



## Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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### SUMMARY KEYWORDS

pierce county, coalition, homeless, meeting, community, county, homelessness, conversation, tacoma, put, rosemary, folks, updates, week, good, plan, system, housing, rental assistance, happening

### SPEAKERS

Jeff Rodgers, Richard, Patricia, Mike Yoder, Jeffrey Boyce, Jennie Schoeppe, Jay Warley, Janet Thiessen, Gerrit Nyland, Cathy Pick, Karla Martinez, Verna Lilly, Caleb Carbone, Kasey Bentz, Rob Huff, Theresa Power-Drutis, Joe Perva, Charles Wright, Rosemary Powers, Ash Powers, Toroid Ryan, Dana Peterson, Janet Runbeck, Andrea Kelly, Valeri Knight, Shannon Ice

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### Rosemary Powers

Well in the spirit of random dudes and I don't know random gals I guess. I would go a little little more on the serious side to start but we gathered today in the full awareness of multiple crises in our globe and in our neighborhoods. They all demand our attention and whatever little bit we do is absolutely important. And as I thought about meeting you all here in this zoom space, I remembered two dates that may help us center on our common work. Before we meet again next week, we'll celebrate the spring equinox. That's that official beginning of a new season that has equal parts of light and dark and we'll also mark the date two years ago, march 23 When Washington Governor Inslee issued the first COVID Stay at home order disrupting all our lives in an effort to contain a deadly pandemic. We're here in this space in part due to that order as we become zoom veterans, and we met many more people and organized many more actions than we might have imagined possible with the restrictions we faced. And now this March we live with the possibilities and the uncertainties of masking are not of reduced risk or not. But it does feel a bit like a glimmer of spring and to mark the season. I want to share the words of poet ADA Limone with her poem instructions for not giving up might be a good time to pay attention to your breathing and get yourself ready to conversation with us here. She says more than the fuchsia funnels breaking out of the crabapple tree, more than the neighbor's almost obscene display of



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cherry limbs shoving their cotton candy colored blossoms to the slates die of spring rains. It's the greening of the trees that really gets to me. When all the shock of white and Taffy the world's bubbles and trinkets leave the pavement strewn with the confetti of aftermath leaves come patient plotting a green skin growing over whatever winter did to us a return to the strange idea of continuous living despite the mess of us the hurt the empty. Find then I'll take it the tree seems to say a new slick leaf unfurling like a fist into an open palm. I'll take it all. So as we're about to begin the season of spring, we come together this week at our Open Table to take it all. We welcome everybody committed to ending homelessness, who's willing to have respectful dialogue about different strategies along the way. And as we meet together, we agree on a few norms of our interaction for this zoom space to use the raise hand function whenever you wish to speak. Rob will recognize you then to end if you're going to be doing other things as we're together to put your video off. People often wave their hands about when talking on the phone and it's quite distracting. So do that and also keep your mute function on when you're not speaking. We also for those of you who are new use the chat function as a real way to interact with each other. So there's nothing disrespectful about writing to individuals or to the whole group with questions or comments and in fact, if you have lots of questions and lots of comments, it helps us with our other norms which are to speak one person at a time to make space and take space so limit our conversations to making sure that we don't take up too much of others times. So with this, I'd like to then say, for anyone who's new today, maybe someone's coming to speak or just coming here for the first time to just introduce yourself and not explain your organization but if you belong to one to indicate what it is. Maybe put your information in the chat if you'd like people to contact you and look in the chat for any questions they might have about you. So if you want to either raise your hand or I can't see you all just unmute yourself and go ahead and introduce yourself.

## **Rob Huff**

acfe have your hand

## **Kasey Bentz**

Hi everyone, I'm Casey Benz. I am an MSW intern for ri international CRC in Parkland. And I'm also a Lakewood police officer. So I'm here today to get a better understanding of what you guys do and what resources you guys have available that could help me support the people that we support here at CRC and in the community. That I work in police officer.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Well welcome Casey's Great to have you.

## **Toroid Ryan**

Thanks. Hi, my name is turret can you hear me? Yes. All right. Right rod? Yeah, my name is Rod Ryan. Me and my fiancé actually just purchased a home in Bonney Lake and we're moving out to Pierce County and I work for Mary's Place. I'm a prevention specialist and I'll be working from aerospace when



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I move out to Pierce County. We also run a nonprofit called the 40 coalition that works with at risk youth of color in the Seattle area. And that's been around for about 19 years. And the reason we join this coalition here is we're trying to build a tiny home population community in Pierce County when we get down there. And I see Theresa, you're putting your hands up. So these are all good signs. I like that but um, yeah, we're starting a tiny home community out there when we get there. We've got already people financing in order. We've got a lot of people in line to play their positions, however. Oh, Caleb. Hey, how's the guy used to work with Caleb from Vine maple place? Hey, um, but yeah, sorry. Um, but yeah, we're going to be starting a tiny home. And so basically, we're trying to find out how to kind of navigate the process. Um, you know, like I said, we've got everything in line from financing to builders to we just need to find land and kind of figure out what the zoning situations look

## **Rosemary Powers**

like. Alright, this is a good group for you to be part of we welcome your presentation of yourself. Oh, great.

## **Toroid Ryan**

Let's carry on thanks.

## **Rosemary Powers**

So as shall about you, I see you have the same last name as I do.

## **Ash Powers**

Right. Ah, yeah, I can go I know. I know. Shannon. It looks like they raised her She raised her before.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Okay. All right. Well, Shannon and then ash afterwards, Jenna, go ahead.

## **Shannon Ice**

Oh, um, so I'm returning after a few years of not being able to make it to this coalition meeting. I used to come back in 2018 and 2019 When I was a student at Tacoma Community College working with the chat program. I graduated from Tacoma Community College in 2020. And then I just graduated from Evergreen Tacoma last week. And this week, I started a position at comprehensive life resources as a homeless outreach specialist. So I mentioned to them that I used to come to this coalition meeting back in the day, so they said I could join in today. So here I am.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Well, that's wonderful. Shannon welcome back.



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Thank you. So ash Yeah, hello, my name is Ash. I use the them there's pronouns and I am the Education and Resource Coordinator at rebuilding hope sexual assault center. So y'all might have seen us that in this space, she is transitioning out and I'm kind of taking on some of her role. We are getting a new CAC or new community specialists so they will also be in this space. But in the meantime, I kind of wanted to just attend these meetings, get some information, and I appreciate you all, creating the space.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Well, thanks for joining us. It's really important work that you're doing so thank you so I don't see others with a hand raised. I don't know if you do Rob But if not, I'll turn it back to you.

## **Rob Huff**

I see Joe Purva has his hand up briefly. Joe what's up?

## **Joe Perva**

So clearly, I'm not new here and I'm only raising my hand for to introduce Charles Wright, who's our new operator

## **Charles Wright**

I Charles here. Great. Glad you're here. Glad to be here.

What was Charles role? I missed that. Previous my role was just a village operator. And now on the shelter operation many you're asked me court

## **Rosemary Powers**

I feel that's really an important facility and we're glad to have you. Proud to be here. Be part of the team.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, any one else who would like to introduce themselves before we get started with our first item this morning. All right, so welcome all the new folks and the returning folks and let's get started with this morning's meeting. So as we do every week, we wanted to talk a little bit about what's happening on the streets this week. This section of the meeting is an opportunity for people to share what they're seeing in their community changes that are taking place with those who are houseless this week, and identify any needs that we might be able to as a group address, as those needs are changing this week. So again, use the raise hand function or simply wave and let me know you'd like to speak but I'd love to hear from folks who are doing direct outreach. If there's information they'd like to share with the larger group. Casey,



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## **Kasey Bentz**

I have a question on resources for finding. Okay. Clothing to provide to homeless individuals in the Pierce County area when I'm on patrolling. I encounter a lot of people that are not willing to go to not in a place where they want to go to a shelter maybe based on experience in the past or something. And I don't really have other resources for them, but I at least want to leave them with something to keep them warm, especially during the winter months, and we don't have a ton of resources where I'm at. So does anyone have any ideas for me?

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, so rosemary, did you want to help address that?

## **Rosemary Powers**

Well, I just wanted to personally say that I like to do treasure hunts for sources like that. So I actually have a bunch of winter things right now that I'd be happy to share with you. I'll put my name in the chat and this is true for anybody. I'm an inveterate thrift store hound. And so I find amazing things and wash them up and so I'm happy to share them with you and we can be in touch out offline later. Thank you rosemary.

## **Rob Huff**

Another resource potentially could be the just threads organization in downtown Tacoma. But of course, I don't I don't know how much they work with people who are doing outreach, to give things to you to be able to hand out in the community so much is people going into that site to get things they need, but that may be a resource as well. Okay, thank you. Yeah. Richard, did I see you have your hand up? Sure. Just

## **Richard**

on the so like, with rosemary just said we get a lot of winter goods. Coming in our surplus right now. We've been taking to just threads, which I understand in the next week or so is going to be reopening for walk in traffic. Initially, they they received all of my suits and ties that I no longer have for people going to court but it turns out they also provide people close to anybody walking in that needs them. So I know that they are a resource that I'm learning more about as I go. Also, we visited the common rescue mission the other day, and I didn't look at their clothes bank, but I know that they also have one there and then you can also reach out to me directly offline. We get things this last week I needed two tents and I put a call out to tents that arrived from Amazon the next day. So if you have specific needs, I'd also be a resource for you that way.

## **Rob Huff**



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And one other thing before I call on J is that if those if urgent needs come up, you can always use the code the mailing list. So the there's roughly 700 people on the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition and homelessness mailing list, you can find that at PC homeless dot o RG and we we quite frequently have folks make individual requests there and we don't always see the thread because we urge people not to reply all but I believe a lot of those needs get met through just calls out on the mailing list. Jay, you had your hand up.

## **Jay Warley**

Um, a good idea also is to go to churches and your local area. emergency centers and mental health places a lot of those places end up getting donations or extra and they get moved around. But it never hurts to go to them and be like Hey, call me if you have something.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Jay. And Patricia has their hand up and then we'll go back to Richard.

## **Patricia**

Um, there's two options like Goodwill has multiple programs you can directly connect with them. It's not about the stores. It's about they can get the needs of an individual and build up the resources. So lived experience coalition. Part of that has a Pierce County Division that we can directly work with individuals in receiving outreach, and I'm putting my direct contact in chat for you, Casey, thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Patricia. So Richard, you had your hand up again?

## **Richard**

Yeah, I'll think of good three things. I'll try and make it as quick as possible. Last week, I stole an idea out of Stockton, California and put out a thing we calling Tacoma tent news and with help from another person on this call. We were able to get that out inside of a week. And I've been delivering that to encampments, and I sent it along sent it along to the coalition listserv. So if you've seen that out there. I'm part of the cause of that mischief but the lead story on that the second item the lead piece of information was to provide campers information about the memorial service on Sunday at five. And a few months ago, they had asked me because I was talking with them about people that had died on the street and they go how do we find out about this? So this time, we were able to get the information in advance to campers about the more Memorial and any distribution you could give to that would be welcome. If you need if you're in Tacoma and you need copies I do have some and I can probably get more so we're gonna play on on a second issue mid April. And anyway, that's just the idea of communicating directly with homeless folks in the tent. seemed so good. We just went ahead and did that. And then finally, on Tuesday is the next sweep of an encampment along J Street. From seventh to about 13. And from from Jay up to MLK, and I invite anybody on the call to join me. I'll probably be



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down there from 930 to 10 o'clock roughly that time. I suspect we'll have some coffee and doughnuts to distribute to people that mainly is just be there as witness to the operation, what's going on and providing some moral support to the people that are there. Jeffrey, I saw you had a question on chat, which is where the people are going to go. Many of them do not know. And my my instruction to them in the newsletter was simply to say where are we supposed to go and I think that would be a good question for them to ask of the city officials as they're being swept this coming Tuesday. So those are quickly the three things I've got going on, Rob.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Richard. And you know, while you're on screen, maybe next week you'd like to share a little bit about the trip. You're going to do your research trip. If you're interested in sharing that with a group.

## **Richard**

Yes, I'd love to share about the research trip and then next week too, I will have an agenda. I hosted a conversation in December called Voices dance homelessness. And we are going to repeat a similar format on March 31. With elements of the new adopted plan as the prompter for the conversation, and I'll have more information about that next week as well. So yes, I'd be happy to talk about the forthcoming trip.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you. Great, thanks. So anyone else with needs or thoughts that need to share this week with the larger group about what they're seeing on the streets this week.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

I have a little tiny one that's sort of on the streets. So I went to a really cool graduation ceremony from a kind of workforce readiness program that goodwill put together with the with Joe at ESPN court. And, and the 22 graduates of this program looked amazing like the way they were kind of moving through the graduation space and holding themselves and they looked confident and they looked loved and they looked ready for work and I just was really I was really excited to see, you know, one of them. I recall having seen him on the streets at one point in five. And it just was really it was really encouraging, like what the shelter is doing, but also what this workforce development program kind of did and where those folks are. So that was exciting happiness. So nice job Joe was there and I'm sure some other folks here. So nice job.

## **Rob Huff**

Fantastic. Well, let's wrap up this segment with a comment from Patricia and then we'll move on to the next item on our agenda. Patricia.

## **Patricia**





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I was just gonna comment on what Garrett says that Goodwill's not just the shops to resell but how what the monies that go to support those particularly like homeless, low income developed skills, get you know, get they have all sorts of resources. So just keep that in mind as you're doing your work. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you for that reminder, Patricia. So let's see our next item on the agenda. I'm not seeing our community spotlight guests in the in the listing of folks in the meeting yet. And that was going to be Rick from st Leo's parish. So why don't we move on? And let's Rick's here under another name. So let me give that pause for a moment.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I'll call Rick and see what's up.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay. What I will do is let's shift to the the presentation that that we are going to have Danna share with us regarding the chirp program. And then if Rick is here at the end of that, we'll switch back over to him. So Danna,

## **Dana Peterson**

good morning. Can I get in ability to screenshare here?

## **Rob Huff**

Certainly here just give me a minute. All right. You should have that now.

## **Dana Peterson**

I was here All righty. How's that

## **Rob Huff**

look? Looking good. Great.

## **Dana Peterson**

So the program that I'm going to present today is called the Community homeless. Resolution partnership. So the acronym is CH RP. And we call it chirp, even though it really has nothing to do with birds, or Twitter. But the idea for this program was hatched in late 2018. So CCS Family Housing Network, received a very generous grant from a private donor. It was called the day one grant. And so for the next year, we went about planning the program, developing all the policies and procedures and doing extensive community outreach. So in March of 2020 Sherpa flight. So what is church? Well, it's a partnership of groups and organizations that are not necessarily housing providers. But they do come in





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contact with homeless individuals and households, pretty much on a daily basis through their work. So essentially, they just operate as an another sea entry. Point. So back in 2014, diversion conversations were implemented into what was at that time, a centralized intake system. So at that time, it folks that became homeless would have one phone number to call, which in itself was somewhat of the barrier, and then they would be able to schedule a housing appointment. So at that housing appointment, they would go in and they pretty much were just giving their demographics and then they were placed on a list. So what we did was we, as we implemented the diversion, we converted our system to centralized intake. And so when they did get their appointment, they had many ways to be able to get an appointment. They would come in, and of course, we take their demographics, that we would also listen to their story and how they did become homeless and talk about various ways that we might be able to solve their housing crisis. So during the Creative Conversations, the goal is to come up with a housing plan that can be accomplished in roughly 30 to 60 days. So, what we do in those conversation is we explore the natural supports that a household may have, and what other resources they may have to help them with their homeless crisis. And so, diversion actually is is designed for the low barrier households in the barriers being things such as bad credit or evictions, or possibly felonies. So after this conversation, the household at that time, chooses whether they want to enter into diversion or if they prefer to enter in to our homeless system. So some of the diversion options that we explore are, of course reestablishing rental. Also, we take a look at shared housing, in we can do relocation to name a few. So if the household does choose to enter the system, that would be what what's referred to as the priority pool. Then they will be guided through that process by a housing professional. So as we know, data drives funding. So we are studying and analyzing our dashboards continually looking for any weaknesses or strengths or, or trends. So in 2021, the CEE system conducted 4244 conversations and of those numbers 1269 chose to enter diversion, which represents 30% of the conversations and of those 12 169 548 work successfully housed which represents 43% of those entering diversion. And then there were 77 returns to the system. So will the trip participants learn how to have these trade Creative Conversations? Oh, absolutely. We do. Have a pretty good training program. It's pretty interactive. The the trainees we would be meeting season professional coaches within our diversion system, and then there'll be training alongside of new professionals that will become actual CEE specialists. So who does chirp look to serve? Well, we're looking for families with geographic or demographic barriers to accessing our CE system and this could be people out in the rural areas where there's no public transportation, and there's limited cell phone service, or it could be in the urban area, where they might have a reluctance to approach the system, maybe due to language barriers, or possibly illegal status. So if you want to be a homeless resolution partner, how do you qualify? Well simply reach out and request an application and submit it. And then that application proceeds to a committee, which that's it. And so if approved, that is when the training would begin. So the training process is four steps. And the first step is what we call the Creative Conversation training, which in person is two days and currently we're doing them virtually, which is a four half day training and that is facility painted by the Center for dialogue and resolution. And so step two is observing currency professionals in actual conversations. Step three is doing one on one coaching sessions with a certified coach, which in this case would be mean. And then the fourth step is the training is is actually



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conducting the conversations themselves, and they are being shadowed. And so the whole process takes roughly about 30 hours. It is self paced, and then I can absolutely be very flexible and work around people's current jobs. So now that you're trained, what is next? So the homeless resolution Navigator is able to conduct their own independent conversations. They do have access to our temporary financial assistance and then they also have technical assistance from CCS, which is pretty much me. And so if you're interested, what will your organization need? Well, we ask that you just commit the time to complete the training process. Attend the brief monthly technical assistance meetings and also attend a bimonthly collaborative. And then we also ask that you have a great interest in being enthusiastic community member and then a desire to learn as you will be trained by professionals in the homeless system. And what we find is that some of the skills that you'd be learning can be very valuable in your other areas of work. But above all, we ask that you be patient and have a commitment to lips, have the commitment to learn and want to help all of the homeless people that you've come in contact with. So we are welcoming anyone to soar with chirp.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Danna. So there were a couple of questions in the chat. Put See, I saw Casey posted. Well, this program help cover amounts owed by tenants to former landlords, where collections or a judgment is issued by a court.

## **Dana Peterson**

Well, we currently we don't necessarily focus on on that. Primarily. It's just the assistance it's going to be needed to either get them relocated or get them into some type of housing.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay, and I see Valerie just asked about how to how folks can connect with you. She wants to connect the key Peninsula coalition's with you.

## **Dana Peterson**

Sure. Yeah. And I've presented out there actually, to keep an insulin and I actually have a partner out there, which is the community in schools of keeping insulin. So we do have a presence out there but I'll put all my contact information in the chat.

## **Rob Huff**

antastic do other folks have questions?

## **Dana Peterson**

Is this training to those who currently trip does not have funding for housing individuals, but that's something that we're definitely working on and hope to acquire that ability in the near future.



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## **Rob Huff**

Great Yeah.

## **Dana Peterson**

Can we get the deck distributed to a list? There's details that I'd like to go over.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you. Perfect and as a reminder to when, after this meeting, Garrett posts these presentations to the coalition the website, so probably take a little longer than than Dana sending you the slide deck, but that's another option for folks if they want to see this again. And thank you for your comment in the chat, Heather. We see that too. All right. So thank you, Danna for the presentation, a lot of interest. So this is a great topic to bring up here. And I am looking at the folks in our attendee listening and don't see Rick here yet, Teresa. So

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I emailed him and left a voice message. This is not on him. This is on me. He's got several email addresses and I happen to choose one that he must not check regularly. So I will get rid of those so that the next time I come in anyway, I'm sure it's not because he doesn't want to be here. So I'll reconnect with him and and make it right. Sorry about that.

## **Rob Huff**

Right. No problem. All right. And Danna has posted her contact information in the chat for everyone. So let's move to the next item in our agenda and this this is one that I really love Garrett to be able to fill us in. We had the Pierce County Council this week pass or ratify the comprehensive plan to end homelessness. And Garrett, can you kind of give us a summary of the amendments and what they passed and where we go next?

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Sure, well, the Comprehensive Plan path so we're all done. That's it.

## **Rob Huff**

Everything's salt

## **Gerrit Nyland**

so the county council, right, I mean, I do this background all the time, and you're probably tired of it. But you all we all as a coalition, put some pressure on our government to take a little more accountability, and they said okay, and this is the formal statement that they are taking accountability to end homelessness in Pierce County. So in a way it's talking JFK and building a rocket ship to put man on the moon. And now we've talked him into it and it's time to build a rocket ship. And I think we know how



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to build a rocket ship. Thankfully, we don't but just roll with me on the analogy. And it's just a matter, right of getting enough funding to NASA at this point. So that's basically where we sit. So we've passed this plan and it really just is a roadmap and I think more than anything it's a commitment. And it's a commandment that as a county employee, I intend to hold the county accountable and myself accountable. And I'm expecting all of you to be holding us accountable and helping us get there, right. It's not a you and them. It's an us and it's going to be a long path. So the things that we're doing now, so some of the things in the resolution, were that by December 31. We have to have a unified regional office plan put together so we'll be hiring a consultant. We set aside \$100,000 To do that, which probably isn't enough, but that's where we're starting from. And again, that goal is to for that work to be done by December 31. So that the unified regional office will be implemented by July 1 of 2023. And what that looks like will be something that gets determined by that consultant led process. So that's a continued commitment on the county's part and the county council particularly to taking direction from the steering committee and the community of experts. That's all of you. And so what that again, what that looks like will be determined by us, you know, as a community. So that's one thing. Another thing that's required is by October, we need to have a funding plan put in place, and obviously filling \$100 million a year gap, right. I think it's more fun to say over the next decade, we need \$2 billion in homelessness in Pierce County, right? I just think 100 Millions kind of lost its punch, I think billion, right if you want to make people's knees weak is really the number to go for. And so putting that plan together is how we get from where we are now. to that to that amount, and that'll also be a community conversation. Right? Big sales aren't going to cut it. Some initial spending, right and again, it's always good to put the \$9 million, which is amazing and will change lives right are \$100,000 is amazing and changes lives. Right? Like the program that Dan has just talked about, you know, is is something that's impactful. We just it's the scale right where the money comes in, not the success of what we do. So the initial \$9 million, that's spending right is going to a number of different areas, right drop in the bucket, but I think it's going to be impactful. So making our coordinated entry system function better by getting folks trained quicker, helping to support our nonprofits as they develop themselves with technical assistance. Some little things like a transportation pilot project that will put a one year bus pass into the hands of 500 people experiencing homelessness in the community. So a new shelter project, there's funding for a shelter outside of Tacoma. So a number of those items are in the plan as well as some case management. So case management around rental assistance and homeless prevention, so people that are in a crisis, but not yet literally homeless. Not yet. That sounds terrible. Then we're going to prevent from becoming literally homeless, and case management to extend our critical time intervention, which is a real strong evidence based approach to assisting folks as they navigate the homeless system. So extending that beyond just chronically homeless to the general population. So as we go along, what will accountability and transparency look like? So from my perspective, it's going to be continuing to have these conversations here continuing to be able to meet with anyone to talk about the Comprehensive Plan anytime. And we'll have an advisory board that's re mashing of the steering committee, so most of the members from the steering committee which includes a representative from the coalition, right, so I'm marine Howard with with Rob as a backup, and that's going to meet monthly



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and I suspect more than that, again, a lot of this is relying on the community to sort of indicate what level of engagement they want with that process. I feel like I'm talking too long am I doing okay, Rob?

## **Rob Huff**

Doing well, I think, I think the key thing and we're gonna do a breakout conversation that's related to this, right after this, but the key thing is that we recognize as a coalition, we need to make sure that we can do whatever we can to help move the plan forward with urgency. So I think that's one of the key things I was hoping we could take away from this morning is yay, the plan is passed. Now, now the hard the next layer of hard work begins. And one of the most vital needs that the coalition conserve is to to make sure this stays front center and moving forward.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Just to throw it to what one of the big parts of the plan is transparency and accountability and really publishing information. And as you might know, I'm a big fan of publishing a lot of information. And that's a slow process right now, for some sucky reasons that don't have to do with intent. They don't have to do with motivation. They just have to do like, like, we need to rebuild our data warehouse of county in a new platform and that's just some problems internal that that we're addressing, and we you know, we currently are, have a bunch of staff positions open that we're you know, I'm struggling to work to learn how HR works to get things hired. So some of the some of the things that are kind of psyche reasons but are real so working aggressively on that, but anyway, TierPoint wrong. That's just me making excuses but you know that again, how many people are homeless right now? Right that should be published on our website and we should looking at because that's the one statistic that matters, right? Like all this other stuff. So important like are again going to that meeting and looking you know, the graduation from this job train, like all that stuff really matters. But if you want to look at one number, it's you know, how many people are homeless in Pierce County, so okay, God told me how to recenter myself and I didn't so

## **Rob Huff**

no, no, it's good. Um, so one other piece of context, as you mentioned, the \$9 million that were allocated as part of the resolution that the county council passed this week. Just the other reminder is that the county council also put, what was it \$23 million dollars in their budget to secure property and move forward with the community first village project,

## **Gerrit Nyland**

which has a \$500 \$500,000 basically proof of concept. I don't know what the right term viability study. That is going to be wrapping up this summer so del Mar algae and John Barbie are the human services representatives with Steve Oban who's heavily involved in the executives office around behavioral health issues who's working on that? So that yeah, that's 25 million, I think. 23 you probably right



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working again, tiny houses, mobile homes, acquiring big piece of property so that that is continuing to move forward. Yeah,

## **Rob Huff**

so it's not actually in that it's not it's in addition to the 9 million so. So there is more being invested in the issue of tackling homelessness. And then again, as I understand it, the current focus for that community first village is to serve folks who are who are considered chronically homeless. So so we'll see how that study comes out. So that's probably enough context from Garrett and I. Let's shift gears over to Mike Yoder, who's going to introduce our topic for today's breakout conversation.

## **Mike Yoder**

Thank you, Rob. And Garrett. That was that. Lots of encouraging comments in the chat about how monumental this is. I hope you look around this room and feel very proud to be a part of a group that did something that we may look back on and say the community of people who really care about those experiencing homelessness, spoke up and push its own community forward in a bold new way to truly make a difference. So congratulations to all of you for being a part of a movement that is getting us somewhere that I think has more significance to take us towards the finish line of ending homelessness than anything. You know, many of us have felt the possibility about for a long time. So we we were a big part of helping move this beyond several individuals in this space. You know who you are. We're key catalysts. But we all have a role to play now. You know, we got the ball rolling. We actually got to the start line. We're officially in the race, the plan has. We pushed and we pushed and we've contributed to the ideas and we got our community leaders, our county council to say, let's start this race. So now we have to not give up it's not over. It's to get some humorous comment at the beginning of his report. Yeah, let's just go home. We got the comprehensive plan passed. No no. Now the fun starts people and I think because of what we showed up and did and how we contributed before to getting this plan started. Now we have to be very, very involved as a coalition and in very, very different ways. As individuals in our agencies as community leaders, there'll be a lot of opportunities for us to participate in helping guide this now there is going to be a formal process with a revitalized steering committee and consultants involved but we want to keep our fingers on the pulse in this group right here. So today's just a very, very first initial little breakout discussion. We just want to see it and begin our thinking as this comprehensive plan is now just days into reality. We want to start thinking in light of this. We got to start thinking about this system, we have an opportunity to really do something radically different. So we've got to think about what are the things that are working? Well, let's not assume we're not doing any good work. Actually, a lot of us are doing a lot of amazing things. We just heard one of those amazing innovative things we're doing in our homeless system. It's called chirp. I mean, it's an amazing, you know, unique aspect of the homeless response system in Pierce County. So let's let's make sure that his resource to continue on you know, like what are the things we're doing well, we want to make sure are baked into the system. We're now reforming recreating that are working well. But you know, let's take this as an opportunity to call out the things that you know, need to be fixed need to be improved. Let's think about things like interagency handoffs, we're going to have a comprehensive,





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unified regional homeless system, what are the things we want to make sure are addressed as part of the plan to do that and we want to lift these things up. So I think, you know, navigating the system, agency, handoffs, those kinds of things. You know, I think there's room for improvement, let's let's call that start calling out some of those specific challenges. We have, even you know, how we do case management and the capabilities that we have or don't have to do the kind of case management we know would really help a lot of our high barrier clients move forward. There's just there's not enough resources for that in depth hand holding that some of our clients really need so let's start thinking through these aspects of our current system. Boy, we don't have enough time to remake the whole system today, but this is a seeding of an idea of what are things that we want to name we want more funding to do more of this good stuff, and here's some things that we need to make sure are addressed to do these things better. So that's that's the topic for today. I have a feeling we may be continuing further conversations along this line in the months to come as we have an opportunity to help shape this new opportunity.

## **Rob Huff**

Definitely so so here's the drill. For those of you who have attended these meetings, you've been in these breakout conversations before if you're new here, I'm going to create breakout rooms with five or six people in each room. Please, will someone in your room, take some notes and we're going to discuss that topic of that Mike has helped queue up for us which is what are the aspects of our current system? That are working well? And then what are those that need to be addressed or improved as we've moved forward with implementing the comprehensive plan to end homelessness? So let's spend until 1010 So we'll have about 16 minutes to to consider this conversation. And hi, we'll start this now. Have a good good conversation folks.

<breakout rooms>

## **Rob Huff**

Welcome back, everybody. Hopefully that was a good time for some conversation, and I look forward to seeing what people have to share in the chat. Yeah, here come the comments. So thank you again, and I did carve out a little bit more time for today's discussion than we had on the agenda. So we are a little bit tight on the second hour and I want to be respectful of folks time. So what I am going to do is I want to thank Timothy Harris again for pulling together the notes from last week's conversation. I'm going to drop those in the chat so that everybody can look at that summary from the last week. And I am going to shift over now. To our government updates. So first up would be Caleb from the city of Tacoma. Do you have anything to share with us today?

## **Caleb Carbone**

Oh, yes, I do. Rob Thank you. I didn't see Monique is here today. Because she is just finalizing the stuff. At the mitigation site at 82nd and Pacific. So just kind of a quick update on that. I know that she





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was able to share last time but the office trailer was delivered last Friday and the shower trailer was delivered I think on Wednesday as well. And so they're just prepping up including prepping up doing the platform's getting those ready the tent setup. And it looks like by the end of the month, this should be up and running. So that's super exciting. So just wanted to update you all on that

## **Rob Huff**

antastic and any further updates on the on the sweep that's coming up that on J Street.

## **Caleb Carbone**

I don't have any updates right now. Um, I think you guys mentioned that in the beginning of when those were happening. I'm trying to think of when it was posted. I think it was posted on Thursday, if I'm not mistaken.

## **Rob Huff**

So the the information that Allison had shared with the coalition is that the the sweep would begin on the 22nd. Okay. And again, the boundaries were on South J Street between South seventh and South 13th.

## **Caleb Carbone**

Yep. And they're preparing for some some work there. And why why they're being cleaned up and removed. Also, another update on the lighthouse warming center to extend operations is going to be through April 30. So for some of you that may not know that's a temporary shelter for 25 individuals 30 When an inclement weather event occurs, so that was set up in early January of 2022. So far 80 individuals have been served at that lighthouse since then, and just kind of an update nine have actually been connected to housing and five to other services while nine I've also been vaccinated for COVID as well during that time. So that's pretty exciting news too, as well. I also will add into the chat the city funding temporary emergency shelter performance. Um, so you'll I'll add that into there as well. And just a reminder about in campman outreach, the seals heal team so that is the homeless engagement and alternative Liaison Team, formerly known as the housing outbreaker Homeless Outreach Team hot so that's kind of transition if some of you don't know that and they're they're the outreach team that is connected usually to a PD officer and so they go out and they provide individuals opportunities to connect to shelters behavioral health, substance use and employment services. For this last week, they were able to visit 13 locations, resulting in 45 individuals being contacted 10 of them were actually able to accept shelter or connections to other services as well. So and then last one I want to add into the Pierce County rental assistance. This program provides up to 12 weeks or 12 months of back assistance, getting back to March 2020 and three months to future assistance. So the city has provided 868 households with just over 6 million and rental assistance. So this is actually an increase of nine households, and just under 60,000 assistance over the last report. And 18 163 households with about 2.2 million and utility assistance, which is about 28 households increase about



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30,000 from its last report so and I will I think Garrett also has probably sent that in the past but I'll send that that information about the rental assistance to Pierce County as well. Um, that's all the updates I have.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks, Caleb and Valerie actually will offer an update on rental assistance as well here coming right up so thank you and anybody with any questions for Caleb, please? Oh, I see. Garrett has handle

## **Gerrit Nyland**

I have a question. So I'm sure you have lots to do starting in but one thing that Glenda Stewart mentioned was that when your position was filled that the city would be taking up work on their strategic plan around homelessness. And I was wondering if you'd had a chance to touch in on that and had any sense of when that might be picking up again.

Yeah, thanks, Gary. Yeah, so that is your that's kind of my big first project as well. We need to have an update for the council here at the first quarter, so coming here pretty soon. So that's the first thing I'm diving into right now. So I've gone through that document. We're, of course trying to make sure that it aligns with the Affordable Housing action strategy of the city, promoting affordable housing and long term, you know, solutions, as well as of course, Pierce County's comprehensive strategy to as well so we're trying to make sure that they fit and so I'm going through all of those documents to make sure that I am up to speed on how those kind of work so that is definitely on my plate right now as we speak.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, thank you for the updates from the city Caleb and let's shift over to Jeff with updates from Pierce County Human Services.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Hello. Yes,

## **Jeff Rodgers**

I have a few updates for you today. Sorry, I'm a little distracted. There's a really good basketball game on right now NCAA championships are going on in my favorite team, the Ohio State Buckeyes is on another screen over here. Sorry. We have some funding that's still available out there with a funding opportunity for the housing essential needs program. That's about \$4.3 million applications are due by March 31. That's a program that serves persons who are eligible and eligibility is determined by the state for the temporary disability basically as the eligibility to be in that program. We are finalizing and we'll be announcing any day soon. The awards for our homeless housing program funding. That's the really large annual funding we provide. We have right around \$12 million that we're allocating to



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projects. So that will be announced very soon for projects to start July 1. There's a mix of existing projects as well as some new projects that will be funded and with those dollars. And then lastly, HUD earlier this week announced the continuum of care awards for 2022 and Pierce County's continuum of care received just over \$4.1 million in awards for the continuum of care funding for projects that are being renewed. There are a couple of new projects in that list as well. The first one that comes to my mind is the hilltop lofts that MDC submitted an application for for some permanent supportive housing on the hilltop. So that is a new project that is coming online. But there is one other new project and the rest are all renewals of those funds. So we're just busy contracting for these funds, working with our committees that make funding decisions to determine who will receive these funds and yeah, just busy, busy, busy.

## **Rob Huff**

Great, thanks. Thank you, Jeff. Thanks for all that you're doing and in getting these dollars out the door to provide services. Alright, Valerie any updates this week on rental assistance?

## **Valeri Knight**

Sure. So as you may have heard, the postcards have been mailed out. So they should be in every single residential address in Pierce County, including city of Tacoma. And so that will give information on mortgage assistance, rental assistance, utility assistance to come up Roboto and anything else we could squeeze on a little bitty postcard. So that's exciting. I love that we're able to do that. Do this program and really reach every household because whether you need assistance or you will know someone who does, you will not have the available information for rental assistance we are doing for housing help events, so I'll post those links those are at the amazing Pierce County Libraries to come on pro bono is at those events as is some of our very cool providers. And so that will be somewhere folks can go and get updates they can go and get help applying. So we will sorry Cynthia. So we will work on that and get the housing help events are scheduled for the next four. Sorry, it's distracting to get noticed. And then also we're having two events with the landlord q&a Is this our fourth landlord q&a events and this is our third tenant q&a event. So I put those links for folks to register and they can register for those and to come a pro bono will be there. Washington State Department of landlord mitigation will be there which is very, very cool. And the Center for dialogue and resolution will be there to talk about their ERP programs. So the links were provided earlier in the chat. Feel free to share those with anyone whose landlord anyone who's a tenant. It really gives them a not a lot of amazing options and ability to ask a lot of questions because what they are doing is super, super confusing right now. With all the changes that came out in 2021. As far as the Rental Assistance Program, we have spent just under \$110 million in the last year, and we will continue doing that until all of the dollars are out. And then the state is currently working on a permanent program for rental assistance. So as soon as we have more information on that and when the Notice of Funding Availability will be released, we will make sure that is sent out to the coalition as well.

## **Rob Huff**



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Thank you, Valerie and you're doing amazing work and thank you from on behalf of everybody who's benefiting in the community. All right, and our next update would come from Jenny from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Good morning, everyone. This is Jenny. I'm from Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. I'm a liaison in the communicable disease department for anyone who is who has not met me before I'm sorry, far as COVID news, we are seeing really great data. The most recent data we have showing cases decreasing outbreaks decreasing hospitalizations decreasing. So that's great news. There's also been the lifting of the mask mandate. So not sure what that is going to what what we're going to see with that, but please continue to be diligent, um, COVID is not over. It's going to just be worked into part of our our lives. And I just encourage folks who have not gotten vaccinated, there's anyone out there still who wants to be vaccinated. That has not please please please go get boosted if you haven't gotten boosted all put our link in the chat. I'm hoping I'm assuming everyone in this group is vaccinated um, we have possibly seen in the news, you know, there's a lot of flux in the funding and COVID funding from the federal government and that is definitely going to impact in is is impacting our work and so we are really working hard to maintain the services that we've provided to shelters to outreach teams in terms of vaccines for COVID testing for COVID. But we are being impacted. So yeah, just trying to do the best we can thinking of different models and how to continue to serve folks. I mentioned this last week, I just want to say it again and I'll say less than I said last week and then just drop some contacts in the chat but there is a congenital syphilis arising congenital syphilis cases in Pierce County that's really concerning there among people experiencing homelessness, specifically, females aged 20 to 35. congenital syphilis is very dangerous for babies and so we are hoping that if you work with people who are pregnant people who may become pregnant, we just want you to be aware of this problem that's happening. We're seeing you know, obviously in the community, we see people seeking prenatal care later and later in pregnancy for various reasons. And that's just can be real disastrous if Syphilis is not diagnosed and treated, and it's actually treated very, very easily and quickly. So if you have questions about that, I'll drop my information. I'll drop our STD. clinic, contact information and my colleague Teresa Cooper, so please follow up with us. Um, and then finally, I just want to say as many of you know, who've been I've been attending these calls for at least a year now, maybe a couple years. Well, a couple of years probably. It's been very much COVID focused. Again, I'm in communicable disease. So that makes sense. But there are lots of other things happening in the world besides COVID. And we as a department are really working on a transition of sorts to how do we prioritize these other important public health issues again, and so I want to hear from people who are in this group every week on how I can do better in my role as a liaison between the Department communicable disease division, and the homeless service provider and advocate groups and what I can bring to this meeting. I won't always be the subject matter expert, but I can certainly find folks who are and I want to be really useful and bring information from the health department as a whole. That would be most of most value add to to this group. So reach out to me, I think you all have my email address, but I'll drop it in the chat. And that's all I have are there. Any questions for me?



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## **Rob Huff**

He has a question. Okay.

## **Jay Warley**

Okay, you know, this is something Hello, that I'm curious about how many of our outreach groups and how many of us actually talk about the sexual side of being homeless and not having things we need condoms. Self care kits, things for women to clean themselves up? How much of that do we not recognize because it's not a topic we don't want to talk about, and how can we start implementing giving out condoms having safe sexual practices, protecting our community at that level?

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Thank you for asking that question. I'm just looking real quick to see if Verna MRC might be on the call today. It looks like she is. Um, excellent question. Um, like I said, we're, I personally am on sort of a mission to like break down silos at the department. I work in the network team, which works with providers, but we have a whole STD team. We've got community health workers, I'm trying to better understand what they're already doing and then help bolster that and encourage and advocate for those that community outreach that needs to happen about STIs. MRC, actually, just in terms of like an immediate action that's happening, the MRC the, I just, I just totally lost what MRC stands for Medical Reserve Corps. That TVC he partners with is actually doing a pilot project right now going out weekly. They've gone out once and they're going out three or four times in April, with specific focus on STD, STDs and bringing condoms and bringing other education around that bringing information about the syphilis outbreak. So that is something that's happening now. And I hope that even though that's kind of my perception, is that's kind of been in response to this syphilis outbreak um, I think that it will be hopefully be an ongoing but ongoing work so I will take your concern store STD team and definitely bring that up and please know that I'm, I'm working on it. Um, I think Verna can speak to the MRC information too, if if she would like and then Rob says, you can address this more and yes, vaccine events have have happened. Um, we've also been hearing recently in terms of vaccines that the demand is is really leveling off and is low so we don't have the resources to send out to do vaccines where there won't be any vaccine uptake, but it sounded Jay like your question was more about STD. So I'll let Rob take it and then Verna if she wants to weigh in.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, actually, Verna if you wanted to say something. Be great.

## **Verna Lilly**

Okay, well, I think you can pretty much any chance I have so far. And we're planning on going out again soon with Marcus Tanner from the health department, STD department and working with them up there soon. So this is a pilot project right now. We're hoping to develop something more down the road.



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## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Verna. And thank you, Jay, for that question. Do you have another question? Raise your hand still up.

## **Jay Warley**

No, I'm sorry. I'll take that down.

## **Rob Huff**

No problem at all. Okay, thanks, everybody.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

I had a quick question. Jenny. Did you mention the survey that the Health Department put out?

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

I did not mention it. Um, I did get some feedback that it was geared towards medical providers and I thought that there was I sent the survey link out I thought there was sort of a, a tree where you could say what kind of provider you were, um,

## **Gerrit Nyland**

I took it and it seemed didn't seem applicable to me. There was a couple times that I was like, okay, am I responding to this as

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Okay, okay. Um, yeah, so thanks. Thanks, Garrett. So yeah, I sent out a survey and I can send it out again, because I think it's still open. I'll double check with our team here. That is from our health department asking for feedback about the COVID response. So we definitely want to hear that you can always reach out to I had a couple of people reach out to me directly and share feedback. And I will only share that on with others if it's okay. And I'll ask if it's, you want it to be confidential anonymous, but I will either try to find the link during the call or send it out again to the coalition. Thanks.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks, Jenny. And thanks, Garrett. Let's shift now and if your other questions, please feel free to use the chat. Let's shift over to any updates. I don't didn't notice if we have anybody from the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management on today's call. They had anything to share. All right, and not seeing anyone. Let's shift to the rest of our agenda and we are running a bit behind so I'll try to be quick. Next up is me talking about advocacy. And what I'm going to what I'm trying to do every week in these advocacy updates, especially now that we're outside of the legislative session is just to highlight opportunities at the local level. So the city of Tacoma and Pierce County in particular where we can





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have an opportunity to influence conversation around issues related to homelessness. So this the Tacoma City Council this next week is meeting in their study session. It's a joint meeting with Tacoma Public Utilities Board. There are no items on the study session agenda that are announced that apply to our work. However, if you have the time to listen in at noon on Tuesday, please do sometimes things pop onto the agenda that are that come up under other items that do impact the topics that the coalition is concerned about. They're also on the Tuesday night meeting for common City Council. There are no items in the legislation directly related to coalition business. However, there are a number of multifamily property tax exemption projects that are being voted on if people want to make comments on those sorts of things. The Pierce County Council on Monday at the Community Development Committee is which takes place on the 21st at 1:30pm. They're scheduled to consider and began talking about an ordinance regarding development regulations and zoning for safe parking. So this is a topic that I know will be discussed at the safe sites for all meeting committee meeting on Monday. But let me paste in the chat. The information about how where you can learn more about this item sorry for the delay. So that link at the end allows you to go take a look at the proposed language for this ordinance that the county council is going to be discussing in this committee. And then again for the at the state level. The as a reminder, the state legislature wrapped up its short session on March 10. I am reaching out to our friends at the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance to see if someone may be available to come speak with us next week to talk about kind of a summary of the legislation that did pass and what that means for groups like our coalition and then also what is seen as opportunities to do work and advocacy in the interim before the next legislative session, which will be a long session that starts next January. So look for that. I'm trying to line that up on the agenda for next week. That would be it for advocacy updates for this week. Any questions from folks? All right, so I will kick this over to Jan Ron back. Would you like to give an update for the safe sites for all committee?

## **Janet Runbeck**

Ah, yes Rob. We are going to talk about a position that we should consider. So we're going to go over the details of what the county is proposing and how it fits or doesn't fit with what may be best practices. The other thing we're going to talk about is to develop the staging site, the planning for the staging sites throughout the county for inclement weather, declarations and then just safe parking in all but I do have a question while I have the floor. Nobody's talked about Project Homeless Connect. Isn't that coming up and I'll turn it over to who knows more than I do.

## **Mike Yoder**

Yes, it is coming up. We've just finally secured a venue which is going to be st Leo's parish and Bix Hall, and it is in April and so if you have so we're actually trying to get the word out to our usual group of service providers that we know normally like to come and connect with our neighbors experiencing homelessness. And so we're trying to get the word out to you. We're going to have limited space. We want to keep some extra distancing just for an indoor event this spring there in the hall. So we're going to be a little limited with the vendors that we can invite into the space to provide services so we're kind of keeping it to outreach to those that were kind of especially inviting in so we can have the right mix of





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people providing the services that we want. But if you really really want to be there project, Homeless Connect, you can call the office at associated ministries and let us know and i I'm sure we can fit you in somewhere but I believe it's scheduled for April, Wednesday, April 6 During the day we usually do those around 11 to three and we'll be meeting some volunteers if you really want to come out and help we have a good stable of people that we can usually count on. So we'll be going back to our usual group of people but if you just want to show up and be there, it's a beautiful opportunity to to be in a space with with a wide group of our homeless service provider community and some some clients that are there and it's actually a wonderfully encouraging space. So come out, bring your organization out, provide your services to to folks or come out and just volunteer and meet people serve people to great opportunity on our website, [associate.ministries.org](http://associate.ministries.org) You can sign up for vendor or volunteer.

## **Rob Huff**

Fantastic. Thanks for bringing that up Jan and thanks Mike for the information and I see that Kenny asks you a question the chat to Michael. So. All right. So let's shift over to any coalition committee updates that we need to share with the larger group today. Rosemary, anything we need to share.

## **Rosemary Powers**

I don't have anything right now. So we'll have something next week I'm thinking

## **Rob Huff**

Okay. Fantastic. So this creates an opportunity for us to to people to share general announcements, good trouble announcements with the group of us who are still in the meeting. Anything that folks would like to share? Feels like we kind of kick that off a little bit with talking about Project Homeless Connect but rosemary.

## **Rosemary Powers**

One thing I forgot the Race and Equity Committee, which is rather small right now could use some more folks to join us. We meet twice a month that's from three to four and we'll be meeting again two weeks from yesterday. That will be on the website if anyone's interested in coming and discussing how we can be a more inclusive community. But I wanted to say in terms of announcements is that we've taken up doing a few outreach opportunities to to other kinds of groups who are organized some times with response to homelessness as part of their work, but they might be religious faith communities, they might be organizations that are that are meet to meet public needs. And we have a small conversation that we're willing to come and talk to an organization that has a general meeting that might profit from learning what the coalition is and does. So if you're part of a group that would appreciate someone coming to talk about the coalition, just what you know how to be involved or even what it does. You can contact me I put my information in the chatter it's on the agenda at the Welcome area where I do that. We're willing to come and spend 10 minutes, five minutes whatever is necessary. To introduce the work of the coalition to the group you're part of or that you think might be interested.



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## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, rosemary, and I see your hand Richard. Got a few folks lined up in front of you and then we'll get to you So Patricia

## **Patricia**

this is just a thought to keep a grateful heart with the Pierce County deputy, dumb colletta that passed I just wanted people as they do their work the interactions. There was a shootout and the other officer was injured with the individual complaint the commitments of the officer. But as we do our work, we are all connected. And I just want people to think of that in honor and also whatever spiritual way and prayers for the family leaves behind a wife and a four year old. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Patricia. Yes, that's a great, great reminder, context for the work we're doing this week. Gannett your hands up?

## **Janet Thiessen**

Yeah, I put this in the chat. Just a reminder this Thursday at 430 is the the community vitality and safety committee of the city council and I think maybe probably supposedly they will be making a recommendation to the city council about in the encampments about banning the encampments. You can usually again do have this public comment. So it'll just be interesting to say the least. What they're gonna do.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, I neglected to mention that during my career in my advocacy

## **Janet Thiessen**

and now my phone's ringing.

## **Rob Huff**

Of course. Kathy, your hands up and you're muted right now.

## **Cathy Pick**

Am I muted? Boy, we all need shirts. Am I on mute? Unmute yourself, you're good. Um, so just a reminder that the Tacoma tenants union have we we recently changed her name from organizing committee to union. That was part of the intent right from the beginning. It I'm putting my contact information in the chat if you have a tenant who is concerned about displacement, they don't know what their rights are or how to exercise them. And just a reminder to folks that the Tacoma tenants union is all about empowering people to help them. self advocate, we can advocate for people but passing on



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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our knowledge of how to navigate these housing insecurities. We have a lot of lived experience amongst our members. And so that's kind of what we do. We have a Facebook page. We have a work phone number and I'm also putting in my new email address. Yes, yet another new email address for Kathy

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Kathy. Thank you try to keep track.

## **Cathy Pick**

Patient, we're, we're, I say we're kind of like that pan of jello that's in your fridge that you keep checking on to see if it's set up. Yeah, we're getting there.

## **Rob Huff**

Very good. Teresa, your hands up.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

So first, Rob posted thing about Sunday's memorial in the chat. Please do take a look at that. I don't know if it's here or not. But anyway, there it is. And I have two things. One is that not this Wednesday. But the following Wednesday, which is the 30th. We've been working on some infographics. I should say Lori's been working on some infographics. Next week, we're gonna really focus on our pathways to homelessness one, but the week after we're going to start working on our next project was which is about Jan's pet project. That is it's not just mortality, it's also morbidity. So if anybody who has data on that or who has an interest in that, and helping us to make that a really great infographic, if you would like to join the suicides for all campaign meeting on the 30th, which is at 11am. And the invitation is on the coalition website. We'd be delighted to hear from you and have you join us in that work or if you don't have that time free and care about this, please just send something to Lori and I because we're trying to put something together. The second thing I want to put out there is that sometimes I noticed how Tacoma centric we can be as a group and so in our steering committee, we've been talking about the people on the other side of the bridge and the people that are on the outers segments of Pierce County. So if you're somebody who's doing something out there and you're feeling a little left out, or even if you're not feeling left out, even you feel great about us, please be in touch with me. I'm gonna put my email in the chat. And let me know if maybe you want to do community spotlight or maybe we've also been talking about should we do a session that really focuses on Pierce County and some of the especially over the bridge which can feel like you're in a different universe, but you're still part of us and we still care about you. So I'll put my email there. Please just be in touch and we'll figure out what happens next.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks, Teresa. Garrett, your hands up?



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## **Gerrit Nyland**

Sure. Thanks. I just wanted to give a little bit of an update on marine Howard. So most of you know marine that she's going through some nasty cancer and I just wanted you all to be if you got some time, put her in your thoughts and prayers, she's soldiering on things are going fine, but it's been a really rough week. So just want to kind of push some love in her direction.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Garrett. I was really curious about that, actually. All right. Any other good trouble announcements for today's meeting? Yeah. Richard.

## **Richard**

I just thank you for the comments that have reached out to me as a result of the Tacoma Tech News. And thank you, especially to the only shout out don't worry Davenport for the fine graphics that went into that. But I would like to make a note out to everybody. If you've got a story. If you got a program, something coming up that might fit in that format that you want. To get the word out to people in the encampments. Drop me a line and we'll see if there's a way we can get that done. I don't know what our publishing timeline is going to be just yet but it's something that we could possibly include. So thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Great. Thanks, Richard. All right. So we have come to the end of our time today. The last item on our agenda is an opportunity to reflect on today's meeting. If you would like to share with with the full coalition and with me, what things went well today, what things didn't. What, what do we need to do better next week? And then also, what are some topics that we need to cover in our upcoming meetings? One of the things that I do want to put out there as a placeholder is that we will create an ongoing weekly item related to the comp plan to end homelessness, just to keep that front and center for the coalition. So that will be a new item that we will have on our agenda going forward. And I will try to coordinate with Garrett to see what we might be able to help inform to make that meaningful for the work that will be going forward on the comp plan but that's just planting a seed in folks minds. Any other any comments or feedback on today's meeting? And again, use that you can use the chat. You can also let me drop my email in the chat if you don't want to provide feedback. In a public forum, you can also email me and and let me know what we can improve for upcoming meetings. So I want to thank everyone for being here. For the work that you're doing. And look forward to seeing everybody next week. Excuse me, if you have the time and the interest. We will have a small group of us doing planning for next week's meeting immediately after this meeting ends. But if you can't join us for that we hope you have a great weekend and we'll see you all next week. Thanks again guys.