



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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## Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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### SPEAKERS

Theresa Power-Drutis, Jeff Rodgers, Kenneth King, Tim Harris, Richard, Caleb Carbone, Courtney Love, Gerrit Nyland, Sally Perkins, Patricia, Cathy Pick, Rosemary Powers, Shannon Ice, Jennie Schoeppe, Valeri Knight, Rob Huff, Janet Thiessen, Po Leapai, Jay Warley, Rick Samyn

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### Rob Huff

Good morning, everybody. We will wait just another minute or so here to get a few more people in the room but it's good to see people's faces this morning. And to make sure you're in the right place. This is the meeting of the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition. to end homelessness. It's good to see everybody. All right, so welcome again, everyone. It is 901 and we have a little over 30 people in the room. So why don't we go ahead and get started with this week's coalition meeting. Rosemary, would you like to kick us off?

### Rosemary Powers

Thank you, Rob. Welcome, everyone to our Open Table, where we invite everyone committed to ending homelessness to work together, to learn and strategize to question propose solutions, and to persist in building a stronger community. Today, when we take some time to talk with each other in small groups, will be asked to think about how to help create more community support for solutions to homelessness in our own neighborhoods. This question led me down a lots of thought and pathways and I kept thinking about the importance of perseverance of having a goal, a vision of something better, something that would make the world a fairer and more just place and keeping at it in the face of resistance, apathy, fear, and lack of resources. And since this is Women's History Month, I thought



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about the US fight for the right to vote, acknowledging the existence of women as full citizens, as persons with rights about the 72 years long campaign from 1848. at Seneca Falls declaration of women's rights to the ratification of the amendment that gave women the right to vote, have through the fraught years of deep cleavages in the movement over strategies that insisted on the inclusion or exclusion of women of different races, about two disagreements over the US entry into World War One. And yet the perseverance toward the goal and and even after the achievement of the goal in 1920, the continuing perseverance needed 100 years later, to secure and celebrate the talent of women. This week of two amazing African American leaders katashi brown Jackson for the Supreme Court and Lisa cook for the Federal Reserve. We gather in the context of these Senate hearings about these historic appointments with our continuing goal, that it's possible and absolutely necessary to end homelessness in our county, and therefore for all the citizens and residents of our county. And so how will we help create more community support for solutions to homelessness in our Pierce County neighborhoods? There's a bit of advice credited to a medieval Saint Francis of Assisi who said, apparently, start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible. And suddenly you're doing the impossible. So welcome to our open table where we promote doing the impossible. And how do we do that together? When we meet together? Well, we have some norms and I think you've usually post those Rob, if you can do that. For people we ask people to in this zoom space to mute ourselves when we're not talking. To use the zoom raise hand feature for making comments when you'd like to do that and be recognized to limit distractions by turning off the video when you're doing other things, taking calls or doing whatever else you may be doing during this period. And then to use the chat as a way to network with each other to say anything you'd like to say relative to our topics or to meet each other on the chat is a way to have a conversation. All other things are happening where we promote that we don't discourage it. And as we need together, the kind of respect that we have for the different strategies and approaches that we take, are important to recognize and commit to and also to also speak up when we have something to say but don't speak up too often because we have a very, very big group. So to pay attention to that and pay attention to time, the time on the schedules agenda. So with that, I'd like to invite any people who are new to the coalition's meetings who would like to say hello, or who may not have been here for some time to reintroduce yourself so that we can welcome you and like to know what you're associated with if you want to put something in the chat about a group. If you're associated with a group, that's something you can do as well. So just raise your hand raise the hand function and Rob if you'll recognize people that'd be great.

## **Rob Huff**

Yes. Courtney Yes, my

## **Courtney Love**

name is Courtney Love. Um, some of you might know me from when I ran for city council in 2019. But I am now looking at working for the Washington lived experience coalition and I am the Pierce County staff representative. And I am glad to be here and I know some of you and it's good to see you and thank you



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## **Rosemary Powers**

well welcome, Courtney. It's really wonderful. to have you here.

## **Rob Huff**

Alright, rosemary, I'm not seeing any other right hands if anybody just wants to turn their mic on if you want to introduce yourself that's another option as well.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Well, welcome everyone and again, as Rob said to just if you want to introduce yourself on the chat, we're welcome. We welcome you to do that as well and some kind of contact if you'd like someone to contact you put that there as well. So Rob, on to you.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay, great. Well, it's good to see everybody again this morning. And let's get started with our first standing item that we had talked about every week, which is an update on what people are seeing this week on the streets. This portion of the meeting is meant to be an opportunity for folks to share what they're seeing with changes in their neighborhoods. We'll mention some information I'm sure about sweeps that have taken place this week or that are scheduled to take place next week. So I open the floor again use the raise hand function if you can or simply raise your hand physically if you're on screen. And I'll call on you. Yeah, go ahead, Richard.

## **Richard**

Just just to acknowledge the couple of sweeps underway and pending one on J Street earlier this week. And then there is one currently underway yesterday and today, over on 14th in South Fife, about behind the post office. What's interesting and significant about these sweeps is or particularly the second one is it's not conducted by the heel team, but rather, is come about from code enforcement. So the nature of the notice was a 72 hour notice and different set of participants out there. They've got some a backhoe and a front loader and they're doing some fairly serious and aggressive cleanup of the site and removal different kinds of Operation though. And then for those, there's a second sweep or third sweep actually scheduled for under the power of the bridge next week. I believe it's on the 31st which would be what next Thursday. So we've got three sweeps going on inside of about a week. And one of the issues is just the number of sheer numbers of people that are being displaced. And so it'll be interesting to see how this all were folks settled down. And how this transpires as the weather warms up.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, and Richard, the the sweep that is scheduled for East 26th street and under 705. That area that you mentioned off, Pol Avenue is I think it's supposed to happen on the 29th next Tuesday, so and



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what the city said is that they believe they're 10 structures and 15 people in that area that is just up the hill a little ways from the previous cleanup up to happen under i 75. Anyone else with updates about what they have been seeing on the streets, needs things that are particular changes with the change in seasons, anything that you think would be helpful for the larger group to know KENNETH I think think you're raising your hand. Okay,

## **Kenneth King**

I can never find the raise hand but that's fine. Um, we were definitely seeing that the changing needs over here where people are less likely to want to go into shelter life or into temporary housing, that are more likely to try to find safety by asking for a tent so that they can go somewhere else. Which I'm sure is related to the weather changes.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, I'm sure it is as well. Kind of that seasonal change that takes place. And yeah, Richard,

## **Richard**

I'll jump in again. Two of the things I've got going on. One is with the help of worry, Davenport doing graphics and printing and wonderful stuff. We have created a second installment of what we're calling the Tacoma tent news, which is a brief newsletter. That I've been distributing to people in the encampments. The first issue I let them know about the memorial service that Ed Jacobs held last Sunday. The current one has a focus on the helped me if I get this words wrong, but the homeless Miss connect activity. This is going to come up on on April 6. And so it's a way to reach out to people actually living in the encampments, letting them know about some of the services they're available. And it's also a way for me it gives me another chance on the outreach to interact with people that are living in the encampments. So printed copies of those are available electronic copies I have sent out to some I'm not sure I'll figure out see if I can figure out how to post this on the chat. But that's one of the things that made perfect sense to me, which was to try and simply communicate to folks that are living out there. The other thing that I have posted part of on the chat is next Thursday, I am hosting a second conversation on voices to end homelessness, which is simply an idea that I've borrowed from others and having laochra Assume Debbie rogalla and some other folks focus this time on the newly adopted comprehensive plan to end homelessness, and just having a conversation with some community leaders and folks that are quite experienced. On how to implement and what their views are on how to successfully implement the plan. So anybody in the coalition you're all certainly welcome to listen in as participants. It'll be a Zoom meeting next, next Thursday at 10 o'clock, and I'll try to get these zoom information posted on the chat as well. So those are a couple things I have going on. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Richard. You've been busy. So appreciate it. Patricia, you have your hand up.



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## **Patricia**

I think he just said it. There's no zoom link or anything. So if you could get that Richard, that'd be great. Thank you. Yep.

## **Rob Huff**

And add you have your hand up. I do. One of the things that has bothered me for months now. Is that we have information that is handed out by various governmental organizations that don't add up to what I'm seeing on the street and what Richard and others are seeing on the street. The city says there are 10 structures and 15 people I would suggest that if there are 15 structures, we're talking 30 people or Around 30 people because the average 10 uses with two people and up to four people or or more during the snowstorm so I don't believe that you're only going to be affecting 15 People city of Tacoma, you're going to be affecting a lot more than that. And I would encourage all of us when we have information that is contrary to what is being published. Then we raise our hands and and and bring it up to the coalition because skewing the numbers doesn't benefit anyone. So thank you. Yeah, I really appreciate that. And I think we need to make sure we have our own understanding of how many people are being impacted and not, not just take those numbers as being What's the situation on the street. Anyone else have items to share? For what they're seeing on the streets this week? All right, I am not seeing Hi, um, yeah. So Rick salmon is trying to get in the room and he's having trouble so I'm walking him through it. So he'll be here in a minute. I think it looks like you made it, Rick. Thank you. Hi. So let's go ahead and shift gears to talk to let rock Rick talk with us a little bit about what's going on at St. Leo's Pat Parrish as part of our community spotlight So Rick, you have the floor.

## **Rick Samyn**

Oh, good morning. Ah, so yeah, kind of an overview of emergency services. We've been in operation through the pandemic so we've never shut down and emergency services basically is a it's not it. It's a small program, but basically it tries to address the small issues that people run into the trip themselves up basically, in their process of securing employment or keeping employment if they're on the edge of homelessness. We try to identify what's going on and try to keep them from going into homelessness or if somebody is moving out of let's see a homeless situation and have come into some barriers. We tried to kind of overcome them or try to figure out what what needs to happen whether we assist or we we advocate and get other assistance from other agencies. On the medical end lot of times people just simply have a bunch of CO payments that they can't get because they really don't have a lot of money at the end of the month after paying everything else or dental or optical issues. If people are having difficulties, just managing the paperwork, and particularly since COVID, things have been more online. More remotes and more inaccessible to people who are not super tech savvy or even have a phone or access to a computer so we try to manage all that. It's a small budget, I guess number wise I think usually out the door direct services about 40 to \$45,000 a year. However, that's actually doubled since COVID. So and like normally we don't do rental assistance, but we have been doing some small amounts of rental assistance, simply because you gotta you have to do it if if the needs kind of warranted regarding a lot of housing or rental assistance programs out there. They're all bottleneck. I



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don't see it from my end. A lot of people getting a lot of assistance. It's got to be directly COVID related. And there's a waiting list. It's pretty extreme. And normally we're dealing with people that are having problems with homeless housing problems because they don't have the income and affordable housing doesn't exist. So that seems to be the big issue. We see about oh, I would say about 77 clients a month. So that's direct service. With some financial assistance. We also provide service to people that are just on the street, whether it's just toiletry items, we did work with just small amounts of clothing, like just coats and hats and gloves and things like that. But for the last probably three weeks now we try to open up a little bit of a clothing boutique. We call it because people are just not able to get clothing very well either. I know there's a program run by the Pierce County not too far away. They have a clothing shopping which is nice to have in a community, but there still seems to be a need. And I know nativity house has a clothing locker right here on campus. But my understanding it's only accessible to those who are being housed at nativity homes. So we have a lot of people that are on the streets that just don't just don't have access that and seems like a need. So we've been doing that. We are working more and more with st Leo's food connection.

So we did some outreach to that client population directly doing like a wellness survey on a weekly basis. For a few months now. Just kind of make ourselves known there and making the assumption that if people are there getting food on a regular basis, you probably have other financial burdens or strains in their world that maybe we can provide some sort of intervention. Ultimately, what we plan on doing here at St Leo's is the food bank program and emergency services will merge I hope to have that actually happen completely by the fall. So the portal for assistance here at St Leo's will be through the food connection. And we're going to try to kind of just pry more wraparound services for those those folks at the food connection because they're here already and it just seems like a better way to to run the programs and kind of focus on more than like I said wraparound instead of having two separate programs. In many cases helping the same, same group of people. We normally run Tuesday through Friday here we do have a huge empty intern. So that's been going on we had unity students from the social work department here for years. We had a little hiatus from that for a couple years but now we're back on that. So Tuesdays at this point Tuesdays is basically our kind of a client catch day for for food connection. And then we have scheduled appointments for clients on Wednesday and Thursday all day. And Friday is usually my admin ketchup day. But all in all, we end up seeing about 7077 folks. So if I something some clients a week most of our funding comes from just support the programs that perish. We occasionally get grants but we do not we're not set up to do a lot of that because we just don't have the staff. Right now. We have a meeting scheduled for you to T next week. It's not necessarily a kind of a seeking money thing. But we're moving forward on a bigger program where we'd like to take on an additional undergrad, U of T students. So we would have a office here at the parish and then we'd have a satellite office or the eventually hopefully the main office would be at the food connection. So that'll be operating I'm hoping hoping next fall. And then if we could secure more funding somehow because obviously the more more client contact we have, the more money we're going to be shoveling out the front door. So we do need to try to figure out how to finance this



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expansion. My hope is that I could maybe secure a grant in short term and then in the long term, have more in depth conversations with funders of the food connection and how we could kind of like tap into that resource. So we would have food funds going directly to the food connection but some would be dedicated to non food support. But when we go into families and members of our clientele,

## **Rob Huff**

right. Yes, you have a moment for some questions. Sure. Okay, Teresa, I see your hands up. Oh, just a question. It sounds like people are no longer supposed to come to St. Leo's rectory for emergency services, they would always access it through the food bank. Is that correct?

That's incorrect. We're going to go that way. Okay, that right now it's both ways. So September I'm hoping that eventually the Portal would be food connection.

## **Rob Huff**

So when people do go to the food connection, would they just go through the line like all other food connection?

So right and then if somebody is needing services there, we get a name we have conversation that the registered with the Food Bank and they're in our system then we we open up a file we do case we do files we have a kind of a case management system. So file would be opened up to them and kind of a case of the opened up and we can start

## **Rob Huff**

with anybody who outreach workers could contact there to just check if it's a good referral for that. I mean, so if they're looking for rental assistance, for instance, they wouldn't send someone down there to stand in line and then find out there. That was not a possibility. Is there any

closing that would probably be just a phone call to this office, and then we will screen calls from this office.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay, so you'll continue to be a contact for that. Yeah. Okay, great. That's what I was curious about.

## **Rick Samyn**

So all right. Any other questions?



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## **Rob Huff**

I'm not seeing any hands up at the moment. Well, I appreciate you all the work that you're doing and coming to here and letting us know about it. Is there anything in particular that the folks on this call can do to be supportive?

Oh, well, I mean, you're all kind of doing the work. It's just it's just extremely difficult and we're running into just a problem that everybody has that. The the housing system, the housing situation is the is the critical thing, and we just, it's not happening. And so we're just getting more calls for that assistance, and we are not robust enough to respond to all of it, but we're doing the best we can. Like probably all you guys are.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, yeah, I hear you Okay. Well, Kenneth, I see your hand up.

## **Kenneth King**

Rick, how's your percentage of placement right now? Placement, like finding people houses and stuff?

Ah, it's, it's it's slim. Um, basically, we don't search for the house and we try to I do have a volunteer who, who tries to kind of go through information on a website to make a more manageable list of what might be open and what's not. We have a conversation with folks and we try to search out housing that might, might make it fit but it's, it's difficult. I mean, I think in the last two months, we've had like, four people that were able to secure some sort of housing, but also we've also maintained people in housing. You could add another probably 20 people that we've helped to maintain their housing, buy some rental assistance are trying to take care of another bill to keep some just afloat. But the rents keep going up. So it's, yeah,

## **Kenneth King**

yeah. So I was wondering if If Rick and I see Shannon from CLR, and a couple of other rap programs, those of us who do the intensive case work if you all would like to get together and sit down and just talk about resource coordination we can do that. If that would be helpful.

## **Rob Huff**

How All right, so thank you again, Rick, for coming this morning. And really appreciate the information and if that connection can be made, that'd be great. So yeah, I do need to move on in our agenda. Teresa, you have your hand up before we go. Just a quick thing. Kenneth, if you put your contact information in the chat with a note about who you want to contact you that be great.





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## **Kenneth King**

doing that. No. Thank you.

Hard. Thanks, folks. Have a great night. Yeah, and thanks for all the good work

## **Jeff Rodgers**

he is do take care.

## **Rob Huff**

We'll see well thank you.

## **Kenneth King**

Bye. Bye. Bye, everyone.

## **Rob Huff**

So let's shift to the next item on our agenda. And this is an item that that Jay brought to us last week. And we wanted to give an opportunity for Jay to share a little bit about perspective on why folks, white folks may be put up a barrier when you're interacting with them and their living house lists at the time. And so, Jay, can we we're running a little long on the agenda. Could you Could we do this in like between five and 10 minutes?

## **Jay Warley**

I should be it shouldn't be a problem.

## **Rob Huff**

Perfect. All right, the floor is yours.

## **Jay Warley**

Hello, everybody. My name is Jay. Um, I am more of a homeless advocate. Currently while I'm working on my project for long term homelessness. There are a lot of barriers that we've run into. One of them is strictly just numbers. There isn't enough housing. There's more homeless than we realize when we're dealing with people. What we're not realizing is a factor of fear, a factor discontent, disconnection a feeling that we are not part of the society that we are separate from everyone else. There's this issue where we have been called something and have materialize this idea that places us separate from everyone else. We are the homeless. We live in different categories. We live with a different skill set. And those skill sets take time to relearn how to just be part of society. So when everybody comes up to us, and they're like, Well, we have an opportunity. We're like, why should we go back to it? We've been shoved to the side. We have been disenfranchised. We've been told that we don't belong. A lot of us



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are judged on appearance only instead of actually being seen for who we are. For me, I have a type of acne that looks a lot like I do met and I don't but because of it, I have been resisted to go into stores. I have been harassed out of places. I have been very much on the edge of dealing with water things that most people wouldn't have to except for because of my appearance. It's easier to say well, we're not going to help you. You're not worth our time because we look like is not appropriate for our position our project our what may have you these divides or what you guys are running into these factors where we have dealt with enough trauma which is what goddess they're not necessarily our own. choices, but end up with more trauma built on top of it with rejection from society. And by the end of it, why should we go back to it? You want us to go back to stress, frustration and anger most of us have learning disabilities. Most of us have issues connecting with other people. By the time that we are six months on the street. We no longer think like you do capitalism doesn't work for us anymore. And to go back to that type of lifestyle is almost impossible, without the real will to do so. So in general, that is the priority here in my opinion is to gap that drastic difference between what you guys see that we need and what we feel we need. Thank you for your time there is a lot more but I know that we're on a time crunch

## **Rob Huff**

thank you for sharing, Jay i i appreciate your perspective. And it's it's important for us to hear from folks who have lived experience and far too often we don't it's too easy for people to dehumanize the situation. And that's just it does more damage that way. So thank you for being willing to share J Rosemary

## **Rosemary Powers**

J I just wanted to say my heartfelt thanks for your presentation. It's really absolutely essential for us to hear your voice and the voices of those that you are championing as well. So I just thank You that was very clear. And I would love to hear more from you. I hope we'll be able to do that in the future. It's really wonderful. Thank you very much thank you

## **Jay Warley**

all that was my first attempt at presentation.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you again, Jay. And you're seeing lots of great comments in the chat. So hopefully you're able to see those All right, so next on our agenda. I we've invited Oh from the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance to come talk with us about the just finished legislative session to talk about the successes that we saw in in Washington with with just finished session. And then what we're gonna be seeing in the coming months for opportunities for all of us in the room to engage and advocate for housing for folks going forward. So Po, I give you the floor.

## **Po Leapai**



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Right on. Thank you Rob. I appreciate it. If it's okay, can I share my screen?

## **Rob Huff**

I should have that ability.

## **Po Leapai**

Yeah. Oh sweet. Awesome. Thank you There we go. Good morning, everyone. I hope you can see this right here. Um, like Rob said, I am polaire pi I am the advocacy organizer at the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. I began in November, and I hit the ground running in preparation for session. It's so good to be here with you all to share our victories and a few things that we're going to work on for the upcoming year. So if you can look on the the first screen there, the first poplin screen that we have, on the bullet point, I'm just going to read them who's going to go through them and you just follow along if you don't mind. Thanks. So one of our victories or our victories are as follows 175 million new dollars for the Housing Trust Fund 120 point 4 million new dollars for rapid acquisition and 10 million new dollars started moved to spring it for for preservation. The Housing Trust Fund total funding over the two year budget was 288 million. The rapid capital acquisition total funding over the two year budget is 420 million. The total to your capital of housing investments is 718 point 4 million. The aged blind and disabled cash grant for disabled for people with disabilities is permanently increased from 197 to \$417. per month per month. Increase begins in September 55 million to address workforce capacity and sustainability for nonprofit homelessness service providers and permanent supportive housing providers. This creates stipends of \$2,000 for frontline workers. And fun to study to identify solutions to homeless service staffing and sustainability. Also an additional seven 7.5 to increase admin grants to organizations under contract with commerce 1.3 million to address the shortfall for the tenants right to counsel program, plus an additional 2.2 million for eviction prevention legal aid 4.5 million for foreclosure prevention to ensure that struggling homeowners can stay in their homes 68 point 4 million for rental assistance before I go on to the next slide. I want to share with you all of it. I was tasked in my job as advocacy organizer to reach out to everyone all across the state who have lived experience who have second hand traumas, secondary traumas also lived experience in my belief system. None of this would have been possible without those stories, just as JJ has shared, and I hope you feel empowered j because your story is so powerful. And the numbers you all have seen here is is a testament of how powerful advocacy can be through sharing your story through sharing the story of other folks with lived experience. That you come in contact with your support. So I thank you all for your work. On to the next slide. Our key policy victories are as follows. House Bill 1643 by Rep happening, the exemption is an incentive to sell property to affordable housing developers passed with significant bipartisan support. It's waiting to be signed by the government. Senate Bill 5749 By Senator Trudeau prohibiting landlords from requiring tenants to pay rent only through electronic means. House Bill 1866 by webshop. Apple Health and homes passed and it was funded with 60 million for permanent supportive housing plus funding for operations etc. This is also waiting to be signed by the government. A few policy losses that we are going to gear up and prepare for the 2023 session are as follows. This past session, we were disappointed by these losses. House Bill 2017. By rep Davis the housing Justice Act to prevent



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landlords from denying housing solely based on attendance. or family members previous arrests or incarceration. House Bill 1904 by red Peterson increasing notice for significant rent increases to six months in order to provide tenants time to plan save up, save up for rent money or secure more affordable housing. House Bill 2023 Isn't the third one we will be working on from this past session. Rep hackings bill creating a process for tenants to enforce their rights and allowing the state attorney general to enforce the landlord tenant act under the state's consumer protection protection laws. That is my presentation this morning. I just also wanted to reiterate my my appreciation for you all I experienced homelessness months after my release from prison after I did a two year sentence for first degree burglary. I did my time got out with remorse. I was prepared to turn my life around but unfortunately barriers like not being able to get a home not being able to get a job. My credit score was non existent. I didn't I couldn't pay three times the rent to get in anywhere. So I say all that to say my heartfelt appreciation to you all for all the work you're doing. Sometimes it seems like you know it's slow progress, but it's still progress. Sometimes it feels like there's no progress. But I encourage you all you have allies accomplices, friends and family across the state in the Housing Alliance in me, and if there's anything you all need, please reach out. You have my support here 1000 lines and thank you so much for your time this morning. Thank you. I'm here for any questions. I will leave my email as well in the chat for anyone that wants to reach out and make some connection. I'd love to get to know each and every one. All 62 and I thank you all I hope you have a blessed day. I'm open for any questions. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

So Paul, I think let me take your slides down so we can all see each other again. So do you have any particular advice for folks in the room here who for what we can do to help build the case for more progress in the next legislative session? And in these months in between?

## **Po Leapai**

Yeah, just my my short answer to that is folks with live experience come with a special level of expertise. I'm figuring out the formula on what we we need to listen to our folks with lived experience. Listen to those who who experienced their lived experience alongside them. Those frontline workers, service providers, everyone there, your your story matters in all of this. And so I think just reaching out if you know anyone, gather their names, get them ready because when session comes next next session, we're going to we're going to come with a force of testifiers and stories and testimonies of folks that are going to make lawmakers just it's gonna be undeniable that you know you have to have anyone with a human and a heart or a human heart and a human brain will be able to what I saw what I saw, honestly with testimony this session in past sessions of sessions that I've been a part of, to live testimony, our lived experience just resonates on a whole different level with lawmakers and legislators. So if you ever get a chance, so if you ever get a chance anyone to meet with lawmakers or legislators to, you know, to advocate I think I would strongly encourage that, you know, and so yeah, just reaching out to folks who live experience and giving them a platform to amplify their stories as the short answer there. Thank you.



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## **Rob Huff**

Great. Thank you, Paul. And I see Theresa has her hand up. Yeah, I've had my hand at so much but this is exciting. So you've done a great job of reaching out to all of us. I think many of us have responded to your request for contacting folks. I'm wondering with House Bill 2023. Is that one all about the fact that the tenant rights that are in place, don't have any there's no teeth to enforce them is that behind that and talk to that a little bit?

## **Po Leapai**

That's what I'm getting at to Yes. While I'm fairly new to details on all because we have a long list of things, but I believe that that is the context that I'm picking up from that that bill Yes.

## **Rob Huff**

Great. Thank you. Your hand up to

## **Rosemary Powers**

I froze for a minute there. So I took it down. But I mostly wanted to just say that Pope. The Alliance's work is just so inspiring and the actions that you suggest for us to take on a really timely basis are just really an amazing resource. So that combination of being having bills to act on in a specific time and your your advice about testifying and being prepared for next session. I look forward to hearing some specifics about the testifying that needs to be happening. So thank you very much.

## **Po Leapai**

Me too. Thank you, Rosemary. Appreciate that. And I appreciate your leadership as well. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Anyone else with a question for Po? Box being any right now. So if you have the opportunity to stay for short periods of time, we may have additional questions in the chat. But I just want to thank you for making yourself available to come to this morning's meeting and for the work that you're doing, and we look forward to talking with you again.

## **Po Leapai**

Yes, thank you so much. for having me and I will see you all again. Thank you friends. Have a blessed day.

## **Rob Huff**

You too. Alright, so let's shift from the statewide picture to zoom in a little bit more on Pierce County and what I the time I've put on the agenda here is just a brief moment that will include on all of our agendas as we move forward to talk about what's the latest happening with the Pierce County



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comprehensive plan to end homelessness. So Garrett, I don't know if there's much that you could update today. I do know, we could mention the ordinance that the county council committee considered earlier this week related to safe parking, but anything else you could share?

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Playing Not really. So with the plan passing the steering committee that helped put a plan together really road Complan is reformed as an advisory group, slightly different members, but mostly the same. And that first meeting is April 1. And I think they'll have some word on some sort of directions. I think it'll be an interesting meeting. And but I'm really just behind and kind of everything. So lots of bits that I'm going to be bringing in front of all of you things like implementation plan, like what should we be prioritizing? First should we be putting work into workforce development or working on the cycle between homelessness and incarceration, right we we need to work on all these things. But even though I always say we need to do them all together, there will be some some things that have to occur sort of in a serial fashion and, and the funding plan is the other big one. And so I think we'll be kind of coming back with some ideas about how we might be able to work on that funding and get some feedback on practicality or should be thinking about other things. So lots of things that are happening, just not as fast as I'd like to because we only have kind of so much bandwidth and and so that's that's challenging and a lot of the information kind of that we intend to publish is stuff that we still intend to publish and her are going to be working on but we're just slow bringing staff online. So I finally have a staff to start rebuilding some of our data infrastructure starting on Monday. So that's very exciting. And sort of a temporary allocation because I whined so much I think from the IT department and county until we get someone hired on but but it's there's lots of work, they'll be able to jump right in. So it won't won't be an issue kind of on one step forward and to back. So yeah, I guess that's kind of where we said I'd be happy to take questions of folks out. One thing I've heard from a number of people is about how we're interacting with the other jurisdictions within Pierce County, and I didn't get a chance to listen in on the CDs or the community vitality and safety committee of the City of Tacoma Council. I haven't had a chance to listen in on that but a lot of folks to their comments that were pretty, pretty frustrated by the sort of lack of buy in within the city and and I've had conversations with city council members as well. And sort of figuring out how we want to approach that kind of and it's not just Tacoma. It's how we work with Tacoma. How we work with Fife and Pugh all up in Lakewood. So I think all those relationships are just progressing. And it may be they progress at a different pace than the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan does. But I'm really anxious to have all those groups very involved in looking at this unified regional office. And I really, so that's the part that scares me a little bit is is not having kind of a full all in let's see how this would work for Lakewood, or how this would work for Tacoma or how this would work for Pierce County. Kind of in that consultant led process. So I think that's probably a priority is figuring out how to bring everybody you know, in a real accountable and fully bought in way. So trust building not not the easiest stuff in the world.

## **Rob Huff**



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Right. Well, I will talk a little bit about this the community vitality and safety committee meeting during the advocacy updates a little later. Yeah, there was if you do have an opportunity to listen and and you like are calm and try not to get frustrated. There's some good content in there. Where there's opportunities, I think, for municipalities to work together with the city or with the county and learn more about what's in the comprehensive plan. So that so that there can be movement forward. That's not separate, you know, based on the location. Briefly, Gary, anything you would share about the conversation around the safe parking ordinance? It seemed like, there were not a whole lot of there wasn't a whole lot of controversy in that conversation. At the committee Community Development Committee meeting earlier this week. And I believe they did it do pass to move it forward to the full council. I just didn't catch the timing.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

It's April 18, or something like that. It's quite a bit down the road and again, I my take from every conversation is they want to figure out how to do this in our community. And so that that's I think really, really nice Dave reached out earlier they got input from like, Paula that's running the safe parking program. And, and so I figured I i think if you have comments on it, they'll be more than happy to hear them. And there's plenty of time between now and when the ordinance comes before the full Council for consideration.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

And I think we we care about like, what you have to do to have certain numbers of people at the sites and they really just leveraged what within the state ordinance. I mean, the catalyst is making sure that the county is, you know, operating legally, you know, that our you know, our code isn't in violation of the state code, but I think they also just wanted to be very explicit about what you can do and how you do it. And, and so, you know, I'm, I'm excited about it, I think, you know, even though safe parkings you know, a frustrating, you know, intervention to offer people but for a lot of folks it's, it's what they're what they're comfortable with, and so I think it's it's shown really effective.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you. Um, so to build upon the conversation around the comprehensive plan to end homelessness at the county level. We thought we would do a breakout conversation this morning. Considering the question of how can we work as coalition members to create more community support for solutions to homelessness that can be housed in people's own neighborhoods, how do we make that more palatable and acceptable that that neighborhoods and communities willingly host their neighbors who are now living on the on the streets or in the woods? In a more much more humane, caring and sustainable pathway toward housing? How do we make that happen on the county wide



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level? So we thought we would do a breakout conversation as we have been doing every week. We'll break into small groups and ask that one of you take take notes from your group, and paste your notes into the chat at the end when we come back. I'm gonna still we can, why don't we still do at least a 10 minute break out this morning? And let me get the rooms set up and I will reiterate our question that we're considering through the announcement to the breakout rooms, but so we don't waste more time. Let's go we'll be back here. At about 1004.

<breakout rooms>

## **Rob Huff**

Welcome back, everyone. I hope that that was a good opportunity to meet each other and have conversation around the topic about building community support for solutions in our own neighborhoods. And I look forward to seeing the notes everyone shares in the chat. Speaking of notes, I want to share on screen briefly the notes that the Timothy pulled together for us from last week's chat if you remember, last week, we also asked in light of the Comprehensive Plan. Passage, what are the aspects of our current homeless system that are working okay? And what are those that need to be addressed to to make us more effective so let me put this on the screen briefly. Hopefully everybody can see that. Let's see. I can probably even make it a little bigger so you can read it so you'll see there's mention of the safe parking network as things that are working okay. Kudos for rental assistance in the work that folks like Valerie has been doing. And the work that kind of a pro bono has been doing around eviction prevention more and more about having good homeless diversion strategies available. And talk about how dynamic and widespread the Pierce County homeless response system is currently. So kudos for some of the good performance and then go down to what needs improvement. Capacity comes up a lot. The lack of RV parking options Yeah, frustration over the time that it takes between coming up with a potential solution and actually seeing it implemented and then more focused on developing attainable housing and what I will do is I'm going to drop this document into the chat. But I wanted to make sure we don't forget the conversation that we had last week, and that we actually tried to move things forward from these meetings. So this is exactly why it's helpful for you to drop your information from your conversation into the chat. Now, let me figure out where I got to second stop sharing and bring us back so thank you, Timothy, for putting that together. Yes, I see that. I see the question about putting the list online. And we could post these summaries to the website. That's probably the right thing to do. And Garrett has

## **Tim Harris**

been posting these to the website every week pretty quickly after I get it back to them. And please feel free to share ritually premier group report outs because this last out usually I try to keep these documents to about a page. But this turned into a three page document because there was just so much there and that's perfectly okay.

## **Rob Huff**





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Yeah, yeah, there's a lot of rich information there. So I will drop that in the chat as well so that folks can grab it from the chat if they would like. And let's look to our next updates in the in the meeting. So we're a couple minutes few minutes late here for our government updates, but I do want to hand over the floor now to Caleb from the city of Tacoma to see if there any updates from the city.

## **Caleb Carbone**

Thanks, Rob. Appreciate that. I have a couple of updates one from the heel team. For the week for last week, they were able to visit nine locations and kind and 33 people were actually contacted from those nine visits, and nine of them were able to accept shelter or connections to other services. Part of that team is actually managed. It's not managed by me but we are recruiting for a healthy manager currently right now. So that totally they start progressing rapidly faster so that we can create more opportunity and more structure around that team. For the for the comments about the count for the time being if you will, please reach out to me if you have discrepancies. I'm going to drop my contact information. And also Rob as I mentioned this I did see on the agenda that my were missing one letter in my email, so if people use that to contact me, I think the C is missing in Tacoma just as I'm talking about it now. So I'll drop my contact information. So if you if you feel like there is a discrepancy, I don't know the process of the account right now, but I would be really interested to have that conversation to find out which also brings me I know Rob is going to talk about this. There is the the discussion around Pierce County and City counting and the alignment that needs to happen between the two agencies to be able to find a solution to be able to make sure that's as accurate as possible. And I know Linda mentioned that during the CBS as well and that just want to affirm that that is the position of the teams to be able to do that and find something that is going to work together so that we're not working separately against that and I'm sure Garrett would agree to that as well. And then I will drop also in the chat the city funding temporary emergency shelter performance that goes out to the council as well. So thank you all if you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

## **Rob Huff**

Great, thank you, Caleb and I have fixed that address. So thank you for letting me know. I'm gay. Your hand is up.

## **Jay Warley**

Just checking real quick. Do you said that the heel team management position are they still hiring for that or is that closed?

## **Caleb Carbone**

As far as I heard you were helpful to post that in the chat as well.

## **Jay Warley**

Yes please people.



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## **Rob Huff**

Okay. Great. Anyone else with questions for Caleb? Okay, so let's shift to our next government update and I see Jeff Rogers on the screen from Pierce County Human Services. What do you have to share? With us this week?

## **Jeff Rodgers**

Yeah. Good morning. I got a lot to share today, but I'll do it really quickly. As I mentioned several weeks ago, our housing and essential needs funding opportunity is out to people can apply through next Thursday, March 31. Again, that's a program that serves them temporary temporarily disabled folks. eligibility is determined through DS HS at the state level. So if you're intending to apply please do so by next Thursday. Earlier this week, we released what we're calling a coordinated entry system enhancement funding opportunity. We're increasing all of the activities around our front door of our homeless crisis response system known as coordinated entry and have an opportunity that's approximately \$3.5 million. That's out. You can find all of these funding updates on our Human Services website at Pierce County. Applications for that opportunity are due back by April 21. So if you're looking to do it, I'd encourage you to look quickly and look at the materials and the application and start working on those as soon as possible. The third thing is that there's also a project it's something that our council and executive branch here at Pierce County are very vested in an incident known as community first village. Earlier this week, our Pierce County finance department procurement division released a funding opportunity that's separate from our department process. So that tells you it's a very high profile project when they get involved at that level. Because our counsel and executives office is very interested in this new project and this there's the funding up to this out to research the feasibility of the project. Start conversation about the development construction location operations of that project. That document can be found at our Pierce County, human services procurement website. For anyone that's interested in potentially developing what they're calling micro homes, and I believe their goal is to develop at least at a minimum 150 Micro homes on the site to create a community first village modeled after a program in Austin, Texas. So there's three funding opportunities that are currently out of the county there. And lastly, I'll announce that we have announced our funding awards for our homeless housing and program funding opportunity that was released earlier in the year. We're funding just under \$12 million in programs the programs we're funding are for st street outreach, day shelter and safe parking, emergency shelter, which is our overnight shelter programs, Rapid Rehousing, transitional housing, and of course, permanent supportive housing. And that award list is also at our County Human Services website. A lot of stuff around money going on over here nowadays.

## **Rob Huff**

No kidding that you had a lot of announcements. Yeah.

## **Jeff Rodgers**



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And more funding opportunities to come. So oh, can I just say one more thing real quickly, just so this, this group knows. HUD has released the white HDP which is the youth homeless system administration program funding from a national level. That's a project that serves youth. And so we will be applying as a continuum of care here in Pierce County to try to secure additional funding to address youth homelessness. We'll be submitting a county consolidated application like hinge by June I believe is the date that's on the list, but it's farther down because the due date is farther out than all the other things we're working on. So just wanted people to be aware that we're looking to apply for for youth homelessness.

## **Rob Huff**

Great thank you, Jeff. Thanks for all that information. Let's shift over to Valerie with updates related to the Rental Assistance Program.

## **Valeri Knight**

for having me hopefully my microphone is in the right spot, Jeff. You look great love seeing you in person. So rental assistance is going great new portal is open. We did send out a mass email to tenants and to landlords they received it probably twice because we sent it from both buckets of email registrations that we had encouraging them to log into the new portal reset their password, upload additional requirements of documents that we now have, and really just communicating the delays. I had a wonderful interview with city line yesterday or Wednesday. I hear it's airing today. So hopefully, you have a free extra 15 minutes but amazing partner South Sound and Tacoma. Pro bono are there as well. So feel free to watch that but don't tell me because I won't watch it. I get super nervous. And then we are hosting landlord q&a and tenant q&a. Thank you, Rob. So are on the first week of April so April 5, and April 6. We have three hours with Tacoma pro bono, the Washington State Department of Commerce, landlord mitigation and the Dispute Resolution Center will all be there giving landlord specific and tenant specific information. I will send those back out to you again. I send them out about a week ago but I'll do it again. We're still averaging over between seven and \$9 million per month that goes out. And in the last year we've spent over \$110 million checks cut directly to landlords and tenants through the program. So while someone may not see the money going out, it's definitely out there. And we are still COVID impact because we are still seeing a lot of households who have been directly impacted by COVID. So new applicants, we encourage you to go in and apply and then if you have a 14 day pay or vacate we encourage you to please please please communicate with your landlord and go talk to our famous friends over it to come up pro bono because they are doing an awesome stand up job. And that's it and I have jury duty in the next week. So if I'm not around that will be while I'll be on a jury.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you for doing your civic duty.



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## **Valeri Knight**

It is my civic duty.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, next on our list of updates would be Jenny from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Hi, everybody. Good morning. I'm glad to be with you as always. We are continuing to see cases number of cases and our hospitalizations declining or COVID cases and hospitalizations. That is the latest data we have is from February 27 to March 12. So there is a lag, as you probably know and we don't know what impact if any we will see from the lifting of the mask mandate. So we're very interested to see that. Um, we have seen cases in Europe, you know, rising across Europe, and not sure what we'll see here but stay vigilant. Um, get vaccinated. I'll drop my normal links in the chat as far as those resources for folks that are interested in data, I'll also drop the data page. It's updated those those data updated three times a week, I think but if you're interested in looking at the dashboard, you could do that. Um, we have not had new COVID case is at our shelters for several weeks now, which is amazing. Great news makes me very happy. We are ending our contract with ambulance that's been doing our vaccine clinics at the shelters and de center sites, those 10 sites we've been working with that contract is ending at the end of this month. And so our internal teams working to fill that gap and working with the shelters collaboratively to come up with some new approaches. So we can continue to provide that resource for folks. And then as I mentioned in prior calls I'm working on now as the emergency response is slowing down. I'm working on how to expand and broaden my role and working with the shelters and other providers for other communicable disease issues. You know, it's not just COVID We've got a lot of other things that impact our neighbors living homeless that I want to sort of get back to having a broader approach so I'm always open to suggestions and feedback from folks, as I hope you understand. Um, I will put some testing resources or our usual links in the chat including a forum for businesses and organizations to request testing and what else um, we still have a survey open that the department is doing. Um, Garrett mentioned it last week. It is open through the end of today, I believe. So I'll put that link there. Let us know your feedback about our COVID response and then finally, I was told about some Naloxone or Narcan kits. So if that's relevant for folks, there is a screening station at TPC HD at our south entrance on Pacific Avenue and I'll share the address in the chat. And you can also email if you are with an organization or agency that would like to require or would like to ask about getting those those kits. And yeah, finally, again, I just want to ask for your feedback on how I can show up to these meetings with a broader lens. I'm looking outside of COVID so I will drop my email for anyone who doesn't have it. And that's all for me. Are there any questions?

## **Rob Huff**

One for you, Jenny. So the Naloxone kits are those something that would be available for individuals who are doing outreach?



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## **Jennie Schoeppe**

I believe so I believe so. But um, I will say, I'm not on that team, but I can connect folks with treatment services. The screening station, I think is available to anyone. And then the I believe that the infirm the additional information is DOH. So I can share that email address for folks. Great. Yeah. And I'll I'll be learning more in the in the coming weeks about all of those services so I can better answer those those questions when they come up. So thanks.

## **Rob Huff**

Yep. Anybody else with any questions for me?

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Well, not really a question. Oh, the opioid Task Force is also having a no Loxone distribution and training event. And there that's on our website. It's on April 15. So the Ides of April and it's it's at the Pierce Transit transfer station at 72nd. And, and, and Portland Avenue. So that's just it's a Saturday. I think that's I don't know what it is. But that's, that's another opportunity for anyone in the community. So if you wanted to do it, but your agency doesn't necessarily allow it, you'd like to have it for off agency times or if you're an individual just doing volunteering out to do outreach. I think it's an opportunity kind of for anyone to get get the training and get access to something that can save a life. Thanks, Carrie.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay, all right. Thanks, buddy. Thank you for the updates. Jenny, have a great weekend. And our for our last government updates. I'm not sure if we have anyone representing the Tacoma or the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management with us this morning. So let's pause for a moment and see if there any updates from the All right, not not hearing anyone on the call. As a reminder, they folks from Pierce County do do like to attend these meetings but they're not here every week. And they certainly show up when there's a need. So we appreciate that. Um, so let's shift to our next item on the agenda and that would be an advocacy update. And what I have been trying to do in these updates is just provide some heads up of items that are coming up in the coming week where people could either listen in or provide testimony. I do not do a great Maureen Howard imitation but I try so I'm looking at the Tacoma City Council the agenda for the study session and for the regular meeting meeting do not have items that are directly related to homelessness. However, I do urge folks if they have the time, you never quite know what will come up during other items. On study session. It's always a good thing to listen to the study session takes place at noon every Tuesday. So if you have the opportunity to tune into zoom and listen that can be a good spot for a heads up. I'm not aware of any items for Pierce County coming up in the next week. That would be critical to our work. I'm sure Sally will let me know if there is anything that comes to mind Sally

## **Sally Perkins**



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supported the radio's their agendas aren't posted yet. Yeah, post their agenda so Friday afternoon but I will let you know that and

## **Rob Huff**

yeah, that's great and and I will send out an email to the either salary or I will send something out to the list. If if there's something that could use our attention next week of what I did want to talk about a little bit and I urge Sally and others who are participating last night in the city council's community vitality and Safety Committee meeting to share a little bit about the content that was discussed during that meeting. So as a reminder the City Council last year was considering reinstating some sort of a camping ban in Tacoma. And that item never came to a full vote of the council during the year but the but the excuse me. full council did ask the CVS committee to make a recommendation by the end of the first quarter to the full council regarding a camping ban. And that was the point one of the items on the agenda last night and it was the majority of the time spent on the agenda. The just to cut to the chase, the current committee members made a recommendation that no camping ban be adopted at this time but be reevaluated when sufficient housing Endor sheltering services are adopted and developed. And then the committee went into a very long conversation, a little bit of stream of consciousness creating recommendations that the committee will send to the full Council. We have been told, I know Richard reached out to Deputy Mayor Bushka last night to see if we could get a copy of the document that they were building and discussing during yesterday's meeting. And it sounds like that will be available it'll be going to the full council at some time soon. So we will watching the agenda packets for a study session conversation that will be coming up related to that. And then also one of the things that was mentioned by Linda Stewart this the director of Neighborhood and Community Services is that the city will do an update on its homelessness plan, homelessness action plan at the April 12 study session. So that is one of those things where you may want to put that date on your calendar for noon on April 12 When the city will have a more substantive conversation about their planning efforts around homelessness. in Tacoma. Much of the conversation during the CVS meeting revolved around whether the city should should create its own data system to track the number of people who are homeless in Tacoma or whether there should be a coordinated effort with Pierce County I do urge folks if you have the time, you can go listen to the the information from the CBS meeting. I took all kinds of screenshots of the document that they're creating on the fly, but I don't think it's very useful. To share that because literally, it was changing by the moment. So we we will be sure to share that document when it's available publicly. Anything that any others who are in the meeting would like to share with the group. Yeah, Sally.

## **Sally Perkins**

I think that the question about the numbers and how they are done is a really important question. And members of the coalition should be watching that closely, partly because there's already uneasiness about how the city does its numbers and the fact that people don't really, you know, identify a city boundary as a place they stopped when they're moving around. So there's there's a lot around the numbers that we I think we really need to pay attention to. The other thing is I think the challenge right



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now in terms of the county's plan is that there are people in the city who have long held beliefs that the county has not been interested in taking on these larger roles. And so they're they're cynical about you know, whether this plan represents a significant change in how the county is going to do things and so I think part another part of our work is to be sure that that Tacoma elected officials understand that the group of people who worked on both the shelter plan and the Comprehensive Plan was a broad based group, many of whom live and work in Tacoma, right? So that Tacoma perspective is well represented in that work, I think and to and to and to not dismiss the value of the plan if when they haven't read it. So there's a lot of education to do with Tacoma, elected officials and even maybe high ranking appointed officials around the value and importance of the plan to the city of Tacoma and to the county as a whole. Having said that, I think the other piece is then to hold the county accountable for what they say they're going to do. And I think that is an ongoing effort that the committee that Garrett described will be part of that all of us as advocates need to be part of that work as well. So that those are the things I took away.

## **Rob Huff**

Yep, there was a lot of content. It was a rich conversation. And I know there was I think I had a different perspective of it than others. I know Richard and I were emailing each other during the meeting. And I appreciated hearing his perspective on the conversation as well. So again, if you do have an interest there, it's a the recording from that meeting will be available if it's not already available. On the website. Did you want to say something, Richard?

## **Richard**

Just the one thing that I thought I heard clearly, by not doing the camping band was that the committee was going to retain and they use the word review the administrative clearing of encampments, which I refer to as sweeps. And were they to do that. That would be a remarkable step forward, having them consider the the operations of that department. I need to review maybe go back and listen again myself, but there were some interesting moments of the jurisdiction that they were going to going to retain and committee as they continue their work. And so I think they clearly did not want to simply punt on the camping band issue, but rather to consider some of the other policy issues that are involved as they go forward. So I'm anxious and we'll be looking forward to seeing this document as it's revised and completed.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, thanks. Thanks for that, Richard. And to close this out, you add your hand up.

## **Sally Perkins**

They did say that and I was encouraged by that because what they get told all the time is to stay in their policy lane, or their policy lane is actually three lanes. It's doing the policy it's overseeing the policy to make sure it's implemented the way they intended. And then it's evaluating the impacts of the policy to



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make sure that the policy did what was expected and didn't have unintended consequences. And what happens is the staff take over the second and third lanes when in fact, those are the council's lanes and so that's one of the points I'm going to make to Catherine when I follow up with her.

## **Rob Huff**

Great Alright, so I wanted to carve out a couple of moments that we don't really have this item on the agenda but it Jacobs wanted to share some data. Some information from the homeless memorial that took place last weekend are related to that. And so let me give you the ability to share your screen all right, you should have that now. Thanks, Rob. You know, I I would have flunked seminary if I couldn't make a comment or two. So one of the things that you will see on here is, like, yeah is the title. Can y'all see that? Statistics? From my people until the homeless population becomes our people with each one of us? We're not there yet. So these people died. In December, January and February. And these are statistics that you will not find anywhere else because they're based on the people that died. So the average loss in years is 28 years for one of my people to die 35% of their lives, on average is gone. Now the 140 8% were under the age of 40. This is new this is different than what we've seen in the past. This is a much higher number. The oldest was 81 and the youngest was 26. So the drug drugs were involved 42% of the deaths. So what that means is in their cause of death, there's drugs somewhere. It may not have been just an overdose. But there were drugs involved somewhere. violent deaths, and within the last week I've received notices from the medical examiner. I think it's now up to six homicides in the last week. So that's going up. 19% hypothermia. This is really interesting. You can't freeze to death if it's not below freezing. This proves it wrong. You can freeze to death. When it's 35 and 36 degrees outside of the windchill factor is 27 degrees, two people did it. 13% Yeah of the deaths. Were in public places to coma dome station, Clover Park, high school tennis courts. These are in plain sight people passing by have our outreach teams and I'm not pointing the finger at anyone but you know of our police and, and fire folks when they're on on calls. So you see somebody that maybe isn't moving or doesn't look so good. Do something about it, call somebody. Go over and ask them if they're okay from a safe distance away. Not sure that that would have prevented any of these deaths, but it certainly would have had the opportunity to do that. Oh, three deaths happened of the 42 in encampments. Only one being violent. So when we talk about encampments and and talk about crime within encampments. You know we certainly can't say that there isn't any there is but only one was violent within the encampment one death. So I just wanted to you know when when I started doing the homeless memorials, I didn't realize that the statistics came along with it, but when you look at the information I get and the sources I get it from these are irrefutable. I mean call me and we'll we can talk about it but you really can't do anything about these so that's what that's what I have. Well, thank you. There's a lot of things in the chat to you and for doing this work. We really didn't have a we really didn't have access to this kind of information before we started doing this work. So it's really valuable. You're welcome. Thank you. So on that sobering note, let's shift over we've got a couple other things we wanted to talk about before our meeting wraps up and we got about 20 minutes left. I know Jan run back is not here, but maybe someone who attended the safe sites for all meeting could share a little bit about what's up with that committee. Ed, do you have anything you could off the top of your mind





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share? Sure. We are working on the distribution of emergency materials, finding sites that will store materials for weather emergencies, so that our outreach workers aren't going just to one place, but we'll have hopefully 10 sites distributed within the county that they can go to get blankets and water and to keep people alive for the first five or six days. So that then the emergency folks from the county will have time to kick in and fill in behind us. Anybody who is interested in being on one of the outreach teams we have lots of room for volunteers. So there's that and also the safe sites or the safe parking was discussed and is moving forward. Anything else that anybody can think of? No, I we did talk since it was Monday and the next day was going to be the or actually maybe it was that day that the Pierce County Council Committee was discussing the safety parking ordinance. So we did talk about that. And I know Jan did make public comment during that meeting about some of the concerns about the potable water issue that say parking sites so Jay has Yeah.

## **Jay Warley**

Sorry to keep on interrupting and stuff but I'm curious question. I'm working with the coalition out here in Gig Harbor about winter necessities and storing them in finding locations but something came up with one of our conversations Summer is coming up. What are we looking at for heat sites because as much as we suffer from cold chill and not serving a community at a high enough temperature to save them. We're also going to suffer from heat stroke and losing people during the summer. Are we looking at what we need to do for that? Yes.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, that's that is part of the effort as well to respond to everything from any kind of emergency that comes up. That will impact our houseless population. And we did have one death from the heat last summer. Yeah. All right, thank you. Alright, so that's the updates from the safe sites for all committee. Any other coalition committee updates to share with the group? Rosemary, was there anything we wanted to share this week?

## **Rosemary Powers**

I don't think so. Okay.

## **Rob Huff**

We will soon though cuz I know we're gonna have a conversation about the mission statement of the coalition and some proposals there that are being discussed at the steering committee. Um, so this creates some time for us for general announcements, good trouble, folks are up to and want to share with the larger group that are still in the meeting and I see garrets hand up first. And then Kathy,

## **Gerrit Nyland**

so I just wanted to give a little update on how Maureen Howard's doing so she's had a rough couple of weeks. I haven't talked to her. I've just talked to her daughter. And so she had yesterday her second of



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the chemo treatments. So in her pathway, she's like three chemo treatments surgery, three more chemo treatments, right. So it's, we're still early in the process, but she's still humming along just really worn out and really not responding to pretty much anybody. So hopefully, hopefully things will get better for and she'll feel well enough to kind of reach out but just wanted to give folks an update and cute printer.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks for that update. Garrett appreciate knowing how Maureen's doing and I know a lot of us send our good thoughts. Kathy your hands up

## **Cathy Pick**

Yes. So I put my updated contact information in the chat just a moment ago. And I just I just realized that we can use the Action Network website to plan our events and to build our our own kind of lists serve distribution lists, so I'm hoping to use that resource more and more. Our next meeting is on Monday night we're doing a hybrid format. So if people are comfortable with meeting in person we will meet once you register, you'll get the full details and then via zoom as well and we'll have that information on our Facebook page and on the Action Network. And also we are co hosting the home in Tacoma for all forum on Saturday, April 23. At the Evergreen Tacoma campus, along with Tacoma GSAs Housing Committee. We're partnering with them because they're doing great work. They're actually doing direct action and homeless outreach with serve the people. And so that's one of the reasons why we decided to Yeah, I'm sure we all used to be all in person. COVID changed. Everything. And so we're just really looking forward to that forum forum. We started forming that idea as an antithesis to the business summit that took place on January 26. And where Theirs was a exclusive event RS is slated to be more inclusive. And we would love for some of the folks in this room to participate with us. I would love for Poe to come and talk. I would love love love for Jay to come and give that we are desperate for folks with lived experience. And we know that the lived experience coalition has a list of guest speakers so we'll be tapping into that as well. But we have some exciting things coming and I'm really excited that we are now an independent organization and that means that we set our agenda we set our priorities and our members are really excited about being able to we've talked a lot today about jurisdictional concerns. We know that we're strong and recognized in the city and we want to be able to reach out to tenants, especially those who are being threatened with displacement in in Pierce County too. You know, we we don't just want to be in this really small. We just want to expand our territory. That's what I'm trying to say. I need more caffeine, but at any rate, but at any rate, it just I really appreciate us being welcomed and open in this space because, you know, that's really who we are. We're anti displacement for the housed and the unhoused. That's really who we are and we have met with the McKinley apartment tenants and we plan on meeting with them more in the future as their deadline to leave, looms large it's the end of June and I'm going to be working with whoever wants to work with us on kind of a divide and conquer strategy. I don't think that one agency needs to rehome all these people. I think that if we work together, there's 14 units and I'm not sure how many exact people that represents but there's 14 units that need to be rehome by the end of June. So if



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anybody has any ideas about that topic, please feel free to reach out to me at the email and I'd welcome your input on that. Please. Thank you so much you guys.

## **Rob Huff**

And thanks for being here with glad you're glad you're here participating. Richard your hands up.

## **Richard**

I posted earlier. The information but I've got a forthcoming trip to California visiting homeless encampments, programs, people, advocates. Most everything I know about homelessness has come from kind of the center of Tacoma. So I'm going to head south. We're going to be hitting San Diego Bakersfield, Stockton, places along the way. If any of y'all have superb contacts or programs that I should be aware of, or people that I might meet along the way down in or neighbors to the south. Please reach out I'm I'm doing a lot of reaching out right now connecting with people. I've got meetings already scheduled for San Diego, but I'm looking for good people that know what's going on on the ground. So if anybody has any information, be welcome to hear hear about that. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

When do you take off again, Richard? Oh,

## **Richard**

April one. So I've got just over a week. Next Thursday is the voices day in homelessness meeting and then I'll leave the next day. Right. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, any last items for the good or the order from folks?

## **Jay Warley**

One question for Richard real quick. Do you have a timespan in each location or set plan for how long you're going to be in each place?

## **Richard**

Not exactly but it is developing. I would rather do fewer cities and have better quality visits. And so right now San Diego is shaping up to be really good. Fresno is shaping up to be really good. And some of that's just going to happen on the fly if I connect the things I want to see like in Los Angeles, there is a Korea Town coalition. It's not not a formal group, but they go do outreach every day. So I'm hoping to hook up with those people. So it's just going to kind of depend but I'll be on the road for about a month and I will be posting my own Facebook but also compassion Tacoma. Just sort of notes from the road and photographs and things that I'm learning as I go, but I really wanting to expand my understanding



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of homelessness. And the numbers in California are much more daunting than we have here in Pierce County. So it's going to be quite a trip.

## **Jay Warley**

And I have a couple of people that are referred to as scabby kids or dirty kids and they're people that usually travel, but a couple of them are in San Francisco currently. And one of them in particular is dying of brain cancer. And I think that you could learn a lot from her and her scabby kids. So that's the reason I asked if she's still in that area when you're down there. I will let you know.

## **Richard**

I would welcome anything and I will do the follow up and reach out if I get the information. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Great, thank you for for that registered we look forward to your dispatches from the road. And Patricia your hands up.

## **Patricia**

The numbers are almost equal on Seattle even though they're not representative. I just want you to know when it comes to the California numbers. So there's also differences and also the numbers that are here. The population here do migrate over the border into Pierce County just as a frame of reference. But Richard I gave you some of the best resources to start off with and feel free to reach out for me. Thank you. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

And Richard, I don't know if you can respond there. Somebody requested your email address in the in the chat as well. I can put your email address in there if you can't.

## **Richard**

I think I can. I put it up earlier but I'll do it again. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Okay, great. All right. So we have come to the end of today's meeting. There's still an opportunity I always like to create space for people to provide feedback on today's meeting as well as ideas for upcoming meetings. So if you would like to share what you thought went well today, what could could have been done better and what we can do better at a future meeting. This is an opportunity you can do it. Either just raise your hand and let us know. Or you can also drop something in the chat. But I like to create the space so hold that space for a moment. Thank you, Jay for being willing to speak we appreciate it. That context really matters. Alright, so I do want to say I appreciate each and every one of you for being here this morning and so many of you being here every week, and I hope everybody has



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a good safe weekend coming up if you have the time and interest. There will be a group of us hanging out after this meeting to plan for next week's meeting. So if you have ideas for that, that'd be a great opportunity. For the rest of you. I wish you all happy Friday.