



Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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SPEAKERS

Rachel McHugh, Richard, Patricia, Alfred Kirk, Jeffrey Boyce, Jennie Schoeppe, Gerrit Nyland, Ryan Mello, Cathy Pick, Caleb Carbone, Sally Perkins, Paula Anderson, Joel HellenKamp, Rob Huff, Theresa Power-Drutis, Kenneth King, Michael Lovrick, Chandra Hallam, Rosemary Powers, Lavada Kent-Napier, Rian Booker, Adam Reichenberger, Bryan Schmid, Toroid Ryan, Ashley Blackwell, Janet Runbeck, Bob Vollbracht, Valeri Knight, Shannon Ice, Monique Brown

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Rosemary Powers

Well, good morning everyone. Today I've been thinking about the future and what it means to invest in it. I have a couple thoughts about the Earth and about those who are returning from prison. Or jail to a society struggling with what it means to be a democracy for the past 50 years every April 22 Today, Earth Day has been celebrated by billions of people around the world. This year earthday.org selected the theme invest in our planet. And they say this is the moment to change at all the business climate, the political climate, and how we take action on climate. I'm thinking the crisis of drought and flood and Pandemic raises the specter of the end of everything but activists say we have to invest and on the other important theme, April is celebrated as Second Chance month for formerly incarcerated persons who have reentered their local communities. The US releases 7 million people from jail and more than 600,000 people from prison each year. In the US nearly one in three adults has a criminal record that limits their access their access to education, jobs, housing, voting and other things we all need for a full and productive life. Even after their debt to society is paid. These men and women face some 44,000 documented barriers to success including denial of access to many professional certifications, and widespread discrimination in housing some of this enshrined in law and with disproportionate effects on people of color in their families. Former formerly incarcerated citizens can be 10 times more likely to experience homelessness and housing advocates have lobbied for a long time to change the laws that



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restrict housing access. It's an important sign this year that HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge is seeking review of the HUD housing policies related to people with criminal records and importantly in a housing forum on the march 22 of this year, she said though without any law to back it up quote, if we are to fully achieve justice and housing, we must fully accept what that means. Justice and housing is everyone realizing the fundamental truth. Housing is a human right. So I'm thinking about rights to a livable planet. rights to a safe and secure place to live, knowing that we need to invest and in the belief that we all deserve a second chance, a chance to live, how we live on this planet, a chance to become something more than we've been. And as Lucille Clifton says, I am not done yet as possible is used as imminent is bred a collection of safe habits, a collection of cares, less certain than I seem more certain than I was a change changer. I continue to continue what I have been most of my lives is where I'm going. So welcome everybody to our Open Table, where we have lots ready for you to think about today. And one of my jobs to finish this welcome is to do two things. One is to let new people know how we run our work together. And then to welcome any of you who are new or returning to introduce yourself very briefly. So we we know that you're here and can interact with you. So what we do with the Zoom process, which many of you are very familiar with is we ask that people keep themselves on mute when they're not speaking, that they use the raised hand function when wanting to make a comment or ask a question. And if that isn't recognized, then someone else will often recognize you if you wait raise your hand and wave it about people can say somebody's trying to get in there. And also then if you're doing something else during the meeting to turn off your video, so we're not distracted. It's important to say that we use the chat as a place for conversation during the meeting. You want to follow up with something someone said you wanted to make an announcement you want to ask a question. If you're new especially you may have questions that wouldn't necessarily fit into the whole group's conversation but someone will respond to you it's it always happens. So with that, I'd like to invite any new folks or people returning to just unmute yourself. If you prefer you can use the raise hand function but and let us know you're here and if you're associated with an organization just to mention that

Joel HellenKamp

okay, I'll jump in. This is Joel Helen camp. I am from the st. Leo community and I am returning to this meeting. The last meeting I attended was very last meeting at the Salvation Army where everybody was in person for COVID. So I continued to participate in the cause that you all support.

Rosemary Powers

Thank you Joel. It's really wonderful to have you here. Thank you Ashley, go ahead.

Ashley Blackwell

Hi, I'm Ashley black wall. I'm here with rebuilding hope. As a community advocate. And I have replaced asta.

Rosemary Powers

So welcome, everybody. Yes, wonderful to have



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you as you actually

Rachel McHugh

my name is Rachel McHugh and I've attended meetings for a while now when I can but I think last meeting was my first one and a couple of months and I'm with sound outreach.

Rosemary Powers

Rachel, thanks for your work. It's great to have you with us too.

Toroid Ryan

I've been on the meeting for a few weeks. My name is to add Ryan I just wanted to reintroduce myself because there's probably people that haven't ever met me. I'm with Mary's Place Seattle out of King County as well as the foresee coalition out of Boone County and I'm branching out I just bought a home in Pierce County and so I'm going to be launching tiny homes projects are in the works of getting all that you know, set up and in launch.

Rosemary Powers

Well, it's great Tara didn't keep us informed about how that goes. We can have you come in let us know. We'll do all right, Theresa, I'll give it back to you.

Theresa Power-Drutis

All right. Well, you might have noticed that I'm not rob, and that Garrett is not rob. We are sharing his job this week because it takes two of us to make one of him. And I'm going to welcome you all to this part about the week on the streets. And I'm asking Richard is Richard here. Yes, there you are. So I'm going to ask Richard to start us off because he's been on a lot of streets lately and he can talk about that and then anyone else who has perspectives or experiences this week, things that you've seen on the streets, things that you've experienced on the street, this is the time to do that. So take it away, Richard.

Richard

Okay. I apologize. I don't have video. And shortly I will post in a PDF in the chat the six pieces of travel writing that reflect what I saw in did we we drove out through Shelton down to Aberdeen starting to explore rural homelessness in that part of the country, a whole different experience. And then headed on down to Astoria got to meet with the director of a navigation center there that focuses on people with diagnosed with mental illness. And then we headed on down to abandon the upper California coastal towns which, though they're smaller, often have 75 to 80 people and are dealing with the same issues that larger towns are dealing with. We made our way through Napa, down to Stockton, Fresno Merced, that cut across to San Bernardino went down to San Diego where we watched a sweep underway which was very interesting. They were sweeping hundreds of campers getting ready for opening day of the Padres season and they didn't want to have the have to look at people living homeless as they went to the ballpark. We went up through Skid Row in Los Angeles made our way to San Jose San Francisco. Upper California was very interesting we through reading lots of people's skirting Martin V.



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Boise. People pretty harsh on prohibiting encampments. They also prohibit camping outright and so you don't have tents, but you have people sleeping on pavement directly, and therefore more people dying of exposure. So those are some of the things that we saw along the way. I saw we saw two sanctioned campgrounds which are very interesting one in six Sacramento for about 60 tents. And then if anybody gets down to Medford, Oregon, there's a place called rogue retreat, and they operate five various kinds of shelter one of them is 100. Tent. sanctioned campground permitted camp down and pretty impressive program they have underway and they assess people and have them in different different settings depending on what their needs are. And we made our way up through dignity. Stop by briefly at dignity village in Portland. I posted apparently Joe Biden stopped by an encampment when he got off his airplane yesterday importantly, and I saw just a glimpse of a somebody's iPhone clip of him and he was making some comments on homelessness that I haven't heard yet. And then once we get our brakes repairs back here in Tacoma, we're gonna go on up to Bellingham and complete tower border to border adventure. So shortly I'll get those up as a PDF in the chat if anybody wants to read and has any questions about our journey. So that's it. That's real quick.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Thank you. Thank you, Richard. And if you have a chance to read these Richard's quite a good writer, and this is a topic that's near and dear so anyone else have something that's on your minds about the week on the street, something that's happened and we want to talk about? Oh, I see. Definitely. Oh, sorry. Levana.

Jeffrey Boyce

I met with Monique earlier in the Monique brown on the Campo, the veterans group and they still don't have power. But I understand it's coming shortly. She said about 23 people are slated to go in there as soon as the city gives the Okay. All things are going well, though. I mean, the only difficulty I see is it took six months to put this together. And and I would just say that if if the city wants to be successful they're going to have to be a lot faster getting these camps put together. That's it. Thank you.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Sure. levada. I saw your think your hand up.

Lavada Kent-Napier

Yes. Good morning. I wanted to share I believe in February when I got the notice that my shared housing was going to be in a march 15 Well, this is now April and I'm about to lose my working two which is my food truck. The owner wants it out by the 27th and I have diligently look for a place to park it. The place that I found will not be ready until May 3. So I'm seeking to locate somebody to either donate the truck to them or they allow me to park it so that I don't lose that piece of equipment.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Okay, well thank you and I wish you the best with that. Anybody who wants to respond to levadas request please use the chat. Anyone else have anything from the feed on the street? I like to call it the



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people say the boots on the ground. I say the Birkenstocks on the ground. Anybody have anything? All right. Well, thank you and oh, go ahead. Who was that?

Richard

Just one thing that came up when I got back. I forget what day it was now but earlier in the week, there has been some harassment going on at the second in Yakima encampment. Michelle and her crew there's three or four tents that look like there. She was cooking, setting up to cook dinner grilled prepared dinner, somebody called in a fire alert that there had been a fire in an abandoned building. So anyway, there is a bit of harassment and this had come up I think in the week before where somebody had tried to contract with somebody to go harass and remove their tents. So if anybody's in that neighborhood, do keep an eye on that situation there because we certainly don't need vigilantes out there attacking homeless people on the street. So anyway, that's just a quick note, something going on at a second Yakima.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Thank you, Richard. This is a great time for us to move to our next topic, which Jay is going to bring us into?

Rosemary Powers

There was there was a Kenneth had his hand up just sorry, I didn't see that.

Kenneth King

Kenneth. Hi, um, can you hear me okay? I've been having problems with my microphone. But on the subject of harassment, we are going to have to keep more of an eye out on that as things get warmer. We did have an individual that was shot this week in his tent. It seems to be just general, random targeting so

Theresa Power-Drutis

so no idea who the shooter was?

Kenneth King

No at this time, no, he was actually sleeping and somebody opened fire on his small caliber. Thankfully, his head was at the other end of the tent that they got them in the legs. But

Theresa Power-Drutis

well, maybe a topic for another session. Just how can the community step in and help to prevent harassment and some of that's of course about education, but some of it's about something else. So thank you. Jay. Um, some of you may have attended or watched the hearing about safe parking, but Jay is going to talk with you about it. She was there. saw you earlier. Hello, everyone.

Chandra Hallam



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Went to the council meeting last Tuesday, they passed the safe parking ordinance with an amendment of a background security check for sex offenders, but without amendment for just churches. So that will open it up to nonprofits and others that would like to host the program, but it is primarily for rural areas that this amendment was made or this ordinance was made. It appears to not affect Tacoma. And so it's primarily the outer areas. It has three different peers and is up to eight parking spots and is dependent on the size of the parking space. Is there any questions?

Theresa Power-Drutis

Or anyone else was there have something to add? Okay, so this is that there is one possibility. Okay, go ahead, Bob. Oh, yeah. Oh,

Bob Vollbracht

thank you. Yeah, I was I was there. It past four to three and did not carry the consensus that I think we anticipated it would there were there were many objections brought up by three three of the council members. Just wanted to say how important Derek young support was in this whole process and his recognition of the need. And as he put it, it's time for the county to walk the talk that we cannot just keep putting things off and scheduling another two weeks and six months he he pushed this forward. He and He and three others. And I'm looking forward to Paula's update because we have a couple of churches faith based groups here in the unlucky in the KP and Gig Harbor that are very interested in Paul has met with one of them so at least there was progress. Thanks.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Well, thank you, Jay and Bob. There's also one possible glitch which is executive county executive has to approve this, and Dan Meyer may or may not veto it. So that's going to come up a little later in this conversation, or maybe it's going to come up right now. Garrett

Gerrit Nyland

I don't know it might not be bad to do that right now. If Rosemary's trainee

Rosemary Powers

Well, I just wrote the letter I didn't I wasn't planning make any speeches but if you have the letter I don't have it with me.

Gerrit Nyland

Well, we sent it out with the we good doing this now. Theresa, is that what you're asking? So Rosemere so at the steering committee meeting, the decision was made to draft a letter encouraging the county executive Dan Meyer to approve. The request is sounding terrible as a county employee. Let's forget I'm a county employee. This part okay. So you

Rosemary Powers

can do it Garrett, if



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Gerrit Nyland

you want. Oh, that's all right. I'm rolling with it.

Rosemary Powers

So pick the right hat off.

Gerrit Nyland

So can you So I'm encouraging county executive Dan Meyer to approve to sign the resolution until blah or whatever that process is. And so this is a letter encouraging the county executive to support safe parking and the temporary the temporary regulations that were passed by the county council on Tuesday. So Steering Committee approved requested Rosemary did write the letter. The letter came out with the packet of materials and it's pretty brief and pretty focused on safe parking is important. This was something that the county council created a resolution around supporting as part of the comprehensive plan to end homelessness. And so the steering committee is bringing that request to the full Coalition for approval. So I can bring that letter up or you can just dig into your email if you want to take a look at it. But again, it's pretty straightforward. So unless I see any concerns, I would like just to put a pull up as to whether we should authorize that letter being sent with rosemary kindly both drafting it and being the signatory on behalf of the homeless. Coalition. Go into Cynthia Stewart also drafted a letter or somebody did I think her signature is on it from the I just can't say these words the League of Women Voters Pierce County Chapter and there's a hand up from Janet Chan.

Janet Runbeck

Yes, I understand that I'm preaching to the choir here. However, this this letter simply endorses what this coalition has birthed. The safe parking network was born in this coalition at the beginning of Cote COVID. When it was when we understood that there was a rise of folks pushed into homelessness, from factors beyond their control, who were living in their car. We wanted to recognize and and say that this is the best possible temporary solution to homelessness. So I actually we applaud the county for actually realizing what is what is on the ground. So I strongly endorse the passing of this letter that's going to be presented by Garrett right now.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So if when you put something in the chat, if you are someone who did not read the letter and can't be reading it right now, let us know and we'll put it up otherwise, we're going to assume that people had a chance to read it or understand enough about it to approve it so let me know right now, and if not, we'll have Garrett put the poll up. Also, he Garrett did put the safe parking one in the chat. So here we go.

Gerrit Nyland

And I'll attach the League of Women Voters in a second so the poll is Do you approve the coalition sending the drafted safe parking letter to the county executive seeing County Council and the Director of Human Services at the county? So yes means we send the letter A no means we talent and abstain means that you like me, have a little conflict of interest. So I'm gonna give you guys another 22 seconds to talk to talk. All right, that's looking good to me. I lied about 22 seconds. So unanimous



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approval so I will pull the draft off of the letter and get that to you. Rosemary. Thank good and you can get a distributed. Yes. Thank you. Perfect. Thanks, everybody.

Patricia

Take care, I think if screenshot or save it can do.

Theresa Power-Drutis

All right. Well, thank you for all of that. Rosemary for putting the letter together. Garrett for stepping out on a limb and introducing the idea and everyone for participating. So we're gonna move along to our community spotlight. And I saw that Bob is here. I'm not sure if Gina is here. But I'll turn it over to you. Thank you.

Bob Vollbracht

Shandra hellam is going to do our presentation this morning. Oh,

Theresa Power-Drutis

very cool. Well, I Shandra

Chandra Hallam

Hi, I'm one of the co chairs of the Gig Harbor and keep an insula housing and homelessness coalition. With Bob and Gina. I also in my local outreach coordinator at Chapel Hill, and so we've recognized that there there's been a lot of challenges for women in the prison and coming out of the prison that's in gay Carper. Of course. They get released to wherever they originated from. So we were just as a coalition trying to see if there were a way we could bring some of those partners together that had some resources for either women on the inside at the prison or as they're coming out. And just as the Housing Coalition, you know, thinking in the mindset of helping prevent homelessness for these women or if they are ending up in homelessness, how do we, you know, uniquely respond to their situation. Mostly at this point. It's just a forum of bringing together the organizations or individuals that have worked in the past with the pretty person. I mean, that's where we've started. We've talked about maybe including Michigan Creek in that, although the partners we currently work with, haven't necessarily fin involved there, but that's part of the discussion potentially. I'll kind of give a recap of some of those partners that we did gather once and we also invite other partners to be part of our next call is sort of just an open forum. Next Tuesday, April 26, at noon, I can put like my email in the chat if anybody wants to be involved in that. So some of those partners we gathered were new connections with Teresa power, Judas and so they do some housing resources, research and advocacy, that kind of thing. We also had rotary and they're like reentry class for women at WCW. They're working with those on the inside and they have a mentorship program. They've been able to do some things online since they haven't been able to be in person they are seeking more instructors for the reentry class. Humans are services was on the forum just to kind of share the your guys's comprehensive plan and also wanted to gather better data about women who have kind of reentered society and if they are ending up homeless, empowering life was another one. They do kind of were started through Peninsula Lutheran Church and Gig Harbor. They have some parent classes, retreats for families. It's a little more of that



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family support for women that are on the inside. And then might be coming back to those families. We had a few other partners that were interested in helping TCC they have sort of a an education program on the inside as well as a reentry navigator that was helpful. And then we had some other community members who are interested. So yeah, again, I invite you to if you want to help reduce homelessness and recidivism for WCW. Our next conversation will be Tuesday, April 26 at noon, any questions?

Theresa Power-Drutis

I do encourage you. So Sandra is going to put her contact information in the chat so that you can follow up I'm glad to see some people asking for it because that may mean that you're going to show up at this next gathering. And I do want to encourage you if you do if you work with people experiencing homelessness and also the effects of being formerly incarcerated. This is a good group to tie in with and we have a unique opportunity here being so close to the two women's prisons in our state. And thank you Shandra and the whole crew there for taking leadership in this. Oh, what is the title of the discussion Kenneth? is asking Oh, it's right here actually, it's the um the under on your agenda. It says where do we go pretty prison support services. Is that right Chandra?

Chandra Hallam

Yeah, informally.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So if you want to help the group come up with an even snap your name. Come on down. Right. Thank you. So long this this is a theme we're going to come back to and I'm glad that Shandra mentioned the issue of data that's going to keep it's a recurring theme that you're going to see throughout and we have a group right now. Happy to have the house of mercy with us. And we're going to hear a little bit about their work and how they're what they're doing in Pierce County and the relationship with homelessness and being formerly incarcerated. And so Michael, are you I saw your name earlier. I am here. You take it away.

Michael Lovrick

All right. Thank you, Therese saying good morning, everyone. My name is Michael and I'm a pastor and program director for House of Mercy ministries, and I'm going to apologize in advance. I'm not a tech guy. So I'm a bit of a GEICO caveman. So if I struggle with a little presentation, please give me a little grace. And also I apologize for being so passionate. But having done a lengthy incarceration myself and recently went through the reentry transition program. I'm really passionate about breaking the cycles of anger, addiction and incarceration as well as homelessness. That has a grip on so many families. Would it be alright Teresa, if I share my screen really quick for a short little PowerPoint presentation?

Theresa Power-Drutis

Absolutely. I don't know if Garrett can make that magic happen or if I'm the one

Gerrit Nyland



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should be able to now is it not working?

Michael Lovrick

Okay, let me try her. This is host disabled participants screen sharing.

Gerrit Nyland

We that's lame of us. Okay, now. I'll make you a co host

Michael Lovrick

Okay, I think we got it now. Thank you Here we go to the site. All right. Is everybody got that on their screen?

Gerrit Nyland

Yeah, that looks great. Okay, thank you. Um, there you go. That's even greater.

Michael Lovrick

All right, perfect. So house a mercy was started by our pastor Pastor Bob 15 years ago, he quit a six figure job to go full time into prison ministry. Probably pretty crazy for a lot of people to fathom that but he's just passionate about seeing people turn their lives around. And then after a while, he started seeing guys get out and nobody would take him in their house. And so he started housing him out of his own personal house. And now it's grown into 24 houses across the state that we're currently helping over 200 individuals, not only house but help transform and transition back into the community from homelessness, rehab, and incarceration. And basically we take what society deems as the last the least in the leper, and really try to give them a hand up and a second chance at life and freedom. So my slides for our presentation. Our mission statement really is to provide housing and services to formerly incarcerated homeless individuals who are willing to enable to work towards self sufficiency by providing shelter and other services that include transportation. It says, case management, but really, we think of it more as care management because each person is somebody's father, brother, son or uncle and employment referrals to go to outside services such as treatment centers, and other resources that are available for them. That's me, obviously not. I don't know who put that picture up on there. And this is the amazing crew that I get to work with or our CEO or case manager employment specialists and we also have a housing director. We're also partnering with some wraparound services for mental health and as well as my facility Second Chance employers and so it's a really amazing group of people that I get to do this work with. We've we've came up with the case management critical time intervention model really is the first 90 days when a person is getting out. I don't know how many you guys know this, but most people get out with \$40 and figure it out. And that really you can really see how that ties hand in hand with homelessness and also with guys going back into their addiction. I mean, that's really that's just a terrible model. That DLC has letting a guy out after some up to 20 3040 years with just \$40 in no support. And so we start at pre arrival even before they come in, we do an intake a screening, needs assessment. We place them in the house, that's going to be the best suited for them for employment or for family support or for the other things that we have. We offer a transport team that comes and picks them up takes them to the house. It really is a sense of community in our



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houses. We give them a big welcome. Provide food and clothing for the individuals coming in. Just do a basic orientation about the culture and some of the things that we believe in, in our program, basic need assessment, and then we set some goals for them first 30 day plan. Structure is a big thing with a lot of guys coming out of the three things that I just mentioned homelessness, rehab or incarceration. So we really want to have them supported in every way and set some goals for them in the first 30 60 90 days. We we present some employment opportunities for those that are available to work other ones were that we work with to get Social Security the other resources that are available for them to hand program has been amazing for helping a lot of guys coming out housing and essential needs. And then we do the 30 60 90 day follow up. You know, we have some key performance indicators that we're looking at when guys come in, you know, compared to those that applied to transitional housing and their success rates from our orientation, completing that a personal plan outline and following up with that, the enrollment, getting them into the house, and then completion to that successful completion of their plans that we set for them. And then that's just our short term or intermediate outcomes really our longer term in outcomes are where are they at? Long term 24 months from now we want to see success not just in the first 90 days but also years down the road stability, get him in a longer term, stable housing, restoration with their family or children if that's their situation. And so we have an employment specialist Jeremy that does job readiness training, job searching job placement, post employment support. We have a tech technology department, a lot of people don't know tech and I'm one of those. So you come out in all this new technology, you can get overwhelmed and I had to go to my eight year old granddaughter as my tech advisor to get her to help me with figuring out how, how to do things on the phone and just basic stuff that most people grow up with. A lot of individuals don't have those skills. So we want to help them with all that. We put Chromebooks in all of our houses and we were able to do zoom meetings and trainings now. We have as, as Teresa so eloquently said, we have booths or Birkenstocks on the ground in each house. We have a house leader that maintains order and and really sets the tone by example, in each one of our houses. We have teaching aids and videos for our guys coming in. We initiate some training courses on life skills, financial freedom job readiness, and a big one is overcoming addiction. We have some security cameras on that note we're trying to monitor guys, but just for the security of our program on the outside of each one of our houses and for accountability. Like I said, we offer transportation. We've been blessed to be able to get a Department of Commerce grant which greatly aided us and getting a couple of additional vehicles, Metro bus passes we got a grant for so we're able to provide bus passes for all of our participants, you know, and we take them to many of their different appointments that are mandatory for them to make Department of Corrections registry bank grocery medical DSH is just anything they need. We want to help them with. And so out of the people that come in our program, which is usually 300 cycled through our program each year, we provide 98% of the transportation, which is pretty, pretty incredible. Considering how we started with just one house or housing is from prison, jail reentry, homelessness, drug and alcohol rehab centers. That's the bulk of the individuals that we get, although we do get people from other states or people that are just going through a hard time in life and trying to be proactive and keeping them from being a part of the homeless number or are the recidivism number. So we take anybody regardless of criminal background, or belief system, this chart was made actually three weeks ago. And as you can see, we have 77 pending arrivals on this that's actually went up to 97. And we only have 68 available beds. And so that's really why I'm on here. There's so many barriers to entry



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especially in Pierce County. We have one house, it looks like we're going to be opened in a second house, but there's such a great need for more. And the funny thing is the word we keep hearing is they don't like density of people in a in a in a spot because we were looking at a former federal work release off J Street that has ADA capability a full on kitchen room for training classes and and and thrift shop all that we have all in one right there and they're telling us you know there's zoning problems with density in Pierce County. And it's kind of funny because when you look out the window, there's two homeless encampments with individuals that aren't being encouraged aren't being supported. You know that have criminal backgrounds that have addiction things they're suffering through. And so it's just kind of ironic that the the argument against us getting a supportive, accountable, successful program is that they don't like too many people in one spot. So that's kind of why I'm on here. You know, you know, I'm trying to speak from the heart because I believe a message from the head will only reach the head, but a message from the heart will will reach the heart. And so that's that's our dilemma right now. We're trying to be more of an answer we're trying to, we're trying to let me go back to regular screen here. In the sharing here, all right. I think I'm back to normal, right. Hopefully, I'm back to just me on the screen. But uh,

Theresa Power-Drutis

yeah, I'm still seeing the Okay,

Michael Lovrick

can we end on stop share right there. There we go. Okay, good. All right. How's that? Perfect. All right. Thank you. So yeah, I mean, I'm, I'm passionate about seeing these cycles broken and, you know, tiny houses and penthouses Why might be temporary fixes. That's not the long term answer for individuals, you know, and just from my incarcerated background, I know that 85% of the men we deal with, you know, they have a lot of issues in their life. They have church wounds, life wounds, bullet wounds, and iPhones, but a lot most of them have father bones. They grew up with our Father in that in the home. And so, those are challenges they have they, they were never taught or modeled or ministered to even how to be men so they're trying to be the man and without even knowing how to be a man. So we have a lot of boys out there that are posing as men. And so we're trying to help them with those issues. Because most of them never learned how to tie a tie or change a tire or balance, you know, their budget, make a budget, balance their checkbook, you know, and so those are basic things that a lot of them are never taught. And so they learned a lot of the skills that they learn on how to be a man from movies, magazines, or prison or their partners, the streets or the school system, which is not a good place to learn how to be a responsible, productive adult in society. And so we're trying to make a difference in those areas. And so that's why I'm trying to net I believe a person's net worth is their network. And so I've already seen a lot of people in here that I really want to reach out to and connect after this meeting. But the great thing about our program is that in the 15 years we've been running this we've never had anybody reoffend while in our program. That doesn't mean we haven't had people that have left and, you know, got back locked back up for violations or other things. You know, that's a whole nother topic about a system that's really set up against guys coming out being successful. But we've never had anybody refundable on our program. That's pretty amazing. As we take anybody like I said, regardless of their criminal background, level one, level two and level three sex offenders, people



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with some stuff that just looks horrible on paper, but you know, they're different people now and they just needed a second chance at life. And 95% of people that are incarcerated right now are going to get back out into the community. So the questions we have to start asking ourselves is What are we going to do for these individuals? Would you want somebody that is unsupported or that's shamed or that's a you know, all these different things come in living next to you or do you want somebody that's supported, encouraged that somebody is coming alongside helping them walk through this process, you know, of transition? And so I know that's a little shorter than the time I've been allotted, but I don't want to just ramble on I really appreciate Theresa, give me this opportunity. If you have any questions or if there's anything you guys bring to the table in regards to how I can be an answer and your guys's community because we are looking for the underserved and and in unserved communities right now to that's where a lot of the Department of Commerce grants and stuff are focused on are these smaller communities that have no resources whatsoever, but I could feel five more Kenmore houses in Pierce County. If I could just get the opportunity to get into conversation. And we're loved by all of our homeowners. You know, we always pay our bills on time or the nicest house on the street. There's never any issues in our houses. We always leave them better than we we found them. And so that's just a little bit about our program. I know I'm rambling but you know, I'm just really passionate about these issues. And you know, I drive by like everybody else, and I see individuals on the side of the road. And you know, in third grade, they weren't ever believed that they were going to be some guy with a sign or some guy in prison. You know, they had dreams and hopes and envision for their future, not to be holding a sign or not to be out there. And how people just drive by him every day without even you know, saying hey, how's it going? Or what? How can I help you? So that's my spiel. Thank you, Teresa, and everyone else for listening.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Well, thank you for coming out and talking with us that I'm going to give you a few questions that I see in the chat. But I want to start by saying that this is a this is an incredibly inspiring organization. It's kind of who new connections would like to be when and if we ever grow up. They are doing this completely for men and so we are working on doing whatever partnering we can. And this is also a unique thing, a very large organization reaching out to a smaller organization and saying, How can we help and how can you help us that's really cool. The other thing that Michael alluded to, but didn't say specifically is that this is lived experience lead sort of organization, which I think is critical. And so he didn't take bows for that. But I do want to say that that is there. I saw some things in the first of all Michaels email addresses in the agenda but if you'd be willing Michael to post your contact information in the name of the program, anything else that you can into the chat that would be good. I'm looking to see if somebody else has a question, can you just raise your hand and say it out? So mainly people are just very impressed with what you're doing and saying, will you please let them know how to reach you? Oh, rienne Did I say that right? Oh, no, that's right. That's okay. Ryan.

Rian Booker

Michael, could you briefly briefly describe your house? commercial residential. How many people do you put in? You talked about density issues. So I'm curious what you're up against.



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Michael Lovrick

Yeah. I am in Pierce County is only six non familiar people in house unless you have some special zoning and stuff. Although I know others are getting around that we're a ministry of integrity. So we're not just trying to get some loophole. We're really are trying to, you know, we're not trying to sardine or sandwich people are nerds comfortable living environment. They're single rooms available as well as shared living. And so just depends on the size of the house. We do have in King County where we have the bulk of our houses. We have some eight, nine bedroom, but they're all They're all commercial. We don't own any of the houses, you know, and so that's so we're at the mercy of leases and landlords and utility cost raises because we don't pass those down to our participants. You know, and our heart is so much for the man we took \$30,000 worth of losses and bad debt for individuals that you know, do whatever happened, you know, just trying to give them a second chance that you know, and I do it again, because you know, everybody if if not for the grace that I was given you guys don't know it. You probably wouldn't know it. Look at me. I don't have a single tattoo on me, but I did 38 years I was incarcerated as a teenager got out two years ago. And now I'm a pastor and a program director. So if I can do it, anyone can do it. And so it's it's out there for people, they just need a chance. You know, they just need to see somebody to see something in them beyond just their circumstances. So yeah, each house has a different amount of people depending on the bedroom size and and that but we really are over capacity and and really need additional housing urgently. In every county we're in Spokane Whatcom Yakima Pierce one house and then King 14 houses.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So, to that I'm gonna have Joel ask his question, but I wanted to clarify how many people unrelated people can be share a house in King County.

Michael Lovrick

There is no limit to that, you know, it's it's one person per every 220 square foot of housing so they don't have those barriers in King County. So it just depends on what part of King County because Federal Way is completely different than rantin which is completely different than tuk will or Seattle. So each one has its own adventure. But Pierce there's just some major barriers to getting anything going there.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So I just I'm Thank you for saying that I we have been trying and peers to get that change because that is basically a very strange zoning that is not shared by most other jurisdictions. So I just wanted you to hear that King County actually has a different system that seems to be working okay for them and is based on space rather than whether or not you have any blood relatives in the game. And then it's to Joel. Okay, thank you, Michael,

Joel HellenKamp

for informing us about this great program, Mike. My question is about how long residents can stay within your program or do you have a drop off after nine months or can they stay for six weeks? Or how long do people get to stay within your services in your housing?



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Michael Lovrick

Great, great question, Joel. So we have the whole gambit. You know, some guys stayed the three months from the voucher they get on TLC, and then they move on. We've had amazing success stories of guys that are homeowners, business owners, and it went on, you know, to, you know, use this as a stepping stone to great things. We've also had guys in our program that have been there for 567 years, you know, and so it's there really is no timeframe on how long an individual can stay. It's on their pace, and, you know, they're processing the transition. And so, we we like to do the temporary transition when somebody is coming out of rehab, homelessness or prison and then move them to a longer term more stable, you know, environment in our program. That's why we're looking for apartment complexes and motels and buildings that we can renovate and stuff. We're looking for the whole gambit. And as Teresa said, we we once had a woman's program but the pastor's wife was basically the chief cook, counselor and chauffeur and then her mom got really sick, and so it just kind of fell by the wayside. But there's such a great need for that we get calls every week for women desperately in need of housing. And so we're looking to get that program started back up is such a need for it. So hope that answers your question, Joel.

Joel HellenKamp

Thank you, Michael.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So we're kind of at the end of this segment. So if you have other questions for Michael, please put them in the chat. I do want to say that I'm not sure he's right about it. He can do it. Anyone can do it because obviously he's a pretty unique human being. And really grateful to have you come here and speak with us about this. And did you end up putting your contact information in the chat? Yeah,

Michael Lovrick

I'm typing in right now. As you speak, I'm gonna put my personal phone number and I know that seems foolish for a lot of people but I'm a person person, you know, relationship type person. I'm gonna put my personal phone number as well as the house of Mercy phone number in here for everyone as well. All right, well, thank you Thank you, Teresa. Appreciate it. Thank you guys.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So moving, moving along smartly, from the prisons to the jail. We have our own wonderful Pierce County Jail right here, almost on my block and Sally is going to talk about just a little background. This coalition made the decision to reach out to the county jail, have some conversations about how people were released during inclement weather during that really cold period of time. At the same time I was working with another group was reaching out about the 5am release time which yes, if you don't know, people are released from the Pierce County jail at 5am in the morning when no services are open. So Sally is going to talk with you about that first issue because she's been a part of those meetings as well. And then the other meetings I will talk with you about those after she's finished. So take it away, Sally.



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Sally Perkins

Thank you, Teresa. A small group from the coalition reached out and asked Chief Patty Jackson for a meeting about the inclement weather releases. After a couple of coalition members encountered people on the street with inadequate clothing and nowhere to go during the cold, terribly cold period in December and there was a lot of concern expressed about how that happened. And so we wanted to talk to the chief about how all these processes work at the jail. We have met with the chief twice and we are working to get a third meeting set up and so here's kind of what we worked on and where we're at. The jail staff said they would research the releases of people that are encountered on the street but we need the names of those individuals in order for the jail to be able to figure out what happened. So in the future, if people encounter folks during inclement weather, who say they've been released from the jail if it's possible to get their name, then the jail can follow up and find out what happened. The jail is doesn't feel they're in a position to modify their release procedures to adjust for inclement weather, in part because a lot of what they do is constitutionally required or as required by their internal procedures. They're short of staff and of course, all of this happened during the COVID restrictions which made things even more complicated for the jail so they're not envisioning that they are in a place where they can change their release procedures very much in order to accommodate inclement weather but they are willing to have some extra heavy coats on hand at the jail. They don't have a lot of storage space, so they can't have a lot of supplies. And they are willing to coordinate with community nearby community service providers if they need additional things or to send people to those providers if they need things when they're being released. So there's some willingness to kind of work on a micro level. They don't envision being able to change their overall procedures. The meetings I think that Chief Jackson have been really helpful because I think that the coalition members there have been able to expand her understanding of what the people being released are encountering when they get out especially when the weather's really really cold. And so I think the on the idea that we might have ongoing meetings with Chief Jackson is a good one because I think it's that sharing of perspectives that creates new opportunities for solutions. What the jail did do during the cold weather was sent additional messaging to their staff, asking them to wait until daylight hours to release people in freezing weather and also to double check what people who were being released are wearing. So if they see somebody who does not have a coat, offer them a coat. In some cases people accept the clothing from the jail and other cases they don't accept it. I for those folks to know where else in the community they could go would be helpful. The as they said the jail doesn't have storage space to have a lot of supplies on hand to give people when they leave the jail. So the idea that they would coordinate with nearby service providers is actually one that that has been offered and that needs more work to see how it would work in practice, but that's an opportunity. There was also conversation about could people who are on the verge of being released. Talk with volunteers either might be chaplains, it might be community volunteers about what their options are when they get out particularly around access to supplies and access to housing options. Right now, no volunteers are allowed in the jail. So again, that's because of COVID restrictions as those restrictions ease there may be an opportunity to look at how volunteers might help with for incarcerated people who are going to be released who want to talk to a volunteer. Is there a way to do that that would help make that transition to being back in the community a little bit easier in the very short run. And they did the jail did talk about having someone on their staff who would be the coordinator in case emergency supplies were needed. I don't know that that got put in place. I



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think that's one of our follow up items. But that's kind of where we are at this point. As somebody who's lived in the hilltop for a very long time and is very familiar with general release processes. I found chief Jackson's receptivity to our concerns refreshing and I really hope that coalition will continue those conversations because I think it can only help for us to understand each other's circumstances and situations better. So Teresa or anybody else who was in those meetings if I've missed anything, please chip in.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Alfred I see your hand and I'm going to call on you in just a second. I just want to piggyback on what Sally said to keep this little presentation kind of as concise as possible. So you're you're the first on my list. Another group of us have been meeting with Steve Jackson about the 5am release time and I think Sally did a good job of talking about some of the same concerns that were brought up. In the first meetings were brought up in the second meeting. I want people to know that what we're pushing for is that releasing people at 5am a little bit to what Michael said before, like if you wanted to have people succeed, is this what you would do and it's problematic in the community. It's problematic for the people getting out and that I understand entirely. Chief Jackson talked about how she's kind of running a city within the jail and it has all these moving parts and changing one thing tends to change something else. What we do know is that there are some jails who do release, excuse me from seven 9am. That's what we're asking for. What we also know is that this Pierce County Jail used to release people at midnight, they moved at 5am. So we're aware that it was a problem for them to move it then it's going to be a problem for them to move it again. It's not outside the realm of possibility so we have a choice as a county, as a city, as the community. We can either make grants to a bunch of small organizations to try to deal with the fact that people are being released at 5am or we can support the jail and in making it a 7am release time. So that's what we're pushing for. We don't have a lot of that seems like a insurmountable barrier from the jail's point of view right now. But I think that that is it is possible to change that so we'll keep working on it. And anyone who's interested reach out. You happy to have you join us. So Alfred, you had a question

Alfred Kirk

I'm gonna say probably one of the main reasons that I think they're going through the 5am release is that they don't have to feed you on the way out.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Actually, they do feed people at four o'clock in order to get them out at five so that's not quite it but I do want to tell you your your mic is a little bit loud or scratchy. I don't know if you can do anything about that but carry on. Did you have a different question two.

Alfred Kirk

Um, okay, so what you're saying is they actually feed feed each other. I mean, we feed them before they go out the door. Yeah. Because I know I've mentioned I ride the bus quite a bit now. I noticed that they they shut him out the door without any transportation. And so they're kind of easy. A bunch of them trying to turn trying to beg rides on the bus first thing in the morning.



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Theresa Power-Drutis

Yeah. Yeah, that's part of the issue. Absolutely. Anyone else have a question or comment? Thank you for that. And that brings us to our breakout sessions. And you'll be really surprised to hear that we're going to talk about homelessness and incarceration. So I'm looking around. Where's Garrett?

Gerrit Nyland

I'm right here,

Theresa Power-Drutis

are you? So Garrett is the master of putting us into breakout rooms. And the question that we're asking you to reflect on during the time together first, make sure that you introduce yourselves to one another because that's part of the point of this breakout session is for people to get to know each other. But then look at the question of knowing that homelessness and incarceration are, are wed in some ways. What are the resources that you either know about or helping people who are who have both of those qualities? They are currently experiencing homelessness and they have a history with the criminal legal system. I keep trying to remove the criminal justice system from my vocabulary because it really is a criminal legal system. So what do you already know about? Oh, sorry, of course, right. When I'm talking, what do you already know about that exist? And if you're working with people who have those experiences, what would you like to see? Here's county provide Is there anything within the the work that we're doing that we could push on to make that transition smoother? So you have some background with what Michael said and what you heard about the jail, and what probably your own experiences are? So question is, what do you already know about that helps people in that situation? What would you like to see? For them more of better, different? You ready?

Gerrit Nyland

I'm ready. So we set 15 minutes aside on our agenda, we're running about five minutes late. 15 minutes. All right. We'll do 10 minutes so we'll see you all back about 1011 and off you go.

<breakout rooms>

Theresa Power-Drutis

Okay. Here we are back again. So I hope it was a productive conversation or at least entertaining to someone and if whatever you have as a group or an individual if you'll just put it in the chat, because we are a little behind schedule but it really helps to have these these things in the chat so we can look at them again next week. And Patricia, you have a question.

Patricia

I was just gonna make a comment that I wanted to bring to the big group just like what in my experiences the first places that like they go are to food serving, you know what I mean? And then asking where they can stay like that's what I've noticed they go bus food, you know where where they can say so to hit those access points might be a good mechanism. Alright, thank you.



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Theresa Power-Drutis

Very good. So thank you all for that. And is is Brian in the room? Yes,

Bryan Schmid

I'm here. Hi. So,

Theresa Power-Drutis

take it away, Brian.

Bryan Schmid

Good morning, everybody. And thank you for inviting me. We wanted to let you all know that Pierce County is releasing its affordable housing NOFA. Today, that is a NOFA for the development and preservation of affordable housing in Pierce County county wide to serve low income households including potentially homeless households as permanent supportive housing or other types of permanent rental housing opportunities. That NOFA amount is nearly \$18 million, which, historically speaking is about four times more than the county normally has available for affordable housing development and preservation in Pierce County. That is because the Pierce County had Sorry

Theresa Power-Drutis

to interrupt I saw somebody in the chat we have some people with hearing issues. So if you could move your mic just a little lower so they can see your lips.

Bryan Schmid

Oh, okay. Sorry. Is that better?

Rosemary Powers

Now this better? Okay.

Bryan Schmid

So, yes, a NOFA is a Notice of Funding Availability. So that is the county publishing a notice that we have around a almost \$18 million dollars available to nonprofit and or for profit developers and or owners of affordable housing to do what we would call preservation which would be rehabilitation or repairs on existing affordable housing or acquisition of existing affordable housing and also for new developments of affordable housing. And his again, historically speaking, this is four times the amount of money typically that we have. So this is a very important NOFA for our county and we are allowed to do this because the council appropriated 12 and a half million dollars of American rescue plan Act dollars to put into this NOFA for for this activity. So more funds than ever from the county for affordable housing as as the bottom line here and we want to get the word out to all of our partner organizations and let everybody know even if you're not a developer, we want to get cast as wide as net as possible on this. The goal really is we from from our department's perspective, we want to make it clear to elected leaders that there is a need for affordable housing funding and financing so we want to get as



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many applications as we can't for this NOFA to show that there's a demand and the more demand we can show, the more the better case we can make for additional funding down the road. So that's really broadly why I'm here today just to kind of make that announcement and in a sales pitch for the county's affordable housing funding that we provide. We recently added new staff who started four weeks ago now hard to believe Phillip Cornell is with us. He I guess joined us a little bit ago. Phillips comes with a really strong background in affordable housing. Both his education and work experience and our our staff capacity has been greatly enhanced since Phillip joined us so looking forward. Looking forward to getting this NOFA out looking forward to getting these applications in and looking forward to all the affordable housing that can be produced in the county as a result. And with that, I guess Garrett will turn it over or Teresa for for questions, if anybody has questions.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So get out there. And collaborate pick up your pens people and Janet has a question.

Janet Runbeck

Yes, sir. This is great news for us. But please define affordable housing. The City of Tacoma has just released a couple of major developments that says 80% of AMI is affordable. I don't think the population we're looking at can even think about being above 30% ami. So what is your definition of affordable?

Bryan Schmid

So that's a very good question. And each of the funding sources that we have out there have a little different income targets for affordable housing. So my definition of affordable housing is actually the standard HUD definition is is that a housing unit whereby the household pays no more than 30% of their income for rent so if we are targeting a household at 50% of median income, that rent may look different than if we're targeting a household at 60% of median or 30% of median. My most this is a broad statement most of the affordable rental housing that we fund is going towards households that are at or below 50% of area median income which is defined by head as very low income. So that is that is the definition of affordable housing. The real simple HUD definition is a household that pays no more than 30% of their income for for housing expenses, either rent or mortgage payment.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Right which means that the millionaires are actually also living in affordable housing, which I always makes me smile when I think of that. So thank you for that. We are hopefully being catch up with our agenda. I have Brian Mello on this call here and he's wants to talk a little bit about the safe parking. Is that right?

Ryan Mello

It is. I'm sorry, I need just 30 seconds. I apologize, Teresa,

Theresa Power-Drutis

no problem. So maybe we can take I don't know if Caleb, are you here? Sure. I'm Teresa.



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Caleb Carbone

All right. Do you have an update from the city?

Rian Booker

Yes, I do. I have a few things here. I'm just gonna bring up my notes here.

Caleb Carbone

I apologize for that.

Rian Booker

The first one is about the heel team manager recruitment finalists are going to be interviewed the week of April 25. For some of you that may have had the opportunity to watch the city council session on Tuesday will know that that went for a good hour. 45 minutes just around the homeless strategy. And I will post the link below if if you would like to watch it. Just make sure you eat and go to the bathroom before you do that. Potential shape or shelter sites at 34th and Pacific during the April 19. City council session homeless update staff reported that the city council will begin those discussions around underway with a potential service provider to develop that operational site at this location. So that type of shelter is yet to be determined and no decisions have been made. Yet on what type of shelter that is. So I know a lot of you may have feedback about that, so feel free to send that along to me. When an agreement is established with the operator, staff will return to the city council to provide an update about the type of shelter and next steps a robust community engagement and communication process will be initiated Once a decision has been made about the use of property for shelter. And after the city council is updated. There is a NCS Neighborhood and Community Services leadership transition. The city manager has appointed an NCS assistant director Alison Griffith and an interim NCS director effectively for 20 So two days ago. Once the city manager determines next steps, the information will be shared with the council and the community and can't met route outreach this last week, were able to visit 11 locations conducted to phone referrals. 78 individuals have been contacted and none were placed into shelter due to non being available shelter options, our shelter options right now in city is that we last I remember seeing yesterday was 14 available beds and all for women right now. So that is my update. All right.

Theresa Power-Drutis

I want to ask because I know Councilman Ryan Melo is on a tight time schedule. So, Kathy, I'll hold your question for just a sec if you want to do your bit. Ryan and then we'll get back to the city.

Thank you, Theresa and apologize for the clumsiness. There. thing. Can I share briefly now Teresa? Thank it's good to see everybody. Caleb, Thanks for that update. Thanks to the entire Coalition for everything you continue to do. Ryan Molo, I serve on the Pierce County Council. And here with good news but also a request for your help. As you've heard from the department, how serious the Human Services Department how seriously we continue to take our affordable housing work in our



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comprehensive plan to end homelessness. ton of work to do together. Of course. One of the items that as the coalition knows well, that you've been advocating for a long, long time is around safe parking and you know that safe parking is a clear action item that is called out in the comprehensive plan to end homelessness. The county council right about a just a month ago now we approved the comprehensive plan to end homelessness and appropriated \$9 million for a first phase of early actions to implement that plan to end homelessness.

Ryan Mello

The the

policy item of how to make safe parking. Illegal land use is the first real policy discussion that the county council has taken up since adopting the plan just a short month ago. And I'm pleased to report that the county council approved safe parking this past Tuesday, but I'm here to report it's very much worth celebrating. This you know I think we all probably can agree that safe parking is that we know all the analysis shows it's one of the lower lowest cost you know, least dramatically you know that least logistical thing. It's a lot of work right but compared to a lot of other things it is the least we can do is the it should be the easiest thing to pull off. It is the lowest cost thing to pull off. It is it should be the easiest thing we should do which by no means the only thing it should be the easiest quickest thing we should do. So but what I need to do and in addition to I want to share what we pass but I also need to ask for your help because unlike Tacoma, where they just pass a resolution and direct the city manager and senior and city staff to do something that's not how it works in county government and county government we got to get the executive to sign the bill into law and for in order for it to take effect. And unfortunately, unfold. Unfortunately, we had a four to three vote on safe parking on Tuesday. I'm not trying to get partisan on you. I know this is a nonpartisan coalition, keeping your heads down on assault on solutions. So I very much appreciate that. So I'm just I want to be clear and reporting facts. I'm not trying to be partisan on you. It was a partisan vote though. The four Democrats approved the safe parking bill and the three three Republicans opposed it. Which is a strong signal to me, which is why I'm here to ask for help. It's a strong signal to me that there's a good chance that bill will get vetoed. Right we we say we need to treat homelessness like the emergency and crisis that it is we say that Pierce County government can't do it alone. City government can't do it alone. We need the help of volunteers, the non government sector, the faith community, the business community, that philanthropic sense sector right we say we need everyone to chip in and do their part and then some government can't do it alone. Will safe parking is one of the easiest things we can put the call out to the world and say we need others help, please. We invite you to be part of the solution. We're making it legal to do safe parking. So what was the policy disagreement? The policy disagreement really is in two areas. The majority that passed the safe parking bill included two things that that the minority did not want so I'm gonna try to oversimplify it so that you can aid us in advocacy if you are able. The first is the types of land uses that are allowed to do safe parking. The majority wanted the it to be as wide as possible to invite as many land uses as possible in this it's an interim land use regulation because it has not gone through the planning commission yet. And so it's a it's an interim land use regulation, but it directs the planning commission staff to come back with a permanent rule in six months. We felt very comfortable



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with an interim land use regulation because our staff that drafted this, we know best practices. This is not a new thing. It's not a new thing to our region. It's not a new thing to our state. So we felt very comfortable doing interim land use regulation to say okay, we're putting this in place now. We'll fine tune all the detail. So we said religious assemblies. I'll get to Jeffrey and I'll try to be as briefly brief as I can. But as far as I'm trying to make sure folks understand the disagreement here.

Faith religious assembly land uses are allowed to host safe parking under are built and what we call Civic, civic institutions or civic land uses. Schools, family support centers, higher education facilities, libraries, community centers, senior centers, those are civic institution land uses, right that the majority, the minority wanted only religious assembly uses. The bill said religious and civic because we know throughout the county, there might not be a church that is there in that community is you know, on The Key Peninsula or somewhere else we wanted both civic and religious. So that's that's disagreement number one. We think we need to create as wide of a net as possible, right the Bethel School District is a major partner in human services as an example, on The Key Peninsula. There may not be a church right? But the key but the civic center and key center may want to host something they're not a church, the fire station might want to host something they're not at church or religious assembly that those are just practical. Examples that the second major disagreement is the bill has passed allows safe parking to be an allowed land use in the rural area. And within the urban growth area and the rural area. We all know people experience homelessness coming from every single zip code in every corner and we wanted this allowed us to happen closer to where people have their support system. You all know that the minority wanted to confine this to just the urban growth area. Those are the main two policy disagreements right now. Again, a four to three vote says to me that there is a high chance of a veto by the executive. So I'm one I'm here to inform you of that. I'm here to ask for your engagement to engage with the county executive about why we need such a rule, like the one pass to invite everyone possible to participate in the solution. I'm happy to take any questions if there's time to reset.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So we are running a little late on time. So what I'll ask people to do is put any questions you have into the chat. And also, Ryan, you weren't here at the beginning of the meeting, but you'll be happy to know that the coalition voted to send a letter of support for this to Dan Meyer so and of course with this invitation anyone who wants to write on their own in whatever direction you feel you need to write, please do. It's good to get the conversation going. And we appreciate you coming and explaining some of the nuances which we didn't explain earlier on in the meeting. So thank you thank you very much. And thank you Caleb for being patient with us. A little side trip. And I hope people can remember what was being talked about. And Kathy had a question that relates to what Caleb was talking about food so please go forward. Yes, thank you.

Cathy Pick

Excuse me. It's been quite a morning Caleb, can you please remind me what your role is? I know you're you're newly onboard with the city. Can you remind me what that is?



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Rian Booker

Yeah, Kathy. Thank you for that question. I am the homeless strategy systems and service manager. So I oversee the strategic part. However, with the new transition of leadership right now I'm also overseeing the heal team. And this was given to me yesterday, so I will be doing that. Until the healed manager is brought on board and and is performing and their capacity.

Cathy Pick

So strategy and boots on the ground. Got it. My question to you our fold I did tune into the study session the other day and as a result I have more questions than I have answers and perhaps a one on one follow up with you would be most beneficial. But in the meantime, I want to ask two questions. What is the current and accurate homeless homeless count? For the City of Tacoma? And my second question is, since we've had so many, both public and private sweeps since the beginning of the year, where do people go when they are displaced?

Rian Booker

Thanks, Kathy. for that question. I can I can send you directly the numbers of best I know that is still something I'm working on to be able to have access to. So that's something I don't have on hand right now.

Cathy Pick

Me to friend me too, because I'm trying to you know, we want to make data driven decisions and that's just data that I don't have. It was reported and I truly respect and admire Linda Stewart. She is an invaluable resource. The report was that we have a total of 11 105 beds and another 70 are in process of coming online and that includes Monique's facility, FOB hope and we're really looking forward to that and we're we're just cheering for you from the sidelines because I know these disruptions have been very disheartening, but it's happening, my friend, it's happening. So when we're advocating for tenants and tenants rights, it's very helpful to know what the actual situation is how many people have been displaced from the camp encampments that have been swept, but when we're comparing our progress, we really need to know what the current and accurate homelessness population is. And that was a frustrating thing for me as a observer of that meeting. To not know what that is.

Theresa Power-Drutis

I'm sorry, I want to interrupt for just a sec, because I know you're going to have an online conversation and we are like 20 minutes behind and that I'm done. Okay, very good. Thank you for the input. And thank you, Caleb, anyone who has other questions or comments for Kyla, please do put them in the chat. And I just heard from Jeff Rogers, who has been here with us but he had to leave. He said there aren't any really any things that need to be updated today. And so that will move me right along to Valerie. Are you still here Valerie?

Valeri Knight

Of course I stayed until 11. Absolutely, I just get all my work done while I'm learning all these cool things. So Valerie from Pierce County rental assistance, I am off camera today because I live in lake



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Bay and we have horrible internet out here all the time. So today is even worse than normal. So rental assistance is going fantastically. We are over \$110 million out the door. Our nine amazing nonprofits are just wheeling and turning constantly like they have not stopped since 2020. And I give all the public shout out to that, that I can possibly get in a day. We have about 20 outreach events planned through Pierce County Libraries who are amazing. Oh, Lisa, you're in late Bay to we should meet up. We're getting messages. And then we also are we're now working with the Tacoma Public Library and we are at an event out in Roy here in the next couple of days with the Health Department. And we're doing several events with the Tacoma housing authority. So I'll send you those links. So if you have landlords who need help uploading any documents or wanting updates, if you have tenants who need help applying like we're in the community of three to four times a week, and those 1920 events are just in the next couple of weeks. So I'll send you those in the chat box. But other than that, we're just keep on going until we're out of money.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Thank you, Valerie and I've got some messages in the email people offering to postpone till next week, but I'm just not going to take all that flack from Rob when he comes back. If I say you have these five things you have to keep going on. So I'll just move smartly along I think. Jenny, you said you could post things in the chat but if you have a few things you want to say please do. Okay,

Jennie Schoeppe

thanks. Um Hello, everyone. It's great to be with you as always. And I also always say I'll try to keep this short and I rarely do but I will keep trying. Um, we we know that folks are seeing their increased number of cases of COVID out there and the bottom line I think, to that I would like to express with our COVID local COVID situation is that you know we have low transmission, but we are starting to see a recent rise in cases in the county. Fortunately, our hospitalizations and deaths remain very low. That's because our vaccines are protecting us. That's really what we want to be seeing is that that we have cases but they are not having a severe impact. I've been asked about trends and can we predict trends and when I talked to our data team they're they're really hesitant to sort of predict how case numbers might accelerate. We're more focused on hospitalizations and death because we have a lot more confidence in the reliability of those data. So I just want to share like some practical numbers with folks. So at our most recent peak that we had in January, the seven day average number of hospitalizations was over 50. And then on April 11, that number was only two so we had two hospitalizations. April 11 over the seven day average was two most recent the most recent data show and then since March 7, we've had two deaths. So two deaths is horrible. But that is way way down from what we were seeing at the most recent peak. So I think we can really be be relieved by those numbers and understand that our vaccinations are working to prevent those really negative impacts. Encourage you to get boosted if you haven't been boosted and encourage everyone you know, over anyone over 50 is eligible for that second booster shot. I don't know when I'm not sure when we will start to see boosters more readily available but for now. They are available for folks that are over 50 other good news we haven't had a congregate shelter COVID outbreak in the last month so that is also fantastic news on we still have isolation and quarantine space available that we did lose I found out this morning we we ended a contract with one of our adult family homes we have a little bit less overall capacity but fingers crossed



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it hasn't been needed lately and we still are we still have a lot of isolation and quarantine bed space available. Um, let's see. I'm gonna leave it at that except I did want to ask folks to either message me in the chat to everyone or privately or email me I'll make sure to remind everyone on my email address with a with feedback to a couple of things. One is what health topics you want me to cover moving forward as we kind of come to some sort of equilibrium with COVID. I want to talk more about other communicable disease concerns and other concerns that you are seeing and that can be helpful to you and working with people experiencing homelessness. And secondly, if we were to create a housing homelessness webpage, that TPC HDS website, what would ideally be there in that space and so love to hear from you guys. And I will end it there

Theresa Power-Drutis

unless folks have questions any if you have questions I'm going to ask you to put them in the chat please. Absolutely. And genuinely put her contact information in there. So I don't know if there's anyone here from Pierce County Emergency Management. I don't see Jody.

Patricia

Oh, Ivan. I just contacted Ivan. He's facilitating training. He just said he has no updates. So thank you. All

Theresa Power-Drutis

right. Well, that helps us move along on our agenda. So thank you. Now we have last last week we talked some about rural issues around homelessness. And we're back again Oh, Paula, that was your cue. I'm sorry. Are you there?

Paula Anderson

Oh, get over here. I too am working from home and the internet is kind of spotty. So I'm going to leave my camera off. Plus I'm wearing a sweatshirt today. So no, I'm just kidding. Anyway, I just want you all to know thank you so much for having me talk about this trials and tribulations of being in an area where there aren't many resources and having to start and move forward with that. So I it's many of you know, I'm the director of New Hope Resource Center. We are a daytime drop in center in pew Allah we are geared towards adult homelessness can be couples or individuals in in our East Pierce County area, and I believe we're the only still the only daytime drop in center in this area. And so we have been around almost eight years now. And our little operation has grown quite a bit. But the way that it started was in response to seeing people that were homeless, and actually from a request from the city of piolet, which is kind of ironic, but originally they had request that the people that were in the freezing knights ministry, which had been going at that time about 10 years that that they have a place to go during the day because they were getting complaints from the community about the churches releasing people from freezing nights onto the street who then had no place to go but like the library or getting out in the parks, different things like that they weren't getting the resources that they needed because a lot of the social service agencies as you know, do not work at night they work during the day. So a group of people from different churches got together. said we want to we want to take this on. We did we raise the downpayment for the facility that we are in two nights, one of the churches raised over \$40,000 to



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put down and as a result we had new hub Resource Center. It used to be an old Dominus, we went in there they had no heating system, anything like that. So we had to we had kind donations for that we built it up and what as we opened it the first thing we wanted to do was just provide a place of safety and and respite for people that were living on the streets so people would come in. There were tables and chairs we had food, we had coffee we had it resources and things of that nature. What we have learned since then, is the the resources that need to be available to people who are on the street. were things that we didn't necessarily have expertise in in the beginning. And so what that created was an opportunity to network and I know they talked about this last week bobbin Gina talked about it in relation to just finding out what is in your community or bringing people that are in social services such as the path teams, different things like that to your location, let them train your folks or talk to you about what they can offer and build that network. And so that's what we spent the last several years doing. So right now, the most important things that I would say is when you're in a smaller community like that, you need to and this is in line with what Rosemary's poem was last week. I can't remember if I'm saying it exactly right, but it's the general thing. Ask questions, be courageous and then share the victories is is kind of what we do. So stepping out, you have to step out out of your comfort zone. It's important to talk to the community and continue to try to build a relationship with the community. It's also great to try to build a relationship with the city government or the local government that's in the area that you're trying to do your services. Take a look around and see what is needed and what you can supply or what partners you may have, such as the county to be able to get the funding to do the things that that we have done at New Hope, such as responding to COVID with a mobile resources Response Team, and then also being part of the safe parking network. Now, so I'm really excited to hear and hopefully get lots of letters to Bruce damn Meyer from this group to be able to promote that and get that moving forward. And we know it's a need and I just think that the fact that we have relied on and been mentored by so many agencies that have been around longer than we have in Pierce County. I think that that has been the road to our success. So I guess for for being able to do services in an area where they don't have you need to have that network you need to build those resources and talk to people that are already doing it in another area and then trying to mimic or pull in your own resources and volunteers, volunteers volunteers. The best way to change somebody's mind is to bring them in from the community and give them an opportunity to actually hear somebody's story. We all know as service providers that when you hear the word homeless, it's kind of a blanket negative term. But if I know this is Joe, on down the street who has had so much trauma in his life, and now he's experiencing homelessness as a result of that, and I get to know him, I think that that is way more impactful than just trying to tell people about the services that we do. You have to get to know the people that are actually in that situation. So I think you know, it has been difficult, but again, I feel completely blessed to have the support of the churches in the area and then also of all these service providers you all of you and I'll take any questions if there's any Teresa, you're muted.

Theresa Power-Drutis

I'm not now. Okay. So thank you, Paula. And that tags right on to the conversation we had last week about all the unique barriers to dealing with homelessness when you have a rural situation. I will ask that people put other questions into the chat. I'm also going to ask anyone who has good trouble announcements, please put those in the chat because we have Garrett's going to take us out today



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with first a poll. And then a conversation about the Pierce County comprehensive plan to end homelessness. If after that we have some time we're gonna move on to the coalition updates, but that's the plan right now. Jay, do you have a quick thing?

Chandra Hallam

Yeah, I'm sorry, everybody really quickly. Tomorrow is the home for all for Tacoma. Just reminder at Evergreen.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Okay, well, you also put that in the chat so that people have a record of it. Thanks, Jay. So Garrett has a poll for us and then he's going to talk to us about comprehensive planning.

Gerrit Nyland

Thank you, Dr. Power. Judas, we discussed last week about having a in person meeting of the coalition. And the overwhelming desire from the polls was to have an additional networking event in addition to our virtual Friday meetings. So we are proposing two different monthly times for a networking hour. And this poll, you can select both of the times if you can make both of them so we are looking at having it on the first Wednesday of the month from four to 6pm or the first Thursday of the month from four to 6pm. And our location will be downtown Tacoma looking at seven C's which has a nice coffee shop you can get pastries, it's also a brewery so you can get a drink. And it's a nice lit open space that's open to all ages. And so really, we're just kind of looking at like if we picked one of these two dates, which could most of us make it to

Theresa Power-Drutis

you Well, this is the most competitive poll I've ever seen.

Gerrit Nyland

It's likely to both days if this comes out that way. We're going to do whatever Teresa wants if it's a tie to Teresa's official tiebreaker. Give folks another seconds here. Like Mondays to early in the week. Friday, Saturday, Sunday. We all got plans. Tuesday's council meetings, really it's Wednesday or Thursday and I'm gonna go ahead and call the pool there. So we're looking for really even Can you guys make it harder for us to make decisions? Irritating? All right. Well, we'll take that into account. It definitely looks like a thirsty edge that was too. So I will schedule thursday and get something on the calendar. If that meets with your approval, Theresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Oh, I get to approve things. Now. I didn't know that.

Gerrit Nyland

Something in the chat we decided to try to straddle work. Time and personal time, right. So folks probably don't want to come for all two hours, or maybe they do. But we wanted something that could be part of your workday. If that's something that would be acceptable to your employer, right, making



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time to make connections as part of what we do when we serve our community. But also folks don't have that option. We wanted it to be a time that they could also use their own personal time to develop networks to get that next job. And question J

Chandra Hallam

No, I just forgot to take my hand down and annoy

Gerrit Nyland

them knowing it all. All right, and the comprehensive plan to end homelessness. I have to say not an awful lot has happened in the past week. We are still working on RFPs we're working on getting funding out that was allocated by the county council. So busy actually was meeting at eight o'clock today about the Transportation Pilot and working on getting our kind of partner municipalities together as we look at how we are going to be developing that unified regional approach. That is that's kind of prime there. So I don't really have an awful lot to update. Also working an awful lot finally, thankfully, on analytics, so we have some allocated resources from the IT department and the first thing I said was we've got to have amazing ability to count how many people are homeless at any given time. And so that's the first task is really about shelter availability, and how many what percentage of our population experiencing homelessness is in shelter and what is our shelter gap? And that requires a good count of who's homeless. So we have that work going on and hopefully should be available in the next week. Although my data analyst is going to be a father is going to get a couple of weeks of paternity leave, which doesn't seem like enough, but there you are. And so that might be a bit delayed because of that, but I'm really optimistic and there's an open invitation to our municipalities that that we work with around homelessness or really anybody that wants to talk numbers about how we can make this count of homelessness, something that we can all stand behind, right. So we're super flexible on how we do the count as long as it has an anchor in reality. We're we're looking to our partners to work with us. So that's kind of my big update. And again, I'm excited to finally get some real brainy data people swinging into action. Any questions probably can take offline.

Theresa Power-Drutis

That's very good news. We all love that data. Because it is, as you say, grounded in some sort of reality. So yeah, there's some thumbs up and there are things in the chat about how much we appreciate you that always holds true. So we do still have enough time to do a little bit more that's on the agenda. The safe sites for all update. Jan, do you have something you want to throw in the ring?

Janet Runbeck

For all Monday, noon, zoom, go to our website. Now that we are successfully done with having to promote an F k for safe parking. Everybody contact Mr. Dan Meyer really soon. We have taken on the emergency distribution network, which is as we know, inclement weather is in our future, maybe more than we would like to recognize and we're doing something about that. So come and join us and see you then. You're good.

Theresa Power-Drutis



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So Jake.

Chandra Hallam

One last thing to consider. There was another update from the Emergency Food Network. At the Gig Harbor coalition meeting this last week, stating that indeed, donations are dropping drastically and incoming food and outgoing food is at an all time peak. So people are coming in but not donating and that's something to think about.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Okay, good. I mean, not good, but good that you report on it. So anything else coalition committee updates and good trouble announcements. Jays, I think your hand is still up but I don't know if you have another question. Patricia. Just put it

Patricia

in the chat but the Healthcare for the Homeless. National Conference is going to be in Bellevue, which is unusual. May 10 through the 13th so you can sign up it's getting close to full. You don't have to attend the whole conference. But there's other ways you can participate in gain information. So thank you very much.

Theresa Power-Drutis

All right, Sally.

Sally Perkins

The City of Tacoma has community vitality and safety committee meets this upcoming Thursday the 28th at 430 and one of the items on the agenda is the process for encampment removal. So some of us might want to watch that meeting.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Right. Thank you for that. We often do some sort of advocacy thing right now and I don't know Monique, I see you there and I wonder just calling you out what can we do to make this smoother for you? Get your place open.

Monique Brown

Nothing. We're just waiting for the power and the final porta potties to come. They did bring a power pole out. It's laying down on the street there and I saw guy looking for the gas the other day, so we're getting close. We're getting close. I was trying to see if I could turn this around. So you could just kind of see a little bit. Just look, I'll give you a little teaser. So we're working on rain flies now because we found out that these are not waterproof but

Theresa Power-Drutis

oh dear, this is the first Oh, you're on mute Monique. I don't know if she heard me but you're gonna be anywhere she.



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Monique Brown

And then Costco donated a carport for us. So we've got part of our kitchen tent back. We're going to try to see if we can salvage this frame to make another part of the tent but there we are. We're getting there. Shower trailers here.

Well, we'll just wait our thank you for that little inspirational, leading us out into the day and I'm sorry that I'm not robbed. I'll try to be robbed more next time if I have to do this, but thank you all and for people who are willing to hang in here to plan for next week's meeting. We're going to take five minutes and then come on back here. You're You're welcome to post anything you like in the chat because it'll it'll be saved after that. So go for it's got a question there.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Teresa. Who does? Oh, Jeffrey.

Jeffrey Boyce

Just a note on heading out if you have a chance to go by Monique's site, do it. It is the perfect model of what we should be promoting. So please, please Ruby is the site manager and she will welcome any smiling face coming in to view so please, please, please go see this site.