that the larger shelters update pretty frequently on that page. It's a self reported system. Some of the smaller shelter so haven't updated for a while so those folks would just you'd have to give them a call. But if you go to the PC homeless.org site and click on the link in the green bar that says overnight shelter, that is that's where you can find out what's what's available and what phone numbers there are for shelter spaces. Yeah Kenneth.

## **Kenneth King**

I know that often we talk about how many spaces are available. But are there places that have like walk in walk out that are overnight, like just warming centers that are walking walk out?

## **Rob Huff**

So the only one really is the lighthouse center, at least within the city of Tacoma.

## **Kenneth King**

today are doing dropping.

## **Rob Huff**

It says walk up 24/7 So I believe that's what they're they're allowing. I'll try to make it always better to call first. If if possible. Yeah, that's sites down off Pacific Avenue 50th in a street. So it's not in the downtown core but still within the Tacoma City Limits but halfway down Pacific.

## **Kenneth King**

Yogi places do y'all know of any places where people are coordinating are creeping up like overnight like I know up in Seattle, the bus tunnels entrances have hot air coming out of them and stuff like that. People have just walked in and

## **Rob Huff**

yeah, I'm not aware of anything similar. Yeah, and and I will say the one piece of good news related to the weather is that it is supposed to get cold overnight, but it's also warming up during the day. So it doesn't look like it's going to be a period where it's below freezing temperatures for days on end like we had in the last bell. Betty I see your hand up.

## **Betty**

Oh, yeah. Good morning. Um, I was just wondering if there's any way that you guys could put on your website. The needs like those blankets, my grandson's have a bunch of them from survival kits. And then you know where we who we would take those to and like the hand warmers I don't have a clue



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where to get at our ones or if somebody can get get them less expensive than maybe say if I were just to go like to a sporting goods store and find them.

## **Ed Jacobs**

Betty the best place to buy those that we found was Amazon

## **Rob Huff**

the challenge with a course Costco is great if you can find them there.

## **Betty**

And I don't know they have 18 hour ones at Costco.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, I don't know if they do or not. I buy the little

## **Betty**

ones but I don't know that they have 18 hours. So just a place where to take them, I guess who to give them to? Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, you're welcome. Thank you, Patti. And I think it's safe to say that if you do purchase some and post to the coalition mailing list, those who are doing outreach will be able to see those messages and be able to reach back out to you. So that's one option to help distribute. Thanks. Janet.

## **Janet Runbeck**

I'm wondering if is anybody from Lehigh or rice center here today because they did act as the temporary staging site during the last inclement weather. So if they be if somebody from the old comfort in sight on Hosmer or somebody from rise, so rise would service the city area, or stability site is somebody here from stability site, if we could get one or two of those folks to agree to be a staging area that might help Yeah, I don't

## **Gerald Daniels**

know. I just jumped in. So I don't know if there was a question today. Yes, Janet will talk about jumped in.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay. Yeah, we were just discussing Gerald that there's a potential for cold cold overnight temperatures coming up next week. And if there if we end up with a need to coordinate supplies for outreach folks to go out. That's what Janet was bringing up was the potential of reaching out to rise and



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seeing if you guys would be willing to do that. I see your thumb so if you want to drop your information, Gerald into the chat, that would be fantastic. All right. Rosemary.

## **Rosemary Powers**

I just have been following the chat and there's such amazing information in there that for especially for new people, I want to encourage you to look there and also to save it at the end. If you have done that. Another settings are three little dots down at the bottom of the column and it saves to your document documents on your computer and then you can get access to it that way. It's also available but not immediately. Through our website.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you for that reminder, Rosemary. That's great. So let's shift to the next item on our agenda. But if there's continued sharing that folks want to do in the chat again, to Rosemary's point, please continue to use that. And I would like to move to our community spotlight and Serena Thompson from vodice has joined us this morning and Serena, would you like to tell us what update you have about vodice? Absolutely. I'm

## **Serena Thompson**

gonna share my screen you got that in a minute. So

## **Rob Huff**

yeah, let me get you set up to do that.

## **Serena Thompson**

Awesome. I'll just say my introduction here. I'm Serena Thompson. And she her hers homeless service provider for vodice. I've been with vodice about eight years and may and for those of you who don't know Vitesse, it started 40 plus years ago, and we help people with disabilities find work that was like their main niche back then. And we're in five different counties King Pierce thirsting Kitsap Snohomish. We only offer homeless services program in our Pierce County Division. And I guess this I'll share my screen now and give you a little bit more information about what our homeless services program looks like.

## **Karla Martinez**

So, you see here, PowerPoint and this one slide show

## **Rob Huff**

or be able to see that if you just want to go into the slideshow mode and most

## **Serena Thompson**



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clubs, thank you. Fantastic. All right. So this is just orientation page. And I'm going to go into our homeless services programs that we offer so we are partnered with the ACT outreach team. Sandra is my coworker. She's my lead. It's only the two of us that are in this program. So but she kind of leads the ACT outreach service team, and there we support youth ages 12 to 24 in outreach needs and resources. So things like getting documents for them or maybe they need clothing EBT food and every referral for that comes through the ACT team. And then here we have housing for success. So they're a rapid rehousing program and in Tacoma, they were housed at the reach center there but now they've moved to T's to ch and then there we are just employment case managers. So the young adult or youth comes from coordinated entry and then they get paired with a housing case manager and then an employment case manager. And from there Sandra, and I do things just all employment income based, help them with debt, maybe being credit, pay off bills, maybe we attend court with them. All of those needs, we assist the housing case managers in and then we're also do the McKinney vento outreach. So I'm actually at Foss, school district Henry fosse on Fridays 12 to two and there I offer McKinney vento students, then those are youth experiencing homelessness in some way. Or maybe housing instability. They can be couchsurfing. Maybe their families are doubled up with another family. So maybe it's Mom and son living with an aunt. So I get a list of individuals from them and we help them with all outreach same thing like IDs, maybe that's maybe they're old enough to find work, we can pay for certain items. So food handlers permits things like that. I assist in making resumes, all sorts of good stuff, make sure they're connected to their free lunches. They get free orca cards through the school district. I make sure they know about that. I find that a lot of the youth that come into my office there, they don't know that they're offered their ASB card. That's that's a that's free for them so I get them that ASB card. So I we also get other referrals from Pierce County schools so that most of those come directly through email though. And then we are a rapid rehousing program. And Sandra and I get about seven to 10 individuals on our caseload. And we actually do the housing for them and housing navigation, find them homes and help assist in case management so that they're stable on their own. So we've received those referrals from coordinated entry. And in the community. Is there a borrower oops, I'm not sure how to go back. But that was just a picture anyway of a life so we do life skills in the community, you guys so Sandra, actually partners are we partner vadas partners. With landlord liaison program, and we teach renter's readiness. So, our section of that program is accessing community resources and how to be a good tenant. So she teaches that on the first Friday of every month, but it is that whole course is a three it's three Fridays, for two hours 11am to 1pm. And it's on zoom right now. So that's that I teach life skills classes in the in Tacoma, we offer it to our participants. So our Rapid Rehousing participants or the housing for success participants first and then we'll offer it to some of the outreach because we want those seats filled. This they have been real scaled down. So about five participants in the seats and even that's hard to get used in young adults to come and attend. So lately we've been lucky to have a little bit of extra funding for some light meal or pizza or and a gift card so they walk away with a \$25 gift card. And we teach those at the search building down on Tacoma Avenue South and that's actually my role. So you'll see me doing those classes down there once a month. I'm usually on Wednesdays and some classes I teach are building confidence. Values, what are my values and how they linked to employment. Budgeting resume making cover letters, all sorts of



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different cool life skills classes, those are going to ours is what we're going for on those right now. And then this side, I've actually added just we're really strong on we really love community partners and we refer to a lot of places the coffee Oasis, US shelters under age 17 and under and where will always guide us to their or the US shelters rainbow Oasis Youth Center. And then Sandra is on the board for the inker community initiative. So to end youth homelessness in Pierce County, and this here at the bottom, comfort of housing but our mission statement is assisting individuals experiencing homelessness in becoming self sufficient through life skills, resources and employment opportunities. I'm going to leave my contact information in in the chat and I guess moving forward or we're concentrating on essential supports beyond roof. So that's kind of where we're we're going I guess stopped share. Let me hit this. I'm sorry if you guys saw black bar in the window. I'm working on my technology skills.

## **Karla Martinez**

So any questions

## **Rob Huff**

feel free to raise your hand if you'd like to ask a question of Serena.

## **Serena Thompson**

I see any I'm gonna leave my contact information in the chat or you can message me here and I'll leave my email. So if you guys have anything to follow up with me, I would love to hear from you. Partner with you. So thank you for having me.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, thank you for making time to be here today. It's great to hear what you're offering in the community. And I hope folks will reach out to you in the chat.

## **Serena Thompson**

Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Alright, so the next item on our agenda is so we wanted to offer an opportunity for just Thompson from Tacoma housing authority to talk about changes to the hot program and other programs. So Jess, let me get you set up with the ability to share your screen Yeah. Which you should have now. Looks like it. Okay, all right. Let's go.

## **Jess Thompson**

Okay, so hopefully you all can see my screen.



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## **Rob Huff**

We can awesome and I'm just gonna

## **Jess Thompson**

keep the chat in your faces in front of me. Check if there's any questions. So as I mentioned earlier, I'm just Thompson. I'm with Tacoma Housing Authority, and I work in our policy department. And so over the last couple of years, we've been evaluating our college Housing Assistance Program in conjunction with a couple of external evaluators, and then also our housing opportunity program. And that's the current subsidy that we offer to people seeking to rent on the private market. So we saw a little bit of background. The hot subsidy was implemented in 2013 And the reason why we decided to essentially stop issuing the housing choice voucher or HCV, which is more commonly known as Section Eight. We we stopped issuing the Housing Choice Voucher and transitioned over to hop because of a lot of budget constraints. At that time. There were a lot of housing authorities that were just not issuing any vouchers. And TJ wanted to figure out a way to continue to issue subsidies but also to serve more people at that time. And so our approach with the hub subsidy was to try to serve more people by giving everyone a little bit less. So that idea of kind of thinning the soup in order to kind of bring more people to the table. And the way we did that is where housing choice voucher is an income based subsidy where households pay about 30% of their income towards rent, the housing choice or excuse me, the housing opportunity program looked at providing a subsidy that was worth 50% of the payment standards. And so payment standards are based on HUDs assessment of fair market rents and then also average rents in the area. So households coming in and receiving a hot subsidy all receive a fixed subsidy amount based on their household size. And so you can have a household, you know of three with zero income, they're gonna receive the same amount in subsidy as a household of three with let's say it, you know, 45% area median income, and we'll kind of walk through some examples of what that looks like. So what we wanted to do more recently, as we were seeing some challenges arise with the college Housing Assistance Program, and that's a program that uses the hop subsidy. And just talking to staff at tha was we wanted to understand how households that have received this fixed subsidy are doing in comparison to households that receive the income based subsidy. And so we decided to kind of compare outcomes in four different areas. And that was the ability to secure housing with a subsidy. So we issue the voucher for people to shop on the market and hopefully lease up. So we wanted to see kind of what are the differences in those lease up rates? What are changes in income from entry to the program? To exit? One of the one of the differences between hop and the housing choice voucher is that hop is a time limited program for households that are not elderly or disabled. So hop households have a five year time limit and the idea here was that that would motivate people to increase their earnings so that once their assistance ends, they're better off. So we want to see if that held true. And then we also dove into the account details to find out why people may have lost their assistance or why they exited from the program. And then lastly, we want to look at their rent burden. So how much of their income do they have to spend on rent, both while receiving assistance and once their assistance ends? So those are the four pieces I'm not diving into all the data with you all today because we don't have time. However, we have a full full report that I'll send out to the listserv as well as a website kind of



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detailing, detailing the specifics. So what I do want to do today is kind of show you all and walk through that difference for households in four different scenarios. Trying to lease up kind of what's the value of the Hopson city versus the Housing Choice Voucher. So with Scenario A, if we were to look at a household with no income and all of these scenarios, assume that the rent matches the payment standards for kind of simplicity sake here. So first scenario we're looking at a household with no income. In both subsidy models. Our occupancy standards are two heartbeats per bedroom. So as a two person household, they would qualify for a one bedroom subsidy on hop since that subsidy is 50% of the payment standards. That means tha would cover \$581 The household would cover the remaining balance. So again if rent was the payment standards of \$1,162 a household would pay \$581 in rent. The likelihood is this household would actually not be doing that because they would not be able to lease up. Landlords often want to see two to three times the rent amount as a household income so it's it's an unlikely scenario that a household would be in this situation. With the Housing Choice Voucher program it being income based household with no income would have a minimum rent payment we set that for a work able household at \$75 and then the tha subsidy would cover the remaining rent and so that would be \$1,087. The next scenario is looking at a household that's on a fixed income. So if we were to assume this is a household receiving SSI, they'd be getting \$791 a month in income with a hop subsidy. Again, their income doesn't really matter. They also receive that \$581 And just like the previous household they would pay the remaining portion of 581. So that puts their rent burden at 74%. So three quarters of their income would have to be spent to pay rent. With the income based Housing Choice Voucher the household would be expected to pay \$237 towards rent because that's 30% of their income. Tha would pay the remaining portion 125 So that keeps their rent burden at about 30%. Scenario C. This is labeled average income because when I looked at how households that qualified for for, excuse me for two bedroom subsidy that have applied and come through teaching the last two years, the average income for a four person household was about \$19,500 So we wanted to kind of see what does this look like for that average? Four person household with a hub subsidy again, they're getting 50% of the payment standard. So \$742 is the subsidy and then the household pays the remaining balance. So if rent matches payment standards, they're also paying \$742. So that puts them just below a severe market rent burden, or excuse me a severe rent burden at 46% of their income going towards rent Housing Choice Voucher a third of the income would be \$488 and then tha again paying the remaining rent burn 30% Then we have kind of the highest income and this is looking at you have to be at or below 50% area meeting median income to qualify for TJ assistance. So this would be a four person household right at that brink of just under that 50% area median income. And with this household. You can see the Hopson city actually works - to their benefit. Paying that other half of the payment standards would put them at a 20% Rent burden versus Housing Choice Voucher program of keeping it at that 30%. And so what this what this shows and demonstrates is that it's the households with kind of the least amount of income households that are extremely low income that are really struggling to even use the housing opportunity program. And that that kind of came through in our research and Kathy I see I see your hand up and I'm gonna if you don't mind waiting till the very end. I'd love to let love to get your question. So, a quick summary of the findings. As I kind of just mentioned with Lisa, we see that Housing Choice Voucher holders are more likely to secure housing than people



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issued the hop subsidy. And this is especially true for those lowest income households. When it came to income. This was a really, I think cool finding. Housing Choice Voucher holders were more likely to increase their income than households receiving the flat subsidy. There's a lot of criticism towards the income based subsidy that it D incentivizes increasing one's income because as you increase your income you pay more in rent. But what we did is we took a sample of workable households that came on at roughly the same time exited at roughly the same time, that primary difference being which subsidy they received and households with the Housing Choice Voucher increase their income nearly 200% And that was over \$22,000 compared to households on the hop subsidy who had were less likely to increase their income it was 60% increase their income compared to 85% and that average increase was 33%. So that was a really I think significant finding there and kind of blows the assumption of these households just need motivation to increase their earnings out of the water. This isn't necessarily about motivation. These are large, larger, systemic issues. When it came to program exits, Housing Choice, voucher holders are more likely to exit for positive circumstances. They were three times more likely to exit because they had achieved self sufficiency. So looking at exits was one way for us to see are people exiting. In a circumstance where they're potentially just returning to our waitlist or returning to the homelessness system. Are they exiting in a way that they're exiting that? That system entirely because they're better off and then also with rat burden households are twice as likely to have a severe rent burden, even while receiving assistance, so having to pay more than 50% of their income on rent while receiving assistance. And with market rent burden. Housing Choice Voucher holders were less likely to face that severe market rent burden, so less likely to have to pay 50% or more of their income towards rent upon exit. So I know I've thrown like a lot of numbers at you. But this was us just trying to measure success and trying to figure out kind of what's happening in our households doing. So from the data, what we are recommending or can proposing is that we convert that flat hop subsidy to an income based subsidy, essentially that we shift all current and future households over to that income based subsidy. rough estimates show this will benefit about two thirds of our clients across all demographic areas. What's also I think really compelling for us is that this change would reduce and in some instances, reverse racial disparities that we see on the hop program. So that's, I think, really, really compelling for us. And then it also will apply to move on vouchers and that's why I think this population might want to hear about this. Right now. Tha has subsidizes a lot of project based voucher programs. So these are properties providing no intensive case management, permanent supportive housing. Once someone has been at one of those properties for a year, they have the ability to request a voucher from tha in order to move off and rent in the private market. Right now that's a hop subsidy. So they're essentially kind of given the choice Stay where you are with income based rent or get a flat subsidy, which is often worth less to rat on the private market. So no one's really taking us up on that. But this change would actually convert that choice mobility voucher over to an income based voucher, which means that transition to the private rental market would be much easier financially and hopefully open up and kind of create more turnover at those units and that those properties in order to serve people through the Coordinated Entry. So that's kind of again, the the ripple effects. The other piece of our recommendation is to eliminate the time limits. So improve the ability to lease up. This is something if someone's moving midway in that five year period, and a landlord sees Oh, you're only going to get



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assistance for a year and a half. What is that going to do dependent impact that person's ability to lease up? We also expect it would reduce evictions. Hop households had the same rate of achieving sex achieving self sufficiency as being evicted. So we would hope that would reduce the likelihood of evictions and just overall, improve, improve outcomes for households. And then lastly, I just want to talk about kind of our chat recommendations. When we looked at the data across all four areas. Chat participants were worse off compared to any other population. And that really surprised us we actually expected the opposite, because as college students, we assume the supports available at the college would help kind of ensure that we see better outcomes. But we don't we have actually a lot of people lose their assistance because they don't maintain eligibility. So we have we're kind of looking at two different pads in terms of moving forward. One would be convert chap that subsidy over to just a five year time limited income based voucher. And chap is the college Housing Assistance Program. Sorry about that, which serves homeless and near homeless students at TCC. And then we also serve some students at U DUB t so we have 75 vouchers dedicated to chap and then we also have nearly 200 subsidized units near the campuses that students are can be referred over to so they get kind of priority access to these subsidized units. However, since we're seeing really poor outcomes on chap, we're really trying to figure out where to go from here. Should we keep kind of making modifications and hoping for better outcomes? Or should we look at some other approaches to how we can support post secondary access and participation? So linked on our website as of this morning. We have kind of a framework in which to explore how we define the problem that chap is trying to solve and how that problem statement shifts kind of what we see as a potential solution. So that's available if you want to explore it further. And I'm also happy to take kind of further questions. So I know we're I think I have a minute or so in that minute. What I'd like to do is point you to our website that outlines the changes again summarizes the research differences between the two programs and it links to a public comment form where people can also leave comments, let us know kind of your thoughts on these proposed changes. And also if you have thoughts about chap, if you if you have ideas, you know we we have, we have created a very complicated program that makes administering it even more challenging, it makes participating in it incredibly challenging. And so we really would like to kind of simplify the approach and figure out kind of how we can how we can best serve and support people exploring post secondary participation. So the poor outcomes for chap, only about half of chat participants are able to lease up and what was surprising is that's across all of the different income levels. So half of the people accepted into the chat program don't actually get housed. We also see over half who received the voucher lose assistance, because they've disenrolled they've not maintained academic progress. I think a lot about Maslow's hierarchy of needs. If removing someone's housing assistance is a way to get them back to education. I don't I don't think so. That's my personal stance. But again, a lot of this is is what is the problem is the problem simply we don't want their education disrupted. And so let's make sure they're able to maintain enrollment, or is the problem homelessness and housing insecurity? In which case I think the the kind of person the human needs come first. So the document that we have linked on the website kind of breaks it all out in that framework of what exactly is the problem? What does that solution look like? So okay,



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## **Serena Thompson**

so I see a number of comments

## **Kathy**

who and I asked my question before we go to the comments because I've been waiting patiently the whole time.

## **Jess Thompson**

Go for it, Kathy. Thanks. I

## **Kathy**

felt like I was being skipped over there for a minute. Just I am Kathy pic and I am currently the lead advocate for the Tacoma tenants Organizing Committee. I'm not new to the organization, but I'm new to this role. And over the last week, week and a half, I've actually had three different scenarios come up that have to do with Tacoma Housing Authority. I'm just trying to get an understanding of how things work. And I was wondering if perhaps I could follow up with you directly. Is that okay with you? Yes,

## **Jess Thompson**

I Okay. Yes.

## **Kathy**

I have your email I took I took a picture of your email. So I will be sending you a message later on. After we adjourn. Something Oh, Kathy. And I'm just I would like to give a shout out she's not going to do it for yourself but sunshine Harper is using her lived experience to help other students and I'm so proud of her for her new role as the chap advisor at TCC. You know, students experience a lot more housing and food insecurity than one would think of and as a TCC graduate, I just thank her from the bottom of my heart. For her work. It's very important. You know, when you have a test or an assignment that's coming up, but you're also worried that your landlord is going to be posting a notice on your door. And that's real. That's my experience, and it's, it's heartbreaking and it's distracting. And unless you're somebody like me, who's very tenacious and digs their heels in, I can see why some students would have you know, difficulty with that. And I just, my, my role was to lead by experience. So at any rate, I really appreciate the chat program, and I'll send you my thoughts on that as

## **Jess Thompson**

well. Okay, look forward to chatting not a

## **Kathy**

problem. Thank you very much.



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## **Jess Thompson**

And thanks for the shout out to Sunshine.

## **Kathy**

She is amazing.

## **Gerald Daniels**

I'm sorry. Thank you. I just not I just had to say thank you because you know I am not it I'm just fighting for these students, you know, and my heart but you guys are awesome. And you all have a lot of support. Let's just say so thanks. Yeah, we do it together.

## **Rob Huff**

Teresa, you have your hand up.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Yeah, I hope my internet is not so crappy that you can't hear me It's okay. That's why I have my video off. In any case, a couple of things. One is that the chat program, I don't think you're seeing a an outcome that's very different than all college students in terms of people dropping out. And I think one of the things to keep in mind is that you're this is one of the only ways that people who are really low income can get into that system and have at least a shot at it. So I don't think you should measure it the same way to the rest of your programs. That's just my thought. Also, people coming out of incarceration, that chat program has been the thing that has allowed them to go back to school sometimes so I just I love it. I hope you keep doing it. Second thing is I can't believe that Hopps was even tried. I don't know who came up with that brainchild. But it would have been obvious to most people from the beginning that it was a sucky idea. That's just saying. So I'm glad you're going back to the other one. And then the third thing is those incomes, those prices for housing that you list, they're non existent. So it's like there's this whole other issue of maybe Tacoma housing authority should focus on building low income housing instead of these rent subsidies which are never going to catch up with the market. So anyway, I don't know if you've thought about that, if that's even in the conversation, but that's my question.

## **Jess Thompson**

Yeah. The vast majority of the people that we serve are actually residents at our housing. Hall makes up about I want to say about 550 households. So it's, it's a relatively smaller program. And, you know, hopefully with with federal funding coming in and whatnot, our main focus is development. Recognizing the inventory is a huge problem. You know, we could say we're paying everyone's rent outright, but we still have limits on what we can pay based on what HUD sets so we have to work within a lot of a lot of constraints, which is I know, I saw things about kind of CO designing with students and I'll tell you the amount of time it takes to just learn the bureaucratic process of the housing authority, and what's



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possible and what isn't. And those students would be graduate students. That time they're done. And qualified to run housing authorities. So yeah, I hear I hear a lot of what everyone's saying and we Yeah, we're, we're, I hear the the, the discussion about successes with students and that these are normal numbers. I think our concern is removing their housing assistance when there is a disruption. The average time it takes to complete a two year degree is five and a half years and, and having been faculty at a community college and having students be in in the middle of a crisis where honestly they should not be enrolled, because they need to take care of themselves and their health and their families. But enrollment is the only thing they can do to have money to survive. The ripple effect the collateral consequences are even more troubling as well. So I hear that piece and it's figuring out how do we develop a program that is supportive but also reflects the reality of the student experience. So I appreciate all of your future input. Your overtime.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, I appreciate you coming and talking to us this morning. Just thank you very much for the oral presentation. I did see there are a couple other items in the chat that you might want to address. An easy one was a request for your email address and your contact information. But if you could use the chat to respond to some of those things, that'd be great. Sounds good. Thank you all. Alright. So let's shift gears. We will move now to our regular government. Updates. Do we have anybody on the call from the city of Tacoma? Who had an update for us this week? Okay, I didn't get anything in email, but I will later in the advocacy update. Provide some opportunities for folks to track and participate in city activities in the coming week. So let's shift over to Jeff Rogers from Pierce County Human Services Jeff.

## **Jeff Rodgers**

We did not have an update either for today.

## **Rob Huff**

Wow. Well we're suddenly back on schedule for our agenda.

## **Jeff Rodgers**

Nothing to report on.

## **Rob Huff**

Alright. Thanks for being here, Jeff. I didn't even notice. I don't see Valerie on the call. I'm Laurie anything that you think you would want to say about rental assistance? And

## **Laurie Davenport**

I'm sure I know that the portal is not open yet. I don't. We haven't been privy to the information about exactly why that is, but we're hoping the last I heard we were we were out at the Fife library. Last night



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move associated ministry staff. We were only scheduled for two hours but we stayed for three till the library calls. It was it was really busy. So we're doing our best to stay out there and keep people updated who've already applied for rental assistance. Make sure everybody knows what to do when the portal opens how to get updates all that so we're still waiting. We know that once it does open I think there's money available till the September and I know they've requested more. So not an issue of no money. They're still processing applications, and they're still on August applications. So it's been interesting

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah. Yeah. So appreciate that. And I would presume Valerie will probably be back next week. If I remember right. I thought the target for reopening a portal was early March. But

## **Laurie Davenport**

yeah, that was originally originally February 4 And now I think we're talking beginning of March. Okay.

## **Rob Huff**

Well, thanks for what you could share there. Um, so the next person on our agenda would be Jenny from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.

## **Laurie Davenport**

Hi, everybody.

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Good morning. Um, I don't see anything on my video. Do you all see me? No. That's weird.

## **Rob Huff**

You can be a disembodied voice today.

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Yes. Wow. That is very strange. I was just on video earlier, so I don't know what's going on like computer but. Okay. Sorry about that. Um, good morning. Um, I appreciate being here. Thanks for having me. As always, um, as you all know, we are seeing, you know, cases of COVID continuing to drop which is great news. Just to give you sort of an example we are in terms of cases were down about 38% lower than the previous two week period. So that is great news. We have the current hospitalization rate is also lower. So that's really good news, as you've heard me say before our hospitals have really been so maxed out. So this is really welcome news. We've got about 68% of all our eligible residents who are vaccinated in Pierce County. Unfortunately, we see gaps still big gaps in certain populations. So the last time I saw this isn't Pierce County specific but the last thing I saw from doh was that less than 40% of Medicaid, folks, Medicaid population is fully vaccinated. So that's that's a



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huge gap. So the department we're still really working hard to get folks vaccinated on in terms of the population of interest for you all we are continuing COVID-19 vaccine clinics at 10 shelters and day centers through at least mid March with our partnership with our contractor ambulance. And I've got Sorry, I've got my seven year old here out of school today and he's kind of bouncing off the wall so apologies for my distraction. Um, but anyhow, please encourage you know, encourage folks to get vaccinated encourage folks to get boosted we're seeing lower rates of people being up to date, which means fully vaccinated plus boosted so that is still really, really important even as we see cases decrease. So we're also still in flu season, so get vaccinated against the flu if you haven't already. I'm going to share some testing information. We're working on more options for COVID testing that are walkup no appointment necessary. I'll also share some resources for you all to get those free at home test kits, because the state and the feds are still sending test kits home to folks who need them, and I will share our testing webpage. Are there any questions for me? Rob?

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, so I'm with the governor updating the masking mandate Yeah, formation yesterday. Do you have a sense of of when the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department will be doing an update to local guidance?

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Thank you so much for asking that question. I'm sorry that I didn't I didn't bring it up. It was definitely on my mind. I've been having some family issues and didn't didn't see the press conference yesterday, but read all about it and looked to see if we have any updates this morning as an apartment and we do not. I checked in with my team. I checked in with my team to see you know, do we think that TPC HD will have some official stance will it be just it's line, you know, in step with the governor or might it not be and I can't I just can't answer that question right now. But, but I appreciate you bringing it up. Just so everyone knows Rob is talking about is that the governor did announce that at the end of March, I think March 21. We will unless I guess unless something changes radically. If our numbers still keep going down. That we will be doing away with mask mandates. Indoor mask mandates for most of us including in schools, excluding health care workers, congregate settings, etc. Um, Leah is just I don't know if Leah openly is just really afford my colleague is chatting me saying we will have a press release today. So the department will have a press release. So sorry, that was really verbose Rob,

## **Rob Huff**

but just Oh no, that's great. I just noticed I received an email from school district. Yeah. My thing to you guys while we've been in this meeting, so

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

yeah, exactly. We tend to you know, the governor makes these announcements then doh says something that we say something and, and sometimes, you know, most of the time I think it's in



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alignment with what the governor but who knows Dr. Chen may feel differently. We'll we'll see. Thank you so much. Yeah.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you for your update. So the last government update would be from Pierce County Emergency Management. I'm not sure if we have anybody on the call. But I wanted to pause for a second in case we do. Yes, I'm not hearing anybody. If someone from the is on the call, wants to offer an update in the chat, that would be fantastic. And let me shift gears and talk a little bit about advocacy. So what I'm going to outline today will be some opportunities at the City Council, Tacoma City Council level, Pierce County Council level and then an update on the state legislative process taking place in Olympia right now. So when it comes to the Tacoma City Council, the city council is actually holding three meetings this next week. Their regular study session on Tuesday at noon, we'll have an update on the home and Tacoma phase two project. And again home in Tacoma is about increasing the opportunity for the construction of missing middle housing across the city. That that initial phase was approved late last year by the outgoing Council. This will be an update on this year's work to to head the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday night is that five It looks to be quite short. So the one thing that is on the agenda right now is that the city council is considering changing their emergency rules to allow in person meetings. So if you're interested in that, that's one of the items on the agenda Tuesday night. On Wednesday, the city council will be holding a special meeting starting at 8:30am. There'll be setting priorities for the new council coming into this this year. So that'll be a discussion about what the slate of new council members hope to focus on in the coming year along with ongoing council members. At the Pierce County Council, you may have missed it in the chat, but Pierce County Council Member Ryan Mello was with us earlier, he was highlighting the fact that the performance audit committee on February 23 at 10am is going to hear a an update on the homelessness system gap analysis that was done by an outside outside consultant. That meeting they will discuss the gap analysis and I'm gonna paste in the chat information about if I can get it to work here. I'm going to paste the link to the page where the report itself will be posted. Typically they're posted on Fridays. I haven't had a chance to look this morning to see if it got posted already. But that would give a preview to you if you're interested in seeing what the consultants saw as gaps in the current homelessness support system across Pierce County. So encourage those who have the time to do so to attend that meeting on the 23rd. At the state legislative level, the we just finished having our first cut off date for legislation that actually cut off a number of bills that folks who folks had been working hard on that didn't move from the house. The next cut off date is February 24. And that's for bills to come out of committee and to be read into the record on the floor of the opposite house of origin and their upcoming dates coming in short succession because this is a short session this year. So February 28 is another cutoff date. March 4 is the last day for any bills to be considered in opposite houses of origin and then march 10 is actual end of the session. So they are rapidly rushing toward the end of session by March 10. I did forward to the coalition mailing list the update from the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance regarding they were pushing really hard with our support House Bill 1904 But it did not advance beyond the cut off. So that bill would have provided renters with more notice of significant rent increases but it didn't get the



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support it needed to move. There are a number of bills that remain in the mix in the Senate, including House Bill 1643 which would create a real estate excise tax tax exemption as an incentive to folks selling real estate that could be used for affordable housing House Bill 1866 which is being pushed by Frank Chopp. They would create essentially an Apple Health for homes kind of system where health care support would be included with affordable housing, and then House Bill 2075 With set service requirements for DSH s and that include that it's been pushed really hard by the King County Coalition in homelessness around the issue that throughout COVID local offices for DSH s have not been open for in person services. So as new sign on opera, opportunities for bills come along, I'll pass those through the coalition mailing list. I'm trying not to flood folks with too much email but if there's an opportunity for us to weigh in, I will pass those along. So any questions about legislative items and I know it can be a blur because it's just a bunch of numbers. And sadly seems like bad news, Rosemary.

## **Rosemary Powers**

I was just wondering, Rob, the community safety vitality and safety committee I think is meeting on Thursday at 430. And we'll be having a discussion of the camping ban proposal so that would be something good to have people attend

## **Rob Huff**

that's a great point. I actually have that in my notes and skipped right over it. So that that meeting, I'll post the page link where folks can find all of these meetings for the City of Tacoma. And those meetings will be held on zoom so folks can check in there for 30 on Thursday for that community vitality and safety committee. Jeffrey

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

um, did you talk about HB 1620?

## **Rob Huff**

I did not you want to share something.

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

This 1620 sets extreme weather standards for the state to state agencies and county and city agencies. To respond to extreme weather in their communities. Highly recommend us because the last two major weather issues we've had here in Pierce County were all only responded by the county because of the coalition's efforts. And so, the idea was the governor felt that it was necessary to set a state standard for when emergency services need to be provided. I highly recommend helping that one. And that will definitely help our campers.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Jeffrey Kathy, you have your hand up.



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## **Kathy**

I do. I would just somebody mentioned the rosemary mentioned the CVS committee meeting and that the the proposed ordinance 28756 which is the proposed camping ban is very bad public policy. I've read the ordinance. It does not provide any pathway to shelter. There is no provision for that, as the proponents are misleading people on it says you either take what we're offering you right now or you can go to or you're going to go to jail and putting the unhoused into jail is not a solution. In fact, it's going to create barriers that they're going to have a more difficult time to overcome in the future. And I just I would encourage each of you to go on to the city's website to look at the ordinance itself. Spoiler alert, it's all the way on the last page. Very poorly written, hastily written piece damaging, damaging, it's it. I'm making it my life's mission to defeat this ordinance right now. So I'm very passionate about it, but I'll just leave it right there.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Kathy. And the one thing I will say is that the conversation about this potential legislation has been very different in the CVS meetings then it was at the council level when it was pushed by a number of former council members who are no longer on the council. So the conversation may be changing for the better. There is going to be an opportunity there's a panel discussion scheduled to come up on the march 10 meeting of the community vitality and safety committee. That'll be the most critical sign of where the legislation is going and what might be proposed in its place. So

## **Kathy**

how does one get on that panel?

## **Rob Huff**

So so I don't, I am unsure. They talked about it at the last CVS committee meeting, okay. They're really trying to center different stakeholders including those with lived experience. So so I know they're wanting to hear different perspectives. But my sense from council member, actually deputy mayor Mosca is that she is taking a much more measured approach to the issue. Yes, so. So I don't want to even though the old legislation that was proposed is out there I I don't think we need to bring the pitchforks and and purchase yet, but we're watching. So, okay.

## **Kathy**

Yeah, fair enough.

## **Rob Huff**

All right. I'm Carolyn Reed.

## **Carolyn Reed**



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Hi, good morning. Thank you. Just another advocacy, easy advocacy opportunity is to sign up to speak in front of the Pierce County Council to approve the 1/10 of 1% sales tax for supportive housing. It's starting to get to be a lot of the same people now and it'd be really nice to get some fresh faces in front of them. And if you live in hon Zeiger or Dave Morales district, and would be interested in setting up a meeting with them, we'd love to support you in that to talk about this. So I'll put a contact person who's organizing the schedule to make sure somebody's speaking in front of them at least every week. Thank you,

## **Rob Huff**

Carolyn. Alright, so first I saw there was some some things being posted in the chat the about additional bills to folks are following so thank you for that. And I know that the Russian it's a lot of numbers but and a lot to keep track of at this time of year but this will soon wrap up kind of with March 10 Coming soon. So let's move on to the next item on our agenda and this one is a short poll that we wanted to do last week. You will recall that Garrett Nylund mentioned the fact that the Pierce County's comprehensive plan to end homelessness is going to be shifting from having a steering committee to now having an advisory board that will continue to work with the plan as it moves forward. The update on the timing of when that plan is going to move forward. It was actually deferred for more conversation at the March 1 meeting of the Pierce County Council's Human Services Committee. Which means that the actual vote by the full county council won't happen until later in March. But the steering, what was formerly the steering committee is now rolling into being the advisory board. And one of the things that we wanted to ensure is that the coalition continues to have representation on that advisory board moving forward. What we brought forward last week was the proposal that Maureen Howard retain her role as the coalition representative on the advisory board. So we're going to do a poll for that. But also due to Maureen's ongoing health issues. She suggested that we find someone to be a backup for her in the case that she can't attend the meetings and that it was proposed that I serve that role. So this poll, simply asked two questions whether we want to we want to see Maureen continue as our representative and then whether I should be the backup in case that that is needed. So you have the opportunity. There's two two pieces this question two questions. What each has a yes no or abstain option. So I'm going to launch the poll. Hopefully, everyone is able to see that and we'll give this a little bit of time for folks to vote. And I really shouldn't have background music

## **Betty**

in the Jeopardy theme song,

## **Rob Huff**

yeah. Oh, that could be stressful. So I gotta be careful. What I asked for. Alright, let's give this just a few more seconds. We've had 43 folks.

## **Gerald Daniels**



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You could give a brief campaign speech.

## **Rob Huff**

It's awkward enough to throw up a poll where I'm on it, so. Alright, I'm going to go ahead and close this. So let me end the poll and share the results. So Maureen will be happy to see that. She had overwhelming support to continue on the advisory board. And I'll be happy to fill in in the case that she's unable to let me take a screenshot of this so that I can retain it for us. All right. So our next item on the agenda is a breakout conversation. So we wanted to carve out a few minutes this morning for all of us to network and have a chance to meet each other and get to know each other a little better. While we discuss a question about what you feel is the most pressing issue you're concerned about right now. related to the work of the coalition and homelessness. So I am going to split us up into small groups. And we will spend the next 10 minutes on this question. And I'll repeat the question here in a second before I launch so the question again is what's the most pressing issue you're concerned about regarding homelessness, right? Now. We will come back here at 1045.

## **<Breakout Rooms>**

## **Rob Huff**

Welcome back, everyone. Hopefully that was a good conversation. I know it's a shorter breakout session than we usually do. But if folks did take notes and want to paste things in the chat, please do so. Because we're, you know, it was Rosemary said at the beginning of the meeting, we do retain the chat and use it to help guide our work. In future meetings. We're behind schedule a little bit so I wanted to rush through the rest of our agenda. The next item that I have would be an update from the safe sites for all committee.

## **Janet Runbeck**

i Yes. And I can tell from this meeting, that the focus of Monday's meeting and everybody is welcome to Monday's meeting. It's at noon, it's a zoom will be the weather so right now we have for sure South Hill Baptist and ride center as to sites that are willing to accept blankets or any other donation for the bad night coming on Tuesday night. So we will probably be talking whether on and what our response will be. Typically our response is volunteer based. It's an informal base, informal system of outreach workers. Jeffrey Boyce, add in so many of you come out and find folks who are living in the streets. So come on Monday. If you have any suggestions, questions or any way to help folks get through the night on Tuesday night

## **Rob Huff**

and you can find the link to that safe sites for all meeting on the coalition's website again at PC homeless Todd who RG um, let's shift over any coalition committee updates this morning. Anything that we wanted to share today, Rosemary?



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## **Rosemary Powers**

I don't think anything particular today. Thank you though.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay, great. So we do have some time that we could offer folks the floor to share any announcements or updates that they think would be helpful for the larger group. We still got about 50 of us in the room. So anybody have anything that they would like to share with the group? Ed?

## **Ed Jacobs**

Good morning. We're looking at March 20 For the next homeless Memorial. We've gone to doing the homeless memorials every three months rather than two months. And that will be the first one for 2022. So we'll make some more announcements when that solidifies.

## **Rob Huff**

Right. And we'll be sure to put that on the coalition's web page as well.

## **Ed Jacobs**

Great. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, Rosemary.

## **Rosemary Powers**

I just wanted to announce that Teresa and I present a one hour plus can be another hour reflection, opportunity for people to be introduced issues regarding homelessness that said some context especially if he assisting others, and the next one of those will be March 15 at and it starts at six and the six to seven is an input time and then seven to eight is more discussion reflection time. So that's three associated ministries to register and the registration is open now I don't have the information, right 10 right by me to put in the chat but if anybody else does that's great, otherwise associated ministry site would probably be where you could find it or you can email me at our [powers@eiu.edu](mailto:powers@eiu.edu)

## **Karla Martinez**

Thank you rosemary

## **Rob Huff**

and anyone else with updates or anything to share with the larger group

## **Kathy**



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I have an ask if that's okay. Sure. Um, so what we are tasked with doing is to have know your rights information sessions across the city of Tacoma, and if anyone has any groups, I'm already connected to safe streets. I've been talking to some of their neighborhood groups and we'll continue to do so. This is to share with people what their rights and their responsibilities are as tenants. Because we're in the prevention business. We want to make sure that people don't get displaced and add to the already horrific regional problem that we have here. And that's what we're doing. So if anybody has any connections to the south, side, east side Central, drop them in the chat. I save the chat every week. And then spend the afternoon was my highlighter highlighting the constant it's the student in me it's the academic in me I can't help it. And I see Shaquan Ah Hi, sweetie. Oh, see? Hi. So Kathy, you're the new contact person. Prior to new Mali. Yes, ma'am. Okay, because I've been it's the hardest. You guys have been the hardest people for me to figure out who to contact for us to partner with one on tenant education.

## **ChiQuata Elder**

It's me. I'm here. I'm doing it. Okay, can you send me an email with your contact information?

## **Kathy**

Can you put your email in the chat for me because I've lost it.

## **Karla Martinez**

I will. Thank you. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

That's how this is supposed to work. Well. That's awesome. All right. So um, we usually try to end these meetings if we can a little bit early. It's that's a relatively new thing. I do want to encourage folks have feedback from on today's meeting. What you thought might have worked well what you think we need to improve for next week. Please hang out and drop that in the chat so that we can see that and follow those suggestions. And otherwise, and if you would like to stay on the call, we will spend some time following this meeting planning next week. We'll take a little five minute break and before we do that planning meeting, but for the rest of you need to go to other things. Thanks for being here. And we look forward to seeing everybody again next Friday.