



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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SPEAKERS

Jeff Rodgers, Tod Gunther, Nicole Grant, Richard Dorsett, Jeffrey Boyce, Jennie Schoeppe, Jay Warley, Janet Thiessen, Gerrit Nyland, Verna Lilly, Laureen Tomich, Caleb Carbone, Sally Perkins, Ed Jacobs, Rob Huff, Cheryl Hill, Patricia, Rosemary Powers, Lavada Kent-Napier, Clinton Brink, Tim Harris, Erika Snell, Courtney Love, Janet Runbeck, Bob Vollbracht, Jenny Lorton, Theresa Power-Drutis, Shannon Ice

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Rosemary Powers

Thank you, Rob. And welcome everyone to this virtual space where we keep going, being present together, learning, sharing, and calling each other to act. You know, although we gather now on Zoom, we do meet on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and we acknowledge our debt to their stewardship. Of this region and the need for action and addressing the continuing effects of historical trauma. We're also aware of immediate trauma and tragedy this past Saturday outside the candy market near ninth and market in Tacoma, Odessa, Easterlin a woman living homeless who stayed around the market was killed by a store clerk with a history of mental illness himself, who claimed she was shoplifting. I asked now just for a moment of silence to honor the life of this person who deserved to live and did not deserve to die. It's important to honor the lives of those who suffer on our streets and in moments like this it can feel pretty overwhelming and paralyze sometimes snacking and to counter that, we gather we gather informally. We gather as organizations together as governmental groups to create plans to determine benchmarks to lobby for budgets. We focus on specific interventions to mediate to mitigate the consequences of homelessness. Today, we'll learn more about medical respite, and discuss how to respond to medical conditions that we may encounter



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when we're on the streets with folks. We share our resources of good landlords as well as tarps and water and blankets and garbage bags. Most of all, we pay attention. We celebrate that important moment when we as human beings, find ourselves in the presence of other human beings who may be suffering greatly. Whatever else we share, we can recognize each of us as a person with a complicated history and with unrealized dreams and hopes. We can pay attention and listen to the voice that challenges us to act in new ways. As the French philosopher Simone de Beauvoir claims attention, she says is the rarest and purest form of generosity. I am continuing to lead delighted at the presence and the generosity of all of you who come when you can, and welcome those of you who are new or returning after some time away. I want to thank everyone also who showed up yesterday are able to come to our first in person gathering at the seven seas. It was really amazing to see people that I've only seen in the two dimensional space that we're in here. And we plan it see how it goes. But we plan to continue these on the first Thursday of the month, from four to six at the seven seas so if you have that space available at some time, put it in your calendar is something you might have the ability to do when that seems appropriate for you. So now for our meeting today and I'll put some on vase little code in the chat for you because I just find it really helpful but for today we have our usual you're get tired of me saying it but for those who are new, it's helpful to know what our plans are here. And so we have were asked we asked people to mute themselves when they're not speaking so there's no background noise and also to stop your video if you're doing other activities that might be distracting. We also ask you to raise your use the raise hand function, or if you're on the phone and can't do that find some other way to get attention. So Rob can keep track of people as they wish to speak. And we also encourage you to use the chat function for any kind of communications that are important to share with people your your contact information, your group that you're with particular resources you have or need, or any interesting thoughts or questions you have during the meeting today. And with with regard to our norms, of behavior with one another, clearly respect for one another's voice is important, making sure we don't take up too much space but taking up some space when we have something to say and paying attention to the power dynamics that may be present as we do speak. So I think with that, asked any of you who would like to say it to let us know that you're here that haven't been here before or haven't introduced yourself before just to say, raise your hand and then say your name and if you're associated with an organization to let us know what that is as well. So I can okay see Rob, if you can Oh, there's Lorraine.

Laureen Tomich

Hi everyone the Reen Talmage from elevate health and I'm here to tell you a little bit about medical respite. Give you an update.

Rosemary Powers

Glad to be here. Thank you Lorraine. It's wonderful to have you here. Nicole. I think you're on mute still. Can you hear me now? Yes, we can.

Nicole Grant



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I'm here every week. But I usually just stay quiet and listen my name is Nicole and I work for bolstering Family Services of Tacoma. I work with the teashop program. So I'm helping people that are sending referrals from the Pierce County schools through like a McKinney vento liaison so I love this group. It's such wonderful information. And I just appreciate all of you so much. So thanks for letting me join in and out. Well

Rosemary Powers

thank you for being here and we hope to hear more about your program at another time too.

Nicole Grant

Thank you. Sounds good.

Rosemary Powers

So Erica,

Erika Snell

I just would ask that if she could put her program referral program into the notes because we're looking for referrals for our development, or our tiny home community that we're putting together so it'd be a good contact. If she could put that information in the chat. That would be great. Thank you.

Rosemary Powers

Thanks, Erica. And Nicole, you got that request.

So all my referrals come from the Tacoma schools. So it has to filter through with the school district actually but Erica, I'll give my contact information. And then anybody else who has any other questions, I'd love to talk about Wellspring and we offer we are in King County, expanding this gnomish county as well. And like I said, I work for the Pierce County office from home so there's some kind of nuances to the program. But yeah, I'd love to explain more. Of that. So I'll put that in there now. Thank you.

Yeah, that would be that would be helpful because we have a we part of our entities we have OSGi we have a private pool for our homeless community if I want to get more information. Thank you.

Rosemary Powers

All right, Rob. I can't see every one. So if there's, if you can see others that may wish to speak.

Rob Huff



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Yeah, and I don't see anyone else at the moment. But let's give folks just a second and see if anybody else would like to introduce themselves

Lavada Kent-Napier

Yes, good morning. My Data chant Napier, just speaking saying Hi, I am still out here homeless and I'm still trying to network to find a safe place to stay.

Rosemary Powers

Thank you very much levada, and I am hoping that we can find some resources for you. Thanks. Thank you for joining us all these times as well.

Rob Huff

And I am not seeing anyone else at the moment.

Lavada Kent-Napier

I believe everyone is recovering from Cinco de Mayo celebrate

Rob Huff

that is possible.

Shannon Ice

I like to say a quick thing if that's okay. I just like to say thank you for meeting everybody some of the people in person yesterday. And then I would just like to say thank you for mentioning and having a time of silence for Odessa this morning because I think it's important to recognize that so I just wanted to thank everyone for that. And thank you all for this space.

Cheryl Hill

This is Cheryl Hill. I have my hand up but I'm probably not doing it right.

Rob Huff

Okay, yeah, I'm not seeing anything but feel free to introduce yourself.

Okay. I have come to your meetings both zoom in in person. I'm just a resident that is a soccer and a gambler. And so I shop and online to find things for the homeless and for the various charities and I have explained this back when you were meeting in person, but you've got a lot of new people involved. So I wanted to explain that if in your charity, you have something particularly you're looking for like a projector or a shredder or a TV or a TV for one of your residents. Just you know, let your mind go.



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Go ahead and contact me and if I don't have it, my thrill is finding it on auction for cheap and providing it to you. So I'll put my in the chat. I'll put my contact info in Thank you.

Theresa Power-Drutis

I gotta throw this in that Cheryl means that she really does do what she says she's doing. She's done a lot of stuff for many of us in the community and she's a wonderful woman and happy to have her here

Rosemary Powers

all right, Rob, I think it's back to you.

Rob Huff

Okay, well, thank you everyone. And again, if you if you feel more comfortable and you'd like to introduce yourself in the chat, please do use that. I love that theory that folks are recovering from Cinco de Mayo so so they're quieter this morning. I apologize ahead of time if my voice is a little rougher than usual. I've since our last meeting had quite a cold and then I went to the Sounders game the other day and that did something to my voice so so I am recovering. So let's shift to our first regular item and that is updates from folks about what they are seeing on the streets this week. The purpose of this part of the meeting excuse me is to attempt to get a temperature for what has changed this week. Discuss particular needs that you've encountered across the county this week, and share any information that you think would be helpful to others who are doing outreach. So I open the floor. Patricia, I see your hand up first.

Patricia

Hi, good morning. I'm Patricia. I'm like a lived experience advocate. I've gotten multiple calls from people regarding that. If people I don't know what kind of housing to be very honest, but if people fall off the wagon and certain houses, they're autumn, they're automatically kicked out. I don't know like the truth to that matter, but I do know one of the individuals I spoke to on the phone because I got these calls have never been homeless before. And he struggled with alcoholism and was in a housing and had gotten back to it. But his option was the street. I don't I don't understand that. So I just wanted to bring that as a highlight about like, Where do people go when they don't fit the model of the housing they're in. So thank you for letting me share. Thank you, Patricia.

Rob Huff

Richard, I see you're raising your hand.

Richard Dorsett

I'll jump in on a couple of things. First off, there is another sweep forthcoming at 10th and 11th. Between MLK in em I think, correct me if I'm wrong is so it was two weeks out. So I think it's the 18th through 20. Anyway, May 18. Yeah. They have posted for a sweep. I'm going to be spending a fair



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amount of time at that encampment today. Thanks to somebody I'm going to be putting a few can see this. Notice up in addition to the city's notice, I'm going to put some of our posts up at the site. And thank you already for the for the artwork on. The other thing that I'll be doing this week and Rob I sent you the PDF. I don't know if it'll go on to chat. But as I have number of installments three of our tip City News, which is a communications that I'll be taking out to people in the encampments today. So that we're connecting with people they're about to be swept with information with resources and additional information. So those are a couple things. I've got one other but I'll hold for that for the moment.

Rob Huff

Thank you Richard and I will drop that PDF in the chat here momentarily. After I save it to my computer but while I do that, others I see Ed with your hand up.

Ed Jacobs

One of the things that is very evident around the Tacoma area is that we may have as many people with cars as tents that are in an encampment. We're seeing more and more that in these encampments. More and more cars are parked around them that are owned or controlled by the residents of the encampments. So it's really an uptick as far as that goes. And I'm not leading into any discussion of safe parking or anything like that. It's just it's something that that we've seen in the last month or so.

Richard Dorsett

Rob, if I could lead on into that. I'll try and simple as I can. So we went out this week my wife and I did three surveys of doing a tense census around town, and I will try to put this in the chat and the purpose and the goal is to get a comprehensive list of encampments so that when inclement weather arises, we will have the ability to do more effective outreach. So what I am doing with the information, I get it, sending it to Jeff Rogers, Jeff, I think you're on the call. If you could put your email up, and then I will try to post this in. And I guess the request is if you see encampments that are not on this list. If you want that information to Jeff it will help us build the mapping capability to do more effective outreach. So there's there's a lot a lot of backstory to all that but that's that's the short version and I will try to get this into chat so that you will have the list that I when I go out. You see a camp met here there and other ways, but when you tally them up and then do the math, we got I think it was close to 300 encampments with just a few drives around town. And I'm sure we only have a small portion of what's really out there. So my request and my hope is that we can direct that information to Jeff and get a better ability to do inclement weather outreach. Thank you.

Ed Jacobs

And I'll just follow that up with please send a copy to me as well because we're compiling for others. Other reasons so thank you.



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Rob Huff

Thank you for the effort that you're making there. To everyone who's involved. Sally your hands on

Sally Perkins

this briefly the in my little church congregation which is peace Lutheran Tacoma three people in the last few weeks have gotten such large rent increases that they are going to be forced to move. And one of them with a child has been helped to find additional housing but the other two one of whom is disabled are really at kind of their wit's end about how to go about this and so I think we need to be watching for these are people that are not on the streets yet but could well be soon so we need to keep watching this the rent increase impact.

Rob Huff

Yes, yeah, we need to do everything we can around homelessness prevention and stemming that flow new people into homelessness. Bob, I see your hand up.

Bob Vollbracht

Thank you, Rob. Just in the last six or seven days we've been put in contact with three new families who are living in their cars. Two of them came over from Tacoma, having been in other neighborhoods there and had been harassed. We're working on getting them a safe parking location here and providing other services. So that's that's an increase and, and a flow from Tacoma that we don't normally say. had a meeting with a business owner in the Uptown area and get Carver a couple of days ago he voiced more concern as the their local business community group at Uptown are starting to see carloads of homeless they believe they are homeless but they're coming over for the day and asking for money approaching people for help. So we're gonna get to como rescue mission out to see them but then they're gone in the afternoon headed back across the bridge. So this this is also sort of new day trading, if you will. Even for us.

Rob Huff

That's That's it. Yeah, thanks for letting us know about that new development Bob. J I see your hand up next.

Jay Warley

Something else to think about is Seattle's instituted a 72 hour limitation on RV parking on streets. And because of that, I do believe we'll probably see an influx of RVs moving to pierce through by and through Federal Way in the coming couple of weeks. So that's something to start keeping an eye out for is an increase in RV use.

Rob Huff

Thank you Jay.



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Verna Lilly

Verna, the MRC has just finished its pilot project at the Seventh Street and Tacoma Avenue site where we are doing STD prevention. Hopefully activities are handing out condoms and information. We've partnered with Tacoma Pierce County Health Department CHWs there and are going to be continuing for it under our free clinic status with MRC and continuing the project that was so we're trying to do something that a lot of other people aren't doing with addressing STDs, as everybody knows that's on the rise.

Rob Huff

Thank you Verna. And thank you for that work. And Patricia

Patricia

I was gonna kind of mimic what Jay was saying there's some techniques and tactics that are happening within King County that are moving people over into the border of beavers. And that's why you might see an influx and differences.

Rob Huff

Thank you. Yeah, this is why I always many of us talk about having a regional approach to the issue of homelessness because borders really do not mean much. So appreciate that information. All right, any last items for what's happening on the streets this week? All right. So if you do have additional information that you would like to share and put it in the chat, that would be a great resource again, I know it becomes a broken record, but along I remind everyone, the chat does get retained and posted on our website after each meeting. And we utilize that as a resource moving forward so that that's a fantastic way to make sure if you share information that lives on. So let's shift to our first presentation of this morning and we have a couple of really meaty presentations. So we'll start with Laureen Thomas from elevate health, talking about the Pierce County community medical respite initiative. So Laureen you have the floor.

Laureen Tomich

Thank you. Is it okay if I share my screen? Rob? Oh, it

Rob Huff

is let me let me give you the ability here. And you should have that ability now.

Kay.

Laureen Tomich



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I'll try and pull up this presentation. though. I'm not seeing it.

Rob Huff

It looks it says you started screen sharing but I'm not

Laureen Tomich

seeing I don't see it. Right I'm gonna stop sharing. I'll try it again. Perfect. My apologize for that.

Rob Huff

No problem at all.

Laureen Tomich

It is not showing me the PowerPoint though. Is it?

Rob Huff

So as an alternative, one thing you could do, there's couple of options. You could drop that into the chat as a file and I can open it on my screen and Okay, share it that way.

Laureen Tomich

See if I can do this. Otherwise, I can just Oh, there you go. Oh, can you see? Okay, great. Yeah, it just came up. Okay. So let me get this going here. And so I'm going to be my timekeeper. Because I did get a little robust about this and feel free to stop me. I have several slides that I was going to share. I'll go through this kind of quickly and maybe at the end, feel free to ask questions. I welcome feedback on this and I'll just say thank you, first of all to everybody. You guys are a very hard act to follow. I'm always impressed with everything I'm learning. It really enjoyed being on the distribution list because I do learn a lot from that. So thanks so much. And secondly, we'll just jump in here on medical respite. Someday I hope to come back and go it's open. But not just yet. It's going to take some time. Some of the things our steering committee has been following that we're really prioritizing right now is still looking for the ownership. And operations of who really wants to own this facility. We're socializing this with a lot of potential community partners. We're on the phone talking with them. Um, several community organizations have expressed interest but nobody has committed yet. We do have as far as the provider, part of it for the medical, dental and behavioral health providers. Community health clinics have stepped up and they're very involved in this initiative. We're searching for a building. We've looked at one early on last summer, it was very small, and the organization decided they didn't want to pursue us using it and we decided to overall we want to start with something that we can just stay at. So we have kind of switched our thinking there. We are working because in order to buy a building you need some money. So we do have 4.5 million in ARPA funds secured. We've applied through Pierce County Human Services, they took the lead and did a \$5 million grant application that we're hoping to hear in May if we got that or not. Several facility agencies did letters of support, and we really appreciated that.



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And Pierce I should say when peers which is the community resiliency fund of Elevate health has said they could offer a \$1.5 million capital loan if someone from Pierce County wanted to operate this. So it'd be for local agency and there'd be an application process. But we're not really we're still exploring everything. There's we've had discussions with a group called Turner impact capital. We met them a few years ago when we started this. Medical respite work. And they're a social impact investment firm, who started off in education, then moved into the housing world and then about three years ago moved into health care, and they've done some medical respites and PACE programs and things like that. So we'll keep researching other options for funds. One thing, the building is one thing to buy, then we're going to have to have funds to probably renovate the building. Also, then we need to have operations money. And so I will just mention here. We're tracking the MCO mandate, that respite stays be an approved benefit through the for anybody on the Apple Health Plans. In let's see, it's May 12. Comes the lemon 15 Medicaid waiver renewal draft should be out. And we are looking for people to review that and there's 30 days that you can provide feedback. Elevate health will hopefully facilitate some discussion groups so I will send that to someone if you want to distribute it to this group. We welcome feedback. The thing that I'm trying to track is the health related social media. Part of it is initiative one, then we've heard about there's an in lieu of hospitalization, and supposedly in one of those two is where the medical respite funding should be coming from for from the MCOs. So we'll see how that goes. Haven't heard anything more about that. And then of course, we've been discussing the model a bit which I'll get to in a little bit here and wanted to share the timeline. You know, we hope to get this up and running so fast and realistically, we had a quite a brisk discussion about this. Once we find a building that we want to purchase and do all the due diligence around that, do the renovations. We really are looking at a year and a half to two years to get that up and running. And then the part of opening the medical respite area would probably be about six months after that. So just wanted to share those updates real quick here. And one of the things we are trying to work on is putting together a one pager if you want to call it perform or whatever. But you know, we go to people and go give us money. And they're like but for what? Tell us more. So we are trying to put something together. We will be including what is medical respite. I just like to use that to Senator people who aren't real familiar with this sort of thing. What I do want to share with you guys is our goal and our goal is to establish and operationalize a medical respite care facility in Pierce County, recognizing it as a specialty shelter in the matrix of coordinated services supporting the homeless and are those without a supportive or safe environment to receive the care they need to treat their unstable condition. So two things about that. When we started this initiative, it was both respites were really hospital initiatives. And I really wanted to flip this to more of a community perspective. And it just worked like the stars were aligned that you guys have worked so hard on putting this whole plan together for homeless services that we've kind of went we're part of this, we're going to tuck this underneath that big hole plan. And so that's why we're considering this specialty shelter in the big plan of homelessness, and kind of expanding a little bit past what medical respite is for most we really want to expand this. For example, if for federal funds for homelessness, a lot of people who can't be couchsurfing that is not a homeless person. But in our definition, especially from the hospital systems, people lose their housing while they're in the hospital. And they've, you know, burn their bridges. People don't want them coming back to couch surf to



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recuperate. So those are the type of situations we want to be able to support as well as those who truly don't have a home at all. So our vision is a 50 bed, medical respite serving all genders. But we want this co located in like 100 bed shelter facility, so 50 beds of respite 50 beds of true shelter beds. We liked that idea because we can really flow if you know it's cold nights or whatever, and respite isn't full. Why not use those beds for somebody else, you know, whoever needs it so the flow could be they're going back and forth. We would like to have the rescue center more in a separate secured area of the shelter not intermixed. With the regular shelter guests, providing short term residential care. We want to be able to provide daily medical assessments and treatments, wraparound services for all their needs. And we're going to do this in a multiple phased approach. We want to open this as a general shelter. We figure that's most successful because we're going to need all those services. Once the shelters operation and functional. We're tossing around the idea of maybe eight beds, maybe more for medical respite patients, see how that goes and then add additional beds in really a safe and responsible expansion because we don't want to really start things and then go oh, man, we didn't think this through and it's not successful when people go see I told you it wouldn't work. And we're really trying to avoid that we're really trying to be very thoughtful in this. I think the last time I was here I talked about our No Wrong Door approach for admission. We want this to be for patients to be coming from any place. We plan again, a phased admission approach. The first thing we were kind of shifting our thinking before it was always hospital discharges. Now we're really thinking maybe it's we look at the homeless that are presenting to the emergency department but don't require admission because they're going back to the streets to not a place to really recuperate they go back to the IDI back to the IDI and then finally get there so sick they get admitted. So we're thinking those are the patients we would like to see maybe then followed by hospital discharges or outpatient admissions, and then eventually take direct admissions from the street. But knowing that we probably won't have diagnostic equipment, it's probably safest for them to go to the IDI get evaluated and determine that they don't need admission. And then come directly from the IDI to us. We really want this to be a collaborative effort between medical providers, and we plan a phased medical, what I'm calling Medical Outreach first. Ch the Community Health Clinic Doc's and providers will care for those in the medical respite program, then expand to the general shelter guests, not just on a special day, but they could come anytime they're not feeling where I want to see a provider. And then ultimately, we really would like to see this facility being housed in a primary care clinic that's just open to the public. I'll quickly share the requirements we're looking at 18 years or older. We that needs to be voluntary. They need to be ambulatory able to mobilize themselves with assistive devices able to transfer without assistance, independent and managing their activities. of daily living Bailey bathing and dressing. continent a bowel and bladder we've heard that is quite an issue for a lot of the providers. That is something they can't manage. But if the person can manage your own collection devices, no problem. We want to make sure that they don't have any infectious condition that requires special isolation. They have to be medically and psychiatrically stable for a group environment and cannot be an active withdrawal or at risk for significant withdrawal. And with that, I'm just gonna say this is not a skilled facility. It's not a long term care facility. It's not a detox center. So I know there's a lot of people out there that need the help but this isn't going to fit everyone. The services are much what the shelter normally provides. We really are



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hoping for a building that has individual rooms because we feel that really works better for privacy, serving all the clients. We hope that some of the rooms have ADA accessible when maybe can't do it all but some of the rooms have that ability. We want the medical providers on site we're talking like eight to six might be realistic seven days a week. After hours support we're not too concerned about because we have the on call Doc's that we could call and the providers would be doing on site visits and treatments. do basic wound care diabetic management respiratory management, definitely oxygen. Before it was easier to do nebulizers. Now with COVID There are some requirements around that so we're not sure we'll just have to see what's happening with COVID and of course care management, transitioning the patient to the next care and level of care and provider. And one of the things we did meet with the managed care organizations and kind of had a meet and greet asked a few questions and one thing they said is they really want to be involved and to have a good handoff from the our team to the managed care organization care management team. So that there's good continuity and flow going that way. Um, see, so moving on here. future state we really want to have nursing assistant care. As I said, we're not going to we're not looking at this as a skilled facility where we can take care of patients long term, but we realize that when you get sick, you get weak, and people have good potential for recovery. And those are the ones you just need a little help getting up once in a while when you're not feeling well. If you've ever had foot surgery, or knee injury, using crutches and Walker kind of takes some practice so it would be nice to have some hands on care to be able to provide to those type of patients. We're also talking about, you know, working with a certified hospice agency to provide some end of life support, love to have physical and occupational therapy on site to help us and also we still haven't forgotten about wanting to use this as a training for other clinical professionals. And this is my list of challenges and I hope it doesn't keep growing but people are very concerned about the provider staffing. See he said it's been really hard and I've heard this from other health teams trying to recruit providers for any type of work. We're not sure what we're going to do about licensed nursing staff for after hours availability as the treatment only going to be able to provide be provided while the CHC Doc's are there or what about those who need something in the middle of the night. Medication management is something we haven't really discussed much about. Most recently. We've talked there's a lot of pharmacy regulations that we need to follow. So we're still working on that. Definitely need to integrate the medication for opioid use disorder services, behavioral health services, dental services I'm not too worried about we can work around that. But then there's going to be those patient issues like the very ATTREX who don't qualify you know the beds can't handle the weight or something like that. Those with fall risk, impaired cognition, and lots of unknowns yet. So now, what are your questions or comments? Or ideas?

Rob Huff

Perfect, thank you. Laureen. And if you could take down the slides so we can see each other then we can move on to that. Patricia, I see your hand up.

Patricia



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Hi, Lauren. Yeah, I can't see her but um, this is sort of my lane. I watched the presentation. I would like to rise you up and assist you. I do have some questions or concerns or something in regards to there's very specific guidelines when it comes to utilizing the terminology, medical respite from HUD, Jayco, and so forth. So there was a plurality in a lot of the presentation that that dismissed that sort of terminology and then when you get sheltering there's different ways to approach it. But they they fall under like different funding lines. So medical respite is one funding line. But I've been working on terminology calling like medical support, where you can get different, like funding to meet the goals that you had on some of the slides because on the slides about they have to be ambulatory. They have to be, you know, able to do so and so that doesn't qualify underneath like the health the health care considerations, insurance and funding for medical respite. So there's like a lot of programming things but with this said, I am very aligned with multiple programs, including I don't have the capacity for this week because next week I'm doing the Health Care for the Homeless national conference. And they might be I'm presenting in anyway in Bellevue, it's sold out at this time. But there are initiatives grants and funding and alignment that could sort of develop this plan a little bit deeper, and have it be more effective because I see three different lanes in which they don't. There's a plurality and how this could all work. But the one thing that that was glaring to me was medical respite terminology with what you the capabilities and the capacities were going to be and that can be switched into like a medical support model, but you can also have, if you do have nursing capacities it can be medical respite under very strict guidelines. So anyway, I you can contact Rob to get a hold of me. I'm have to actually jump off soon to do things for this conference. Next week. But there I am. Hopefully, that's helpful. Thank you for that.

Laureen Tomich

It will be Patricia. Thank you and I unfortunately can't attend next week. I was hoping to, but I'll put my email in the chat and maybe you could call me sometime when you're free after the conference. Sure. I absolutely

Patricia

want to lift you up but also aligning yourself with certain agencies that can help you realize this vision.

Laureen Tomich

Right. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Patricia. And Janet, you have your hand up.

Janet Runbeck

Yeah, I'll keep it short. This this discussion has been around for a long time. It originally started as a possibly just a post discharge PICC line unit and you know very specific to a very specific population. I



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give Laureen and elevate health, a ton of credit for listening to us, because we are the ones who see folks on the streets. Our shelters are getting discharges from from hospitals in the middle of the night from Uber drivers with oxygen tanks. If they were they're getting people with wheelchairs who've never been in wheelchairs before. So Laureen specifically and elevate health has listened to us as we have described what we are seeing on the streets and in our shelters. So please continue to give input because they are listening. Thank you very much.

Laureen Tomich

Thanks Jana. And I'll just add, a lot of what we're doing is going to have to be agreed upon whoever the owner and operator of the shelter is. So it may look totally different by the time we get done. But that's what we're working for.

Rob Huff

Perfect. So Laureen would you be willing to drop your slides in the chat for folks who want to grab it?

Laureen Tomich

Sure. If I can figure out how to do that, Rob?

Rob Huff

Yeah, if you can't, you can always email it to me, let me put my email in the chat as well. Okay. So that we can make it available

Laureen Tomich

to folks. Definitely.

Rob Huff

Great. So I want to thank you for the presentation and sharing the progress and let's shift to our next presentation. And I'm I would like to invite Todd Gunther from the Orting recovery cafe. Todd is going to share a little bit of context of what outreach looks like in ordering and the work that he does but also Todd has quite a personal story that he could share with us as well. So Todd, I'll give you the floor.

Tod Gunther

Thank you. Good morning, everyone. As Rob mentioned, my name is Todd and I am the Outreach guy here in Orting. Before I begin I want to add my compliments to Lorraine's presentation. I liked Loreen how you thinking outside the box. We've all been trying to solve homelessness for what? Going back to the beginning age of man. So new ideas, helping old ideas do not so good job. So, Robin Garin invited me to stop by and say hi, and also see some familiar faces on here. There's about 70 cool people wearing super capes, so I'm glad to be amongst everyone. I am currently the outreach guy for an organization called recovery Cafe. We have multiple coffee shops around the country, where people



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who had who had been through the crucible can come and find a non judgmental and caring heart. My role is to find them. And so I spend a lot of my time slogging through mud and underneath bridges. Meeting a whole bunch of interesting folks. Before this position, I helped start a few shelters in the region including the new tiny home village for homeless veterans in hoarding by way of personal background. I got into homeless services and an interesting way in my private life, I am a city councilor on my third term, and in my first term, you know, we all heard the phrase you know, there, there but for the grace of God guai. Will it actually happens? It didn't happen to me. So despite my position, I fell out to the streets. I woke up one morning 7am birds and sun and all the good things and by 7pm That night, I was on the streets of Tacoma, due to a family tragedy. I lost everything I owned, going all the way back to my childhood. By day I slept with rats and ate at soup kitchens. And by night I was on TV, approving million dollar checks. So it was quite an experience. And was some of the darkest days of my life, which I think I'll probably remember forever. Which brings me up to today and what we're doing on the site. Earlier I said I felt privileged to become homeless. And it said that because in falling down that dark hole allowed me to enter the lives of those clients that we serve, and they want me to walk in their shoes. And what I have found is that has been very beneficial and outreaching when I speak to folks in the forest or under a bridge, or wherever they may be their heads pick up when I said when I told them that I've walked in their shoes, and so I'm able to sit down around them with a campfire and talk about and share different street tips from what I learned on the streets what they've learned. And we speak the same language on what it's like to survive out there. So that's, I think, a benefit that's come from from the days I spent. So how is the cafe outreaching all our small part of East Pierce County. For me personally, I'm kind of throwing the table up in the air and asking how can we level everything up? I'm coming to this with new eyes. I have not been in services for the many decades that some of you have been. So I've been looking at everything with new eyes and reviewing our brochures and a blessing bags, our business cards and finding ways that we can improve that beyond the standard ways of doing things. For example, we recently bought a new button machine right here. So we've created a dozen designs so far. And so don't be surprised when you start seeing our buttons out there amongst the unhoused I think they deserve amongst

but cluding everybody I think they deserve some encouragement and some humor and their lives. So I think those buttons will help do that. Also been looking at our business cards. You know, we've all had the standard ones that we've had for years in our own lives. But in my own profession, I've come across a different kind of format that those in the fire departments and police departments and others use, which is a trading card format, where it has their pictures on the front side. And back side is little bit of interesting information about them. Maybe a personal message or personal quote and I think that helps humanize them. I think it would also help humanize us. So I'm looking into that. I think also, a more interesting business card would increase the key factor. It actually might stay in their pockets for when they need the service versus immediately being thrown away. So that's that's another thing. On the east side, we don't have the visible homeless population the west side does. So I'm personally going throughout our 130 square mile area and looking under every bridge and inside every park and every



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forest patch and trying to find where our own unhemmed are, and then putting it into an application called Napster. And currently we have 44 already mapped in our area and that's going forward. And closing a Rob asked me to talk a little bit about how maybe this group could help us out here. I watched an old movie. I don't know if anyone's seen it's called honors. It's from the 1990s and it is the late Robin Williams. And they asked him about homelessness in the movie. And Mr. Williams said that homelessness will be solved when we finally see them as people know my experience. Everything is connected to how the homeless are seen by the public. Our funding our wraparound services, the political willpower it all goes back to how the public sees them, and how they respond accordingly. So for me, if this coalition has the ability, one thing that it might consider is producing a PSA, or a public service announcement to run on on TV or social media. You probably recently seen some PSAs on anti Asian racism which shows that population the other side of them, and I think that kind of idea would help humanize the homeless side as well. As I tell people, the homelessness the homeless are not just a set of problems to solve, but they also are sort of gifts to be appreciated and some of the things they've accomplished is the homeless have invented vulcanized rubber, which is on all our car and airplane tires. They invented the school alarm bell system used around the world. They wrote God Bless America by Irving Berlin. They've done an awful lot of stuff. And I think that kind of information we put into a PSA and broadcasts and maybe it will have escalating benefits throughout. So that's just one thought that came to me. That's all I have. Again, appreciate all the big hearts I've seen. I'm glad to be part of the team. We've only been doing this program here for about three months. So I'm new to this and for anyone has any questions. Fire away.

Rob Huff

Thank you so much for sharing Todd. And you mentioned you are aware of 44 sites and in the area you've been covering is that actually just in the ordering area or does it spread out?

So we have 130 square miles for the program that we have on the west side for the navigator program to the courts. And so we cover all the way from Sumner down to Roy and then from Spanaway on west side all the way to Buckley on the east. So about 130 square miles so I'm visiting every freeway underpass going under them, going visiting the parks and finding out where as many of the homeless are and putting him into that application.

Rob Huff

Perfect. And anybody with questions for Todd? I did. I did see Jay asking for your contact information. So I did share your email in the agenda but your contact information. If you want to put it in the chat. That'd be fantastic. Anyone else with questions for Todd about what outreach looks like in auditing or that life experience of that so unique of being homeless during the day and on a council at night? Bob, I see your hand up.



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Bob Vollbracht

No, thank you Rob Todd. Thanks very much. Who who is your county council? person there?

His name is Gosh. So I tip of my tongue. Dave morale? Yes. Yes. Yeah. And

Bob Vollbracht

thank you,

and he's very good counselors to his tip. He comes to meetings and he's always engaged and interested. So yeah, and he's

Bob Vollbracht

he's a seems to be a very strong supporter. Of all the all the programs surrounding homelessness, including safe parking. Thank you. I was thinking it might have been someone else who I received some comments from another Council. person at at a safe parking median and I just got to connect with you if it wasn't the CELT. Thank you.

Tod Gunther

You're welcome, sir.

Rob Huff

All right. So if anybody else has questions for Todd and I see Sharon mentioned that she'll reach out to you in the chat. But folks can ask questions in the chat and Todd if you can hang out for a few minutes to be able to address those that'd be fantastic. And we can't say enough about appreciating your work out there in the ordering area and you having the willingness to share your story. Thank you. Thank you, Rob. Yeah. Thank you so much. So we are behind on our agenda, which is not surprising, but I think I'm going to juggle a couple of things. So let's shift over to do our government updates. First, since we're close to 10 o'clock, and then I will move on to a review of last week's breakout conversation with Timothy and our discussion breakout discussion for today. So with that in mind, I see Caleb, you turn your camera on, are you willing to give updates from the city of Tacoma?

Caleb Carbone

And Sure. Thanks, Rob. Yeah, good to see everyone today. And Thanks, Todd. For those words. quite powerful. I know that this week is particularly hard for a lot of different reasons. And I think everybody and their participation has been has been well received by me and one that I will be sharing with my team about how much work still needs to be done, and how we all want to be part of the solutions and working with you all. I will mention one thing that was I always appreciate the mapping that that you all



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want to do on the encampments and the heel team has been trying to do that as well. And so maybe at some point we can get together to compare maps of encampments throughout the city. I know the RV is and cars can move a lot easier, but it's still good to know those folks and where they at so we can reach out to them and try to help them as best we can. For for that outreach part this last week, we were able to do about five referrals phone referrals at four locations and and had reached out to 25 individuals being contacted and nine of those individuals are connected to resources. As you guys know, the lighthouse did close. And we've been we worked with them on trying to place those folks as best as we could. I think even Gerald's online brotherhood rise took some of them as well for a short temporary time. And so if we I would love to hear other ideas too, from folks to see how we can help them any other ideas to get those folks out of that temporary shelter into a little bit more of a stable shelter as they're all transitioning. So please let me know I'm reaching out to the team on that one, because we've kind of exhausted all things on our end to to see what we can do. As you guys know how FOB operating base, Forward Operating Base is supposed to be connected with power today. And this is supposed to be getting intakes as soon as Monday with Monique who's already had a list ready to go and we are excited about that. And now we shift our focus after that to the next which is with brotherhood rise and their site as well and the team I've setting up a team so we can get this moving as fast as we can and not get into that. The same the same patterns that we did, I think with the mitigation side at a second end and Pacific. So a learning experience from us and great feedback from from everyone here too as well.

Rob Huff

Thank you Caleb.

Rob Huff

And of course, I missed it. I was multitasking but you did share about the next upcoming sweep as well, right.

Caleb Carbone

Yeah, no, I didn't I saw Richard or to give that just a clarification that ninth and 11th from M to MLK is the block radius there and we'll be out for two weeks doing outreach with those folks. I know that's a high it's been a high priority area. One thing that I've heard from Council and I'm sure we would probably all agree is that that population has been vulnerable and they're, you know, like all homeless populations are very vulnerable to other things as well. And so we're hoping to keep that in mind as we're trying to help those folks too. Teresa, do you have a question for me?

Theresa Power-Drutis

Yeah, I just, I think you know that I live just a few blocks from where that sweep is going to be. And I think you know that our neighborhood has been impacted mightily by the sweeps that have already happened. And I just I gotta say every time I hear this about how many problems that are, so there has



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to be a sweep. I recognize that the community that has been built here, that the community of people living in cars and tents that has been operating here for quite some time very well is really suffering because of the influx of people who do not share the same community spirit that these folks do. So I don't know what to say to you, except it's not okay. It's just not okay to say you're trying to mitigate things because it's not working. And so the neighborhoods that are absorbing it, or we're just going to keep absorbing more of this, and you keep moving people around. We're trying to keep this neighborhood neighborhood stable until we can come up with a safe place for people to be and the Sweeps are just making it so much harder for us to do that as a community. The whole community not just the house people.

Caleb Carbone

Yeah, thank Thank you, Teresa. I appreciate that feedback.

Rob Huff

And then I see Jeffrey

Jeffrey Boyce

Yeah, Caleb, I kind of want a second because that's one of the things I do here when I go into cabinets is, you know, if there's another sweep happening, how many people are going to end up here? And you know, frankly, some of these cabinets are pretty stable. And they are very concerned about somebody coming in and up ending what they built as a community you know, not every camp, self manage camp is like under 705. They're actually kind of quiet which is a blessing for all of us. So if we can get some more encampments, like at second set up. Maybe we can get rid of some of these sweeps.

Caleb Carbone

Yeah, Jeffrey and this is something that I've been able to share. With my work in Chicago too, as well, where they had plenty of self managing encampments under the viaduct along along those Lakeshore drives or even under the city that were quiet that I mean very good self management, you know, they would have schedules of drop off for food and they had trash pickup and they were very good at being able to do that. And that model actually does have a lot of benefit for folks that are trying to transition, I think in terms of getting out from where they are in terms of unstable environments and being you know, vulnerable populations and looking towards becoming housed and that is just the beginning. Right. And I think that those are those, those do have a place and I agree with that. And that's something that I've been able to share with council members as I've brought up the type of work that I've been able to do as well. So I hear you

Rob Huff

saying Caleb, and I see Richard with his hand up as well.



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Richard Dorsett

Just an observation with InM Caleb, and I'm sure you're aware of this, but some people will look at that and see an encampment. What I see is about seven or eight encampments. There are a little clusters of three or four tents that are doing quite fine and are many communities that are doing the best they can do. And then you go over to 10th and M and that had been a nice little community and it's disintegrated quite a bit. What I fail to appreciate is why at the site, and we could go over there right now and buy some meth or heroin. Why the heck Can't we get an arrest of the people that are doing the drug dealing in open view all day every day? Instead of taking this broad cloth approach where we're disrupting people that are actually fairly stable, considering their circumstance. There are some bad actors there, no doubt about it, but they're committing crimes and they're, that's what needs to be dealt with, in my opinion. Anyway, I would just suggest that the white van the police know about it, you know about it, I know about it, and we can sit there and watch them do all day long. I don't understand why we can't get an arrest because pull that out of the circumstance. And the other stuff going on would diminish quite a bit anyway. Talking to the choir, I know,

Caleb Carbone

Richard and what I'm hearing is it seems like we're punishing the folks that are stable within those encampments, and not the folks that are being that are taken advantage of those folks is what I'm hearing from you. And that's something that I can reach out to the PD as well and understand a little bit about their procedures and what they do so I can give a more adequate response to that.

Richard Dorsett

Yeah. And I, I asked them the same question and they go, we don't know what to do. I mean, it is a problem. But you compare the woman on the corner and she's been there, this will probably be her third suite in the last nine months. Many of the that will be moved is going to be their third or fourth dislocation since the Evergreen encampment last fall. And so that's not healthy. But we know who some of the bad actors are. The police know who some of the bad actors are, and why that can be addressed as a criminal, rather than as you just said, punishing everybody for the acts of a few and that's that is part of the frustration out there. Absolutely.

Rob Huff

All right. Well, I appreciate you taking all the feedback, Caleb and appreciate the efforts you're making to kind of implement change going forward. So

Caleb Carbone

thank you all. Appreciate it.

Rob Huff



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All right. So let's shift over to updates from Pierce County Human Services. Jeff, do you have anything for us? This week?

Jeff Rodgers

Yeah, good morning. We're just focused. The youth homeless demonstration program grant application is now open. And so we're working very closely with the Continuum of Care Committee and the Youth Action Board to submit a very strong application this year and hope that this is our year to get funding for youth and young adult programs. So there's a lot of attention being put into that application packet. And secondly, the Continuum of Care Committee is really focused heavily right now on working on the continuum of care Notice of Funding that will be coming out sometime early summer. That will be due back to HUD sometime early in the fall, to strengthen that application and address some of the challenges we have within that application to hopefully increase that funding as well. So just some funding things that are going on. We're in the process of finalizing we just put out a funding opportunity for CES. We call it the system enhancement NOFA. It was for CTE in shelters, cultural hubs and a few other things and we're finalizing that process and should be able to announce next week those funding words. We had like \$3.5 million that were put out yet sorry, Rob. Coordinated Entry. Sorry, we get so used to but so yeah, just working on quite a bit of funding activities is what we're working on. And we leave all of the activities we're doing regarding the comprehensive plan for Garrett to discuss and Rob for you to share. I know you and Garrett are working very closely on that. So we'll leave that to you guys to discuss even though our team is busy working on several components of that. And one last thing, we're hiring a new staff person on the team. It's a data position that we've had on the team for a long time, but the staff that held it, gosh, four years ago, maybe we haven't filled this position. The person left like a year and a half, maybe two years before COVID. So it's been like four years ago. So we're in the process of doing interviews now. And hopefully we'll have an additional data staff on the team to support our Homeless Management Information System or also known as Ms. Work and all the data requests that we get. So we're excited to have a new staff onboard soon. That's it.

Rob Huff

That is good news. Thank you, Jeff. So Valerie, I see information going into the chat, that you're sharing other updates that you have to share with the group today.

Jenny Lorton

Nothing major today just lots of amazing events with Tacoma pro bono, and we're scheduling some more throughout the community as well so I'll make sure that you'll have access to all of those but that new key Peninsula one is awesome. And it's going to be from tended to folks can register through the community actions website. And they're gonna have all kinds of providers energy assistance, the veterans bureaus there, we're there to come up pro bono is there everyone that we could really think of is going to be at that event. So if you know anybody in need on the Cape Peninsula, please get that out there.



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Tim Harris

Perfect

Rob Huff

and let's see, let's shift over two updates from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department and I need to apologize to Jenny because I think you sent me an email and I didn't respond.

Jennie Schoeppe

I don't remember what it was about, but oh, just asking for input on this. It's okay. Yeah. Then it's been one of those weeks sounds like you've had one of those weeks as well. So no worries. Um, thanks. And hi everybody. Um, so seven seas was awesome. I hope that we do that again. It was it was for a slightly socially awkward introvert. It was a challenge. I got myself there and I was so happy I went it was so odd and wonderful to see people in real life and three dimension as Teresa said, when when I saw her last night, but yeah, it was just really it was really wonderful. So to all of you who I met in person was great to see you. Um, let's see. Well, you're used to hearing about local COVID data from me, um, we update the data every Tuesday. So may 3, we got a new data report. On cases and hospitalizations and this probably isn't surprising but um, cases continued to rise, hospitalization rates or hospitalizations are also rising. Unfortunately, it is way way way down from the the last peak that we you know, the peak we experienced in January but still concerning that, that things are going bumping up a little bit. And my data team always stresses that cases are less cases or a less accurate way to look at it. But hospitalizations really is a more sort of valid way to look at the impact and the the increase or the the trend so that is a little bit concerning. Because the hospitalizations are up by about 40% from the last seven day period that was measured. So continue doing all we continue doing all the things trying to promote vaccination. wearing masks if you're in crowded indoor spaces with you know poor ventilation and being being smart and especially getting boosted so I talked to some folks last night and gotten their second booster. That's amazing. If you're over 50 You are eligible for a second booster. And she talked to your provider about that and if anyone's over 12 and immunocompromised. And if you have questions about boosters, let me know because there there is some nuance here in terms of your technically if you're in those two groups, you're technically eligible to get a booster for months get a second booster four months after your first booster but if you're in certain other groups of vulnerable groups, you can get it even sooner. So if you have clients or or guests if you're a shelter manager and you want to know more about that, please let me know what else we are continuing to do this, what we're calling the on demand model for getting COVID vaccines out to our shelter. Guests right now and we did an exciting little mini event hype last week hype Center last week and I think there was a call that someone needed a vaccine and when our team went out there there were six other six individuals who got vaccinated. So the on demand model is just basically instead of setting up clinics where we're out there for several hours, we are taking calls and responding within a day or two to just send a small team out and it's been working really well so far. So Annie to who's the lead, they're the nurse lead, and I are actually going to go visit folks next week early next week and just meet people



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face to face that we haven't met before. Or see people again that we've met and promote this program a little bit more and answer questions sort of on the ground at the shelter so hoping we can drum up some more interest. I'm going to share some some resources about our test to treat program. It's not ours but that we participate in that is her way to quickly connect a COVID positive person who fits certain criteria with medications to treat COVID To reduce the risk of severe impacts. So if any of you are in a position to to raise awareness about that program or to connect people I will share that with you. And what else I always think I'm going to be brief and then I really never am. I will share. I'll just share some more links about things. It's hepatitis Awareness Month. So I'll share a blog post about hepatitis and I hope to be in my in my role I hope to be doing more hepatitis, prevention and vaccination work with you all in the coming coming months. And I will try to share our syphilis fire if I cannot. It'd be great if Rob I can email that to you and you can send it out or attach it to the meeting today. The I'm forgetting what Richard called the newsletter what is it called?

Rob Huff

Tent. Tacoma tent news. Tacoma tent news.

Jennie Schoeppe

Put our syphilis flyer on there. So that's, that's pretty awesome and exciting. So you can also find that information there. Again, sorry for all that, but any questions for me and otherwise, I'll just drop some things in the chat.

Rob Huff

So I see Courtney had the question in the chat about his brand a vaccine is being offered,

Jennie Schoeppe

what brand of vaccine every one all our vaccine do you mean for the for the on demand shelter clinics? Um, basically, anytime a vaccine team connects with someone who who is in need of a vaccine, they will look up their record in the Washington State immunization system or if the person has the card that proves what vaccine they had before. If it's a if it's a booster, and they will, they will do the appropriate matching. There's a little nuance in terms of the boosters if you you can mix and match. But we have every presentation of vaccine available. So I hope that answers the question.

Rob Huff

Thank you for that. Yeah. Anything else? Not seeing anything else. Folks, do you have other questions? Chat would be a great resource for that.

Jennie Schoeppe

Yep, chat, and I'll put my email in the chat. As always, you can reach out to me via email if you'd like.



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Rob Huff

Perfect. Thank you, Jenny. Thanks, everybody. And I haven't had a chance to notice if anyone from Pierce County Department of Emergency Management is on the call. Let's pause a moment and see if they have anything to share today.

Rob Huff

And

Rob Huff

I don't hear anybody so let's move on to our RIFA reshuffled agenda. So why don't we shift over to a review of last week's breakout conversation, and I can share that on screen time if they if you'd like to go through it.

Tim Harris

Right. Thank you. Yeah. So last week, we talked about the property at 34th ends and Pacific. What kind of shelter would we advise the City of Tacoma to locate there? that's eventually going to be permanent housing, but it's available for placement and temporary shelter prior to that, and it's almost three acres. So there are some general thoughts around this. And then there were basically four categories of recommendations which I put in here, roughly in the order of what I perceived to be the popularity from from the various report backs that I summarized. Do RB is your safe parking do a sentient and Catlin some version of a tiny house village and then there was an idea for temporary congregate shelter. Going back up to the general thoughts. I think that a lot of people were seeing this in the context of the sweeps that are going on and the lack of alternatives that are available for people being swept from street encampments and that there was a sense of urgency to be able to meet that need. And that that accounts for the popularity of of our be in safe parking and unsanctioned encampments as as the sort of like top choices for what to do with that and the tiny house village then as well. There was a really interesting comment made I think I'm remembering that it was Gerald Daniels who said it up in the general thoughts and, and it was about, you know, how why is it that we have this situation where we're not really meeting this incredibly obvious need? And he talked about how the numbers that the city gathers doesn't really capture the breadth of experience out there that we need to be hearing and learning from it kind of goes back to Todd's Robin Williams quote, about how homelessness will be solved when we finally see them as people I think it really kind of resonates with that. So moving down into the actual suggestions, the safe parking stuff that really kind of split into a couple of of kind of frames for looking at one was a Kayo a style campground site and there were a few comments that sort of like expanded on what that might look like. And then there were some ideas for really more robust programs focusing on improving the situation of people that are living in RVs. On the sanction encampment side. You know, there was a lot of momentum around the idea of doing some sort of sanctioned encampment and feeling that we really need more of that sort of then immediately and you know, needing to have an answer for people who are asking where they can where they can go before there are more sweeps that are displacing people. And, you know, the some version of a tiny house



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village, I think the thing about that to pull out is that you know, these can be pretty quick and expeditious to set up. And then there was an idea around how we could do more of a congregate shelter fan at that site short term by perhaps using modular classrooms. And I think that's about it. That's, that's the roundup.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Timothy. A lot of good thought went into that I can tell from the conversations so appreciate everybody's input on that and your efforts to summarize it all Timothy

Tim Harris

always happy.

Rob Huff

So let's shift into a 10 minute breakout conversation and as a follow up to Maureen's presentation around medical respite earlier in today's meeting we thought we would ask a general question about what do you do when you encounter someone with medical needs on the street? And what we're hoping to do is to get past the simple answers that clearly if somebody has a major medical life threatening medical issue, that they'll contact emergency services. But get into some of the practicality of how you as you do interactions with the enhanced population if you see somebody with clear medical needs what what you will do. And ICU Jan

Janet Runbeck

Lorene has asked specifically for anecdotal stories of folks who have gone from the streets or from shelters or from from cars to the emergency room and were not admitted to the hospital. In other words, she has got the data from hospitals on folks who are discharged from hospitals with their condition. And and they have a special coding for folks who have no fixed address and who are living unsheltered. So what she needs are stories of folks who have gone to the ER, but were not admitted to the floor. So especially you know, for you outreach workers or anybody that has, has direct contact, if you know stories of folks who've gone to urgent cares or emergency rooms discharged, not admitted to the hospital. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Perfect, that's great additional context. So let's, let's go ahead and spend 10 minutes excuse me chatting with each other around this topic. I will post the question again as a broadcast to the rooms but I'm going to send everybody off to rooms of roughly five folks. And again, please take some notes and have somebody share those notes in the chat so the Timothy can do his good work with the information afterward. So let's go and we'll come back here at 1034.

<Breakout Rooms>



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Rob Huff

All right. So welcome back everybody to the cesspool of something. And I hope everybody had a good conversation. I know it was short. It was so short that we were having a conversation in the non discussion room that made me lose track of time. So if folks can paste the notes from your breakout conversations into the chat, that's the next key point so that Timothy has some information to work with. So thank you. And now I'm looking at our mess of an agenda I have a very quick advocacy update that I thought I would share. First things to call the City Council during their study session on Tuesday at noon. They are one of the items that they're discussing is called House America, or how's America and it is a HUD tool that allows the city to have access to some best practices and technical support from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to work toward a goal that stated in this potential legislation to create 96 units of new permanent supportive housing in the pipeline by the end of this year. So I plan to be listening to that study session topic. That that's one that would have a lot of interest, I think, and cross purposes with the work we do here in the coalition. Tuesday night at the five o'clock meeting, it is the community forum opportunity. So that's an opportunity for anybody in the public to comment on anything City Council has jurisdiction over. So just to make people aware of that opportunity to advocate shifting over to the Pierce County Council. As most of you likely know the county executive vetoed the safe parking ordinance that had been passed by the county council members last Friday, largely on the stated grounds that the addition of civic organizations to the ordinance was too broad and would be outside the normal public process. If you want to continue to support and talk about safe parking, I don't want to steal Jan's thunder. But do think about attending the safe sites for all meetings that take place on Mondays at noon. We had quite a conversation about next steps regarding safe parking support at the county level and how to move things forward. The good news for context is that even though the ordinance was vetoed safe parking is still completely legal at churches. Because of state legislation because of the work that Jeffrey Boyce and others did to get that legislation passed a couple of years ago right definitely. Yeah, so So this does not mean safe parking can't exist. It just limits where it can exist. So any questions about either to come a city council or Pierce County Council items that I can help with right now? All right, not seeing any let's let's shift gears again to Pierce County. And Garrett, do you and I you want to talk about the Pierce County comprehensive plan to end homelessness and the Advisory Board meeting this afternoon? Sure.

Gerrit Nyland

So today at one o'clock there is an advisory board meeting that's a group put together to basically keep an eye on the county and the community's implementation of the comprehensive plan to end homelessness. I put a link in the chat to the main page about the comprehensive plan which has a link to the meeting. So yeah, right. You have to go to a link to get to a link but there we are. This group is still sort of figuring out what it's doing. And today will probably be a bit more of that. So updates on different parts of the implementation of the plan. And and then probably conversation about sort of what their scope ought to be. And a little bit about data and reporting, which is woefully further behind than most people think it ought to be. But there we are. So any folks have questions for me. Again, the meetings open to the public, there'll be time for public comment.



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Rob Huff

And just as a reminder, I since since Maureen Howard has been unable to represent the coalition at these advisory board meetings, although she is weighing in on email, so that's fantastic. But since she's been able to attend, I've been filling in representing the coalition so if folks have particular concerns or thoughts that they would like to share with me offline. I'd be happy to take those. Then I'll put my email in the chat here between now and the end of today's meeting. All right, so let's shift gears. Thank you for that update Garrett and shift over to a quick update about safe sites for all Gen

Janet Runbeck

Yes, I'm I am reporting that human services is actively planning, coordinated response for inclement weather events. So we're in discussion with human services on how to have a county wide uniform response by all members of our county that is happening. The second thing I'm really pleased that both Todd and Caleb talked about mapping encampments expect emails from safe sites for all because we we need to know where encampments are. So thanks for that. And the third thing is Theresa, are you able to post the Yes. Okay. The safe parking network safe parking ordinance was vetoed. One approach we thought we would have is not to draft a letter but if folks are interested to attend any partner, committee or council meeting, and voice your opinion on safe parking ordinance, the language as as it existed, or however your heart leads. And we're not going to have a coordinated, uniform response. We're going to ask folks to show up and do public comment. And we have talking points that we've talked about and Teresa will share those talking points and you could share those or your own with council members at appropriate venues. See you Monday at noon. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jan, any questions for Janet about safe sites for all? Yeah, Todd?

Yeah, I'm just gonna echo what Janet said. So often when the city councilors are making decisions, nobody in support of the homicide is ever there. And so they're very often are making very uninformed decisions. So I'm with Janet. And if anyone ever needs me to show up at their council meetings, let me know. I'd be more than happy to give these those gentlemen and ladies. Some stuff to consider.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Tom. Teresa, I see your hand up do

Theresa Power-Drutis

So question for Todd first. Are you are you saying that? At your council meetings you would be welcoming people from your area to come and talk



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Tod Gunther

is that? Oh, absolutely. Yeah,

Theresa Power-Drutis

there are there are some people in this group are doing a pretty good job of showing up at the Pierce County ones, especially around home housing. And so yeah, maybe we can get the word out to find people who are constituents of that area. So I just want to pitch again that we did have a success with this vote around safe parking in that we had the majority of the county council approved it. And so I want to remind people that there are some people working really hard in the county and sometimes when I see something like this fail by just a couple people or one, in this case, it was one person, one council member could have shifted it and then the county executive could have shifted it. I don't think it's a failure in terms of our communication, but I think it's a challenge to us to do a better job of communicating with those individuals and also their constituents. A lot of tails are wagging dogs. So people who are in positions of leadership who should be the most well informed people in our communities and not aren't always we can help their people who are in the communities raising hell because they don't really understand that this is going to make the community safer. We can inform them. I hope the talking points are good. If you have things to add. If you have exceptions to take to it. Please be in touch with me. I'm going to put my email in the chat. And these are the first blush the first brush at making some talking points. So please do give me feedback. Give us feedback. And thank you, Jan for your leadership in this thank you Teresa.

Rob Huff

All right, so let's move to the next item on the agenda and that is any updates from other coalition committees. Anything that you need to share today, Rosemary?

Rosemary Powers

I think the one thing I would say is that one of the things we it's a governance work group would like us to do here is apropos of what Teresa was saying I think is to celebrate the small victories we have in whatever areas we have them and so while it didn't get on the agenda as a formal item for today, we're thinking that would be very good for us to do and the second thing is that with the information Timothy's providing, for us in in call, collating our breakouts. We want to use those as a way to reflect every week before the steering committee of things that we should be paying more attention to to make either proposals or to bring back to the group for more in depth conversation. So we want people who are here on the call, to recognize that all of the voices that are here, we're trying to make sure that we don't forget them and that we we follow up on things that are important to you. Also, I will just say that the race and equity committee will meet decided to meet once a month right now, given everyone else's commitments, and we'll be meeting on the third Thursday of the month from three to four. So I'll send that information to rob so we can get it on the calendar but if you're interested in joining that conversation, those are our plans.



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Rob Huff

Thank you, Rosemary. So you know, just like every week this works out. So we now have some time for good trouble announcements. So things that people have that they would like to share. That can be good for the larger group here. So anybody with those kinds of good trouble announcements, and I'll kick us off actually. So I wanted to let folks know on the coalition that next Wednesday will be my last day working with metropolitan Development Council in my communications role. I am making a shift the following day to work begin working doing communications for the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. So I will be doing helping out with the communications around advocacy with Housing Alliance. The great news is that will not impact the work that I am doing with this coalition. It also I will continue to be here as a foreign and people's sides. But I do want to put my best email contact into the chat so that folks have access to that because my MDC address will I won't see those emails starting next Thursday. So that's that and any other kind of good of the order announcements that folks want to share. Teresa,

Theresa Power-Drutis

so just so you know, Rob, mostly people when they change jobs, they take a week off in between. I just thought you might not be aware.

Rob Huff

I have boundary issues. And Courtney,

Courtney Love

thank you. I am in the car. So I apologize. That because of our breakout room. I'm home Washington is a single payer health care organization. We will be collecting signatures for an initiative to the legislature. Starting tomorrow we will be at the Grand Theater from nine to noon for a viewing of sicko and Michael Moore will be attending via video conferencing. So that's exciting. You can pick up petitions you can sign a petition. You can anyway, and I think the biggest selling points for everyone is that it covers so much more, including dental, vision and hearing and then for those who are the most vulnerable in our communities. It also covers durable medical equipment like crutches or canes walking assistance. wheelchairs, and it also removes the tiered service paradigm in that everybody, every patient would be reimbursed. Well, every provider would be reimbursed for patients at the same rate. So it wouldn't be I don't take Medicaid because they don't reimburse enough. And so it creates equity in the healthcare system. And so I hope we can garner all the support from the broader community. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you for making us aware of that, Courtney. And Richard, I see your hand waving around.



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Richard Dorsett

Oh, excuse me. I have a PDF of the Tacoma tint news. If anybody is interested in receiving that message me and I can get that to you. I have a lot to print that I'll be taking out to encampments, but there's an electronic version available as well. Thank you.

Rob Huff

And I think Laurie may have emailed that to the list earlier during today's meeting too. So I did I sent it out to the whole list. Yeah. So folks who are on the mailing list should be able to get that that way too.

Gerrit Nyland

And it is posted in the news section on the coalition website. A couple of you. I know right?

Yeah. Wow. Thank you. All right, other items for the good of the order.

Lavada Kent-Napier

Yes, I thought I put my hand

Oh, you did the clap icon. So go ahead. Problem.

Lavada Kent-Napier

I on May 20, I'm gonna do a fundraiser on this article clean at the 1902 MLP location unit D and we're training young people on how to cook outside under a tent and save with cocaine. So that's once we do that once the month. So may 20. Is our next event. And we're asking patients and but they will get food to homeless people walk up and they don't have money they get they get a fresh cooked meal.

Thank you for that levada and I don't know if you're on the mailing list, but that might be a good thing to share on the the coalition's mailing list as well.

Lavada Kent-Napier

And I don't know how to get on that list.

Here I'll put a I'll put a link to the webpage on the PC homeless.org site where you can register to join the list and then post things to that mailing list.

Lavada Kent-Napier



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Okay, thank you. Yeah.

Anyone else with items for the good of the order? All right, not not seeing anything today. I did want to mention if folks want to provide feedback on today's meeting, I'm of course open to receiving that. Feel free to drop anything in the chat that would be you think would be helpful. In addition, I wanted to announce that we talked about at the steering committee and I think actually in the governance committee before that, about adding an item at the end of every day, every week's meeting to celebrate successes. As an organization of a network of individuals, the coalition has actually made quite a bit of progress over the years and week to week even we have successes that we tend to brush over because far too often. I think we think the impact of those successes is not big enough. Well, yes, we need to celebrate them. So let's set aside some time at the end of every one every meeting for people to be able to share a success story. So I will add that to the agenda going forward and invite people to reach out and let me know if they would like to share an X success story. So that we make sure that we have content for that at the end of every meeting, and I see Shannon's hand up and then Jeffrey

Shannon Ice

doesn't have to be a success story about anything.

Well preferably related to the work that the coalition does. But we don't i i think success can be defined a lot of ways. So it doesn't have to be the world was moved. But but we want to recognize progress. And then success. So that's the that's the intent of the section the meeting. Okay. Great. Thank you and Jeffrey.

Jeffrey Boyce

Well, good morning, everyone. I have permission from Monique brown to speak about the veteran's village. Power is supposed to go in today. They're taking their first guests in on Monday. And there's three couples in that. So they're going to have as of Tuesday evening, they're projecting to have all the tents full. That being said, they do need they want to provide one hot meal a day for the campers there and now my churches volunteer to do that once a week. So they are looking for other people and other organizations to help out with this. And Monique also said that the city has asked her to maybe do a second encampment just like this one. So bravo to fob and this camp is finally accepting people. Thank you.

Thank you Jeffrey. That is good news to celebrate for sure. Patricia

Patricia



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I just wanted to thank the Coalition for a variety of reasons. As a whole you rob for sort of your ability to ethically lead Garrett for helping supply and promoting different avenues to to to be highlighted, leading through this crisis, particularly with COVID was able to set the stage to implement that were more visible communicating more effectively. Getting the facts out there to think clearly so that people and providers in this whole coalition can relationship build. I don't know where it was said but it's like shipbuilding, for friendship, partnership sponsorship and relationship. And I also wanted to live the the patients with lived experience coalition and supporting them as a lived experience voice comes forth. That it's part of it's part of the answers that that you're looking forward to have that and thank you just for personally, being a safe space and all those behind me because honestly, I don't want anybody to go through what I've been through and that's why I am here as an advocate. Thank you.

Thank you, Patricia. And on that note, I know we have about a minute left in today's meeting and I actually like to end even earlier but I see an animated Garrett face on on the screen so I will not and right now.

Gerrit Nyland

In my in our last minute. I picked up the Homeless Coalition t shirt supply that the Salvation Army was kindly storing for us. So a bunch of folks got Homeless Coalition T shirts. They're free for the taking at our meet and greet last night but if you would like you're Homeless Coalition t shirt, you can get a hold of me and I can get it to you somehow, if not at the next meet and greet then some other way.

Rob Huff

So thanks Fantastic. Well I'm and the shirt looks marvelous, Richard. So you model it well. All right. And there's Garrett holding one up too. So I hope everybody has a good weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone again next Friday. And that's it for today. If you do have the capacity to hang out in plan next week's meeting, a small group of us will do that and everyone is welcome. So have a good weekend. Talk to you all next week. Happy fine Friday and Happy Mother's Day to all you mothers.