



Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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SPEAKERS

Jeff Rodgers, Richard Dorsett, Jeffrey Boyce, Jennie Schoeppe, Jay Warley, Gerrit Nyland, Sally Perkins, Alisa, Rob Huff, Theresa Power-Drutis, Joe Perva, Davina Schwab, Rosemary Powers, Lavada Kent-Napier, Gerald Daniels, Serena Thompson, Tim Harris, Erika Snell, Courtney Love, Reverend Boyce, Janet Runbeck, Bob Vollbracht, Monique Brown

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Rosemary Powers

Thank you, Rob. I'm not always sure about the inspiration but I do have a couple of comments to make this morning. So welcome, everybody to this opportunity to gather at what we call our Open Table, where we invite everybody to join the effort to end homelessness in Pierce County. Our table is set on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and we acknowledge our debt to their stewardship of this region and to the need for action in addressing the continuing effects of historical trauma. Today, I want to remind us of the importance of this commitment to openness by honoring the work of a group that started small into coma and is now a major provider of care and hospitality. In Western Washington. The month of May is designated by the country as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, recognizing the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to our cultural experience during this polarized political time, where differences are too often seen as threats rather than strengths. And when Asian Americans have faced increased harassment and discrimination, I want to call out a group whose stated mission is to provide multicultural multilingual human services regardless of race. or ethnic background, to diverse communities through education, socialization, advocacy and support. The Korean Women's Association or TWA began in 1972 as a gathering of a small group of Korean immigrant women who



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sought community with others like themselves literally sharing food and stories of the challenges they faced in a new country. The impressive history of their group is a testimony to the power of transforming the experience of isolation into a community that has a much broader base seeing common human needs and knowing we can meet them. kW a opened their table 50 years ago and after those small beginnings, have expanded their services to all of Western Washington through 15 offices in 17 counties with over 1500 employees responding to the diverse needs of more than 10,000 people every year. As part of their commitment to housing for vulnerable populations. kW a recently received \$36 million in funding, including a HUD capital, HUD 202 Capital advanced funding award and low income housing credits to develop 88 units of housing at 15th and Tacoma Avenue. The project will set aside units for frail elderly seniors who are veterans, and people who have been experiencing homelessness project is set to be completed in 2024. Open tables and dedicated collaborators clearly make things happen. Pierce County's fortunate to have the presence of TWA and can learn much from their efforts. I don't know if there's anyone here today who works with or has partnered with TWA. But if so, feel free to add a brief comment either in the chat or during the introductions time, which will do shortly. So that's my message for today honoring the work of a group that obviously has contributed much to our region. So let me just say about our meeting, we have a group of norms that we follow as we work together and we we asked all of ourselves to mute ourselves when we're not speaking. To use the Zooms raise hand feature when we want to speak and take up some time but not take up too much time when we do. Limit distractions by turning off the video when we're doing something other than paying attention to what we're all saying. And then importantly, to use the chat as a really important resource to share information about what we're up to what we'd like to know more about or questions that we may have, in addition to any questions you may have about any presentations. So with that, I'd like to open it up to introducing ourselves if we're new here or returning after some time away or if anyone excuse me, has comments related to the Korean Women's Association have to do that as needed. Raise your hand and we'll we'll begin I don't see any hands today. Maybe we're all we're all back or want to just put our information in the chat. Maybe there's I don't know if you see anyone Rob.

Rob Huff

I don't currently. Okay, well, I

Rosemary Powers

have to say I was kind of surprised to hear about this new funding that the Korean Women's Association received so I'm happy to know that we'll have some more housing and I do see Ulisses hand up.

Alisa

Morning, everybody. I have been in the meeting before but it's been quite some time and I was with optim care or northwest Physicians Network and now I'm the behavioral health specialists with East Pierce Fire and Rescue so just wanted to say good morning and tell everybody about my new role.



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Rosemary Powers

Congratulations on your roll. Thank you all right, Rob. Well, I don't see any other hands right now. So I'll give it back to you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, rosemary, and I can't remember if you talked about the community norms, but I did post those as well in in the chat. So if you have an opportunity to read through those, that would be helpful. And let's move on and have a great meeting this morning. So our first item on the agenda is the same item that we do every week, and that is to talk about what people are seeing this week on the streets. The intent of this section of the meeting is to allow people to share changes that are taking place on the streets, updates related to any scheduled sweeps which we know that there's one scheduled to happen next week. That the City of Tacoma is going to do on South 11th between 10th and 11th from M to MLK. So, I cede the floor to anyone who has new information to share about what they're seeing on the streets this week. And we'll get started with Jeffrey

Reverend Boyce

Oh, good morning. I did get a chance to visit 34th on Pacific last week or this week, I should say. They're doing quite well.

Jeffrey Boyce

Let's see. 20 ish 20 ish people are there. It's a mix of car campers and tent campers and tent campers with cars. And they seem to be doing pretty well. I did drop off some garbage bags and some whites.

Reverend Boyce

They're in pretty good shape overall. I also stopped in the mound to talk to a couple of people up there. They are seven tents with seven people who just frankly want to be left alone. But that's that's my week out there.

Rob Huff

Thank you. And I just dropped a description of where the mound is for folks in the chat. Monique, I see your hand up.

Monique Brown

Yeah, good morning. First I want to give a special shout out to Jeffrey Boyce. He is at the village every single Monday sometimes twice a week. Give me a support. I just want to thank you Jeffrey. Now the update for the camp. We still have no power. We are supposed to have power on the 21st however, they brought a generator out there yesterday. I missed a phone call yesterday from Caleb who asked me if I wanted to go back to my idea of gradually bringing people in now before we get power. I did not



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get a chance to talk to him and he is off today. But I left a message with Allison. I would like to do that. So the plan is for Monday to just start slowly bringing some of those people in and then Saturday we should have power and then we can just go ahead and and go. So I'll keep you posted on that whether we start bringing him in on Monday. And then Jeffrey if you could stick thank you if you could contact me Jeffrey so we can talk food again.

Rob Huff

Yeah, that's great news. Teresa, you have your hand up.

Theresa Power-Drutis

I have a comment that I have a question first for Monique. Can you just say what this electrical holdup has been? Because there I mean, it's really incomprehensible. That you keep being told that it's going to happen on Friday. So can you say what it is that's caused this delay?

Monique Brown

Well, I totally can't speak to all of it. That would probably be for the city. However, I do know that towards the end here. There had been some confusion about what was supposed to be powered. The power company knew that they had to power the office trailer, but we have a shower trailer that is across the village that needs power and propane to run it. And then we have the kitchen tent that needs power for the refrigerator microwaves etc. So there was some confusion there apparently yesterday. They figured all that confusion out and next Saturday, the power folks are coming on their day off to hook up that power for us. So next Saturday should have it. I don't know any more about why it happened. You know before this confusion that would be a question for Tacoma.

Theresa Power-Drutis

All right, well, please do keep us updated on anything you need. Are you going to be out there today?

Monique Brown

I will be out there today. As soon as I get off the phone call here. I'll be out there.

Theresa Power-Drutis

All right. So my comment I want to just mention Kevin Ruby, who works for the city to say sometimes it's good to report the good news. Folks came by from the city on Wednesday, and we're really incredibly respectful and caring about the people who are living on our block. They collected a bunch of garbage there was some confusion about why the big black can was taken away from this encampment. Now it's going to come back and there was if you have a chance, if there's a cleanup crew that's coming to your neighborhood, you have a conversation with them. If you are able, because what I found from all the people who come by here is that they are they're very deeply caring people.



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They're just trying to make things better for everybody. So anyway, shout out to Kevin Ruby, who does an excellent job and as a good communicator and glad to have them in our neighborhood.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Teresa and others with I see Gerald with his hand up and then Richard the morning of the morning

Gerald Daniels

workout. To engage our our involvement with the participants who came from the lighthouse that were housing is more of kind of not a statement but more of a general question or idea something inland out to us. Because we have them over there and we're housing them we're trying to get them moving. They appear to be folks that was kind of lost to the homeless system, right? Because most of them didn't have was not in the Hemet system and things like that. I'm trying to figure out how are we how can the coalition How can we impact this right because we're getting a lot of pushback, you know, count from the county or whoever because we're trying to get them into the system and to to him Assist system. And because we can't tie them to a project because we're waiting to be funded for our future project that we have for rapid rehousing. It's hard to get them in there. I know that's not a question we can answer here. But I think something we have to do, somebody has to coalition to get that knowledge or information out that every one that we pick up oh from street no matter what it is, but it's from a street sweep or place that people been living let such as a lighthouse and now they're being displaced again. That is not always a funding drive. It's not always a cut, clear cut answer to how to move these folks. You we have to be creative in what we do. So we have to figure a way to get this information out to say hey, listen, everything is not cut and dry where you go to a 10 and pull someone out of a tent. But you have to work with us as a city as the county as whatever agency to help us get the folks in a position they need to be because for us, we can't keep them in our building forever. We want to move them to the next step and housing. We're giving them supportive services. But if it's not a collaboration between us, city, county, we can't move folks when we've got to continue to lose folks and people are going to continue to put on on the street. You know and and I don't know if anyone else has to deal with things like that, but we chose to do this and we will continue to do it. But right now I am. I guess this means you never heard me frustrated but a little frustrated. Because pushback is coming back and I'm trying to get people into a camera system and everything is as if we're trying to do something illegal. We're trying to help people. And I think that's something we need to talk about and have an impact on and help you know, push this process along and remember there are people out there that's like this now. I come in rambled comment. For the day.

Rob Huff

Well, thanks, Gerald, I that might be a conversation that we need to have as as a breakout or one of the sessions here in an upcoming meeting so that we can talk about what you're experiencing as roadblock blocks and hiccups in the process. I think both you and Monique were with our site starting up could



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share what you're experiencing and maybe what we can advocate for changes that would help remove some of those roadblocks.

Gerald Daniels

Yeah, I agree. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Yeah. Thanks, Gerald. Richard, you got your hand up.

Richard Dorsett

Gerald, thank you for leading with the frustration that takes it off my shoulders. So there will be at InM this coming Wednesday. I sent a request to the city is say suggesting that instead of an after action review, that there'll be a action preview. And that was in coordination with the lived experience coalition and others could have, perhaps ease the transition of this pending Suite Plus was declined. No interest in that. I have sent out a press release and other announcements inviting people to come at about 930 this coming Wednesday, or coffee and then there will likely be doughnuts but the thinking about it quite a bit is that I am not there to protest or to disrupt any of the activities some of that is going on in the Seattle suite. They have advocates that are called stop the suite are trying to interfere and cause disruption during those activities. My I'm not trying to do any of that. But I would like to invite anybody on the call anybody that's interested to come and come serve it. It's it's fairly easy going and there's not a confrontation issue that's going on is more just observing and providing support to the people being swept from this encampment. My concern with this encampment is the 11th encampment that I will witness being swept since last fall. And this may be a bridge too far. This is a lot of people, a lot of people that have been out for a long time and the perpetual question of where are they supposed to go? hangs in the air. So come on up if you can on Wednesday. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Richard. And I'll plan to come out and join us once again as well. So others with their comments about what's happening on the streets. Erica, I see your hand up.

Erika Snell

Hi, I just wanted to touch base on that. I believe that was was it. Gerald that was speaking. Okay, so I just wanted to say that I also think that the outreach to the community isn't being touched as well as it should and I wanted to just ask like about your guys's referral programs and see I have a lot of resources. So just connect with me on referrals and marketing these resources because, you know, they don't have the internet access, like we do our phones or certain resources to get this information. So I want to collaborate on how we can do that. I also sit on the board for Midland, Parkland Spanaway Community Council and for the event on Wednesday, I can reach out to Cindy for press. She works for the News Tribune and she does everything on building zoning. So I think that the homeless co ops that



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are going up with she could start attending this and maybe that meeting as well, to get us further into the press, just to try and get that outreach that we need. So I have that resource I'm going to put in I'm going to talk to her first and then I'll come back on the call and confirm her information for that

Gerald Daniels

day Thank you. I'll reach out and drop my information for you. I'm driving now so I will reach out see my information as well.

Rob Huff

Thank you Gerald and I love the back and forth there so anyone else with items for what they're seeing on the streets before we close this section of the meeting? I do want to call attention to the question that Richard dropped in the chat. So if folks have ideas for resources for that situation, please. Please respond to Richard levada. I see your hand up.

Lavada Kent-Napier

Okay, good morning. One of the issues that I've seen over the weekend I had to call the City of Tacoma so remove feces from a business parking lot where the homeless used it as a bathroom. And since I was in connection with a hazardous certified person, I call that person to remove that because the city is backlogged in doing their 311 tests and it was gonna take him about nine days to get out there. In that parking lot to remove that. So the homeless person didn't have anywhere to go they just moved from parking lot the parking lot trying to find a safe place to sleep. I think there's some other issues there with that person in the outreach. I was trying to get an outreach for that person instead of just telling them to go away. And I didn't have I didn't have anything except for 211 and they don't answer my calls anymore.

Rob Huff

Oh no.

Lavada Kent-Napier

Yeah, they hang up my they got my number blocked. So I have three telephones and and they blocked all those numbers. So at a loss as they entrepreneur business owner where my business is suffering because of the homeless population doing things to the small business community.

Rob Huff

Okay. Well appreciate your you're reaching out and trying to help others. Have you so hard to not? And I am gonna just so you know levada, there's a lot of background noise where you're at so I'm gonna Yeah, I think thank you for muting your your mic, but I appreciate you sharing that. All right, so let's, let's shift to the next item on our agenda and that is our community spotlight section and we invited



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Davina Schwab from the Tacoma rescue mission to come talk with us about outreach. So Davina, you're ready to share with us.

Davina Schwab

Good morning, everybody. Can you hear me okay? Yeah, we can. Okay. So we just wanted to kind of share something that we are doing a new initiative is that we are going out on Wednesdays to the key Peninsula and Gig Harbor area. We originally started with helping with the Point in Time Count and we realized there's there was a need for outreach services out in that area. It's, um, it was a little difficult to connect with people because as if you're not sure about that area, it's a more transient population. So a lot of people living in their cars. It's oftentimes hard to know if you're on private property or public property. So what we've been doing is partnering with some food banks out there and setting up every Wednesday at various food banks of where people would come in and get services and we have been able to connect with a few people. The biggest thing right now is just getting the word out that we're out there and building that trust with individuals. Let me see what else can I say about that? Yeah, that's basically what we're doing. Um, there is a need. It's been a little bit of a pushback, because it's different, right? So there's different ideas of some stigma that if we're out there, we're like, you know, going to start attracting people but what they need to know is, they're out there, right and there's people that need services. We're seeing a lot of families out there, we're seeing a lot of aging adults and and we're also meeting people that are at risk for losing their housing. So there's a lot of that going on right now. The more that we meet the community and and community members and community partners, the stronger that relationship is is coming is we're building that relationship and it's just it's it's beautiful now, we're getting less and less pushback as soon as they meet us and they see what we're all about and know that we're there to help and not you know, changed. Yeah, I don't know. So sorry.

Rob Huff

No, no, that's great. So Davina, do you have a sense of of how prevalent homelessness is out? In that area where you're doing outreach, and then and Bob might want to weigh in too. But also how the people you're serving on the key Peninsula and get Carper Peninsula differ from the folks that you're serving in the rest of the county. If you're seeing if homelessness is a is being experienced differently out there.

I would say it's definitely as prevalent as it is here. But it's not as in your face, right. So it's more hidden. I think that the individuals that we have met, blend blend into the regular community. So you wouldn't necessarily have the same you know, observations as you would here like you can, you can kind of tell by some of the things they may carry or some of the way that they act but out there it's more they blend in more right so it's a it's more of a rural area and and then there's a lot of there's a lot of I've noticed that there's a lot of shame attached to the people that are experiencing homelessness out there so they



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try to hide and just stay away. So it's really right now it's so crucial that we're building that trust in relationship with the people that we're interacting with out there.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thank thank you for that. Bob, is there something you would add or like to say about this new outreach? Oh,

Bob Vollbracht

yeah, thank you, Rob. Davina and her team are doing an exceptional job. There's just no other way to explain it. As she mentioned, they started out to build relationships. And sort of educate the community. What I've personally noticed and our coalition has noticed is that in addition to the homeless people that they may meet, and are starting to build relationships with they are getting the vein I'm gonna guess at about eight to 10 calls per week from the community from individuals who are working with with families. I think I'm talking to you two or three times a week about mostly women who are now found living in their cars. They're new to us coming coming to serve the food banks, and Davina and her team immediately reaches out to them. There is a there is a solidifying connection. And they're brought into our little community safety net group, which includes the fish food bank and Gina's Children's Home Society in Chapel Hill and just we're helping them we're in Davina has been able to provide that other side the all the other services and then we can release because we know they're in great hands and that's the other thing is that we'd lose contact with these people before they would just disappear and as Davina says kind of fade back into that half mile dirt road that goes into the woods. And now we're able to probably stay in connection with I'm gonna say 30% More than we used to. So it's gonna get better but it's it's really exceptional now. So thank you Divina Dobby and Emma.

So I have attached what we're doing right now is we are going month to month so we're kind of assessing the needs where where the heavy more you know where more people are accessing the food banks will will kind of change our hours. So what I'm doing is doing month to month scheduling and I put in the in the chat at our contact information for our contact information for our team as well as our may schedule of what places we're going to be at and we're hoping to right now we're doing let's see about four hours out there. What we're hoping to do is meet with more community, community agencies where we can set up and spend the entire day out there.

Rob Huff

Fantastic. So I see three folks with their hands up. So let's get through those. Theresa, I see your ears up first.

Theresa Power-Drutis



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So first of all, thank you all so much for heading out to the key and Gig Harbor because that is kind of no man's land as Bob can attest to. So if you are like the, the front line, and I want to ask, I don't know if you have any thoughts right now or if this will come later, and please come back if it does. Come later, but there must be some ways that you are seeing some gaps that maybe organizations that are involved with this group might be able to step into so please bring those forward when you find them and let us help with your efforts. To get some services out to people who are in that space. And also the the outreach to the community. You're really right on about how important that is. And I'm appreciative of the fact that you're taking attention and time with that. So also please let us know. I'm offering Laurie here as the great person who's really good at conveying things with images and if you need some materials that are specific to that area, please let us know and we'll see what we can come up with. Thank you

Rob Huff

great and Jan your hands up Ah

Janet Runbeck

yes, I'm I am wondering it's called a rescue mission does so much and many of us rely on to come a rescue mission for all the resources that they provide. Davina, I have your phone number as the search and rescue van driver. So if we're out in the community and somebody needs a ride and it's not anything that the Tacoma Fire Department van can handle as far as picking up somebody in an encampment and getting them to care is Is there another search and rescue van with TRM and another driver or or do I mean I've got your your name and your cell phone but if you're going to be in the harbor on Wednesdays that we just need to duplicate you know like 1000 vinas and TRM is to make the world a better place. So what what is your who can we call for for rides?

So, we we want to be very intentional with what with verbiage share so we we offer transportation in for this to shelter or if we are working with the individual on on meeting goals. So with that's the only kind of transportation that we offer. So if you met somebody that was in an encampment that want needed to come into a shelter you could call us. You could call I put our information in the chat. So right now we have the outreach that is during the day and then we have search and rescue team that is that is in the evenings where we are working on expanding our program so and we're in the middle of hiring a couple people so during the day we will end up having two vans, which one would be out in the KP, and one would remain in Tacoma and Tacoma Lakewood wherever we're working that day. And then we're hoping to also expand the search and rescue so that we have to as well so that we are covering every day of the week. 24 hours a day. So we're working on that but in the meantime, you could use the contact sheet that I put in the chat, search and rescue is after four and the outreach team is from eight to four I hope that answered your question.



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Rob Huff

Thank you Davina. And really trying to

what we're hoping to see moving forward as we established kind of a place out there in the KPN Gig Harbor area is that we would have partners join us maybe have a van that could come out and possibly do some kind of services because I believe that the more we have in one area for people to come to the more we're going to attract those individuals.

Rob Huff

Thank you for that and J has her hand up and then Erica and then Bob.

Jay Warley

Hi, Davina. Thank you for everything that you do. One of the things that I've noticed living out here is we are starting with every sweep to get some of the people that I recognize from MLK and downtown, starting to Panhandle out here at some of our local grocery stores and stuff like that. And we're getting a huge influx of daytime that from Tacoma and daytime use like people will come over here on the bus during the daytime and panhandle and do things and or browse a store and then head back to Tacoma. And that has been something that's recent in the last month in particular, but stores are starting to get hit almost every day and things are starting to get a little iffy out here. Somebody actually shot someone else and accused them of stealing even though they weren't because of the amount of debt that we're having.

Rob Huff

Thank you for that. And Erica

going back to the transportation and seeking resources. I can follow up on this because I haven't looked into it since pre COVID. But if any encampments are helping with state services when you onboard, like Medicaid and the public assistance, the local DSHS office offer work cards for public transportation and I know that if it's any behavioral, mental health medical appointment that you can actually have the public transportation come and do pickups by appointment. So every encampment should probably get on board with that for the transportation if you haven't already, and I'll confirm by next week that that they're still offering that because this is a pre this was pre COVID But it's been around for so long. I wouldn't see why they would cut that. Transportation. Okay.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Erica and Bob.



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Bob Vollbracht

Oh, yeah, thanks. Just a quick note, referencing the Venas work in including other partners to come out to Gig Harbor in the KP. For several months, we've had very nice offers from Peninsula Community Health who has a mobile, medical, dental, van and community health services to provide mobile on site services. So the veena is going to coordinate that as with with her visits, and we're going to be focusing on the use of those groups and community health fairs as well. So we're getting any offers we get from through our little coalition here to provide services we refer back to Davina at this point, she's the TRM is the pro there, they know how best to organize it. So that's, that's it. There's a lot of just a lot of good progress. So thanks.

Rob Huff

Thank you Bob, and thank you again Davina. For joining or being willing to join us this morning. A lot of good information and we love to hear about the good work spreading to the rest of the county.

Davina Schwab

Thank you for having us.

Rob Huff

Great and if folks have additional questions or comments for Davina, I don't know if you can hang out for a few minutes but the chats available for that and great resource there. And we are going to shift to our next item. And what I wanted to do is carve out just a few intentional moments to talk about this encampment mapping project that that is just getting started. Richard, do you want to talk about the about this idea that you've been pursuing?

Richard Dorsett

Yes. Thank you especially came about with the inclement weather idea coming from last year and my involvement during the cold weather was not having a efficient list of where the encampments are. And there was a lot of inefficiency where we be hitting the obvious and missing some of the less obvious encampments. So the idea of having a up to date list and or map whichever format needs to be in would help things be more effective. As Jan pointed out, June's only a few weeks away and despite the cold weather recently, we could have a heat event in no time. At all. And to be prepared for that. There are three pieces that seems to me and I know others are working on the first two which is what is it that triggers the weather event and that's not what I've been working on. The second is the storage of supplies. But the third is the mapping. So what I've been doing is sending the list of encampments that I see and I'm aware of and an approximate number of tents to Jeff Rogers at the county. I know Jeffrey has sent some numbers in and my plea and my encouragement is that if you do in fact see an encampment, and it could be a single. We've got encampments in Tacoma that had been done for for many months. And while they're only a single structure, I think they do qualify as being an encampment. So the My request is that if you see and can't get that information to to Jeffrey, you could



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also see see me or Ed Jacobs is keeping a running list of this as well. And the hope and the goal is in the next coming weeks that we would have some kind of mapping that would be able to help guide not only where they are, but help us be a little more efficient as we go out to do the outreach. So that we don't have three or four people visiting the same encampment and distributing multiple supplies when we could be distributing those to more encampments and more people so that that's kind of what my my push is, but But please, if you see them, call them in or email them and we can get that list going to help Jeffrey or Jeff Rogers at the county as we move further along in this mapping process. And I think Jeff may be on the call and they have some thoughts on this as well.

Jeff Rodgers

Yeah, real quickly, I'll just say that. Yes, I'm collecting that information. We haven't decided yet. If it will be a map or just a list. We're still having those conversations. So please send me any information you have. We are also working on policies and procedures regarding severe weather, both hot weather and cold weather and creating a standard policy with regard to how we address the needs of homeless during severe weather incidences. Just so you're aware we're working with the City of Tacoma City of New Orleans city of Lakewood Emergency Management departments as well as the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management in in addressing these policies and procedures, trying to find common ground. Hopefully we'll have common ground but if not Pierce County will definitely have policies that will adhere to during severe weather. And lastly, I'll say that we're also having conversations about storage locations to store items that can be used during severe weather at different locations throughout the county. So that outreach staff or any folks who are going out and trying to outreach to folks in encampments have access to supplies and things they may need during the severe weather incidents. So that's the third piece of work we're working on as well. Is

Richard Dorsett

this likely to be completed in the next few weeks? I

Jeff Rodgers

can't guarantee that that's going to be done in the next few weeks. We do have a rough draft of a policy we've got this being vetted around a few people currently. More to come, I guess is what I would say.

Rob Huff

Okay, thanks. Thank you, Jeff. And I see Jan's hand up and then Bob.

Janet Runbeck

Jeffery does the county now does human services know that the coalition has kept working on an emergency distribution network system, and we've invited several partners to be part of this distribution system for inclement weather and adverse weather effects because of a sense of silence of knowing



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where we are where the government is in the response to inclement weather and adverse weather events. So why is the coalition not invited to the table in this planning session?

Jeff Rodgers

That's a great question. I will take that question back and I will get back with you on that.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jan and Jeff and Bob your hands up?

Bob Vollbracht

Well, you know Jeff, if you can give me an update. We had been talking with several churches in the outlying areas on the KP and Gig Harbor about being more neighborhood inclement weather shelters because the one we have in Gig Harbor which is Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, is really an emergency de m. Focused shelter. We were asked to put our efforts on hold and talking to those neighborhood churches on the KP and Gig Harbor by the county council won't tell you who and now I'm concerned because just just for your information, I checked with the Gig Harbor Civic Center. Yesterday. I got a call back from the chief of police, which was nice of him to personally call telling me that the civic center would not be open but they would continue to use Chapel Hill as the Gig Harbor inclement weather location. I then talk to Chapel Hill who told me nothing's been finalized. Yes, they may be open as a day. Shelter, but they are going to use 95 degrees Fahrenheit as the temperature trigger. I objected to that or told him I felt that was too high. So what I guess I'm looking for is some consistent communication, where we can all work together to say if if Dan Whitmarsh at Lake Bay Community Church would like to open up he can do that at any time. But if we can provide him water and some other support volunteers, we should have those conversations and I feel that we're a little bit limited right? Now waiting waiting for the county. Can you give me some guidance here?

Jeff Rodgers

I've taken a note on that conversation as well. And I will share that as well. internally. Thank you.

Rob Huff

All right. So Richard or Jeff. Jeff, do you mind dropping your email in the chat? So if folks do have additional locations that they can add to either the list or map whatever develops? They have a way to do that. That would be fantastic.

Richard Dorsett

But data coming from the peninsula I think would give us a much more will give us a more robust list or map or whatever occurs. Most of the data that I have comes from Tacoma and proximity so reaching across the pond, I think would add value to whatever we come up with. Yes,



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Jeff Rodgers

I have a list of locations Bob that you provided several months ago. I'll be reaching out to folks on the peninsula to get that updated. So I do have a list that was provided a few months ago, that can be updated. I'm also working with some folks at greater lakes on areas that are out in eastern Pierce County they visit for Gleek to get that on the list as well. So the list is growing, working with different folks in different regions of the county who do outreach and know have locations in those areas. So Divina if you're starting to work out there and want to share what you find when you go out. That would be great as well.

Rob Huff

Great. And, Jeff, I don't know if you've talked to Todd who spoke to the coalition here a couple weeks ago out of that. Ordering recovery Cafe but it seems like he might have some specific ideas in the ordering area. Jan, I see your hand up.

Jeff Rodgers

I'll reach out to Todd just so you know. Okay.

Janet Runbeck

My chat is blowing up right now. Several people on this call are saying what is going on? There are duplicate efforts going on? How is the community at large to know what the emergency planning is if we don't have the community involved in the last two weather incidents in 2021. It was this coalition. This coalition is the one that showed up with water with volunteers with who does what where I was on the phone every day all day long during these things. I have been asking the county for some kind of a plan and we're not even invited to the table. So I feel a letter percolating in my brain here. But this this is crazy because that who is saying that they're planning and not including us, the main ones who came to the table in the last two extreme weather events. So I don't want to hear that there's planning and then tomorrow we have a inclement weather and you guys are still back there planning. So I'm expecting to be invited to the table. It can go to the coalition in general, the cola you can have as many folks as you want. It. We I'm sure we saved people, but it was this coalition who saved people. So I'm actually there are a lot of people on this call who have put in a lot of time to develop a plan in the absence of government. And now you're telling us that you're doing this? What I bet there are churches out there saying, Okay, we'll be part of this distribution system. Are they saying that to you, government or to us? Are they saying it to both? them? Do you know the conversations I've had with EF N EF n is already committed to getting us half of a container full of water. they've not had this conversation with the EM, right or with the county. So I don't get it. I just I just don't get it.

Jeff Rodgers

I've taken notes on what you've shared.



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Rob Huff

All right. And Bob, I see your hand up again. And if you're speaking you're muted right now.

Bob Vollbracht

Sorry, man, my camera is on the ugly mode. So it will show me today. From what I can tell in scene how looking at the past em conversations with Chapel Hill, how the coalition has worked so hard to stress and deal with inclement weather I think there's a difference of opinion or we're not all on the same page versus a D M facility and what that means when there's an inclement weather need. Are they the same locations? Are they not? We should have more I. That's the conversation that I think needs to be level set. Before we can move forward. I just keep getting mixed messages. And to John's point, we have stopped looking or additional shelters as of 952. Today, we are back looking.

Rob Huff

Thank you. Thanks, Bob.

Jeff Rodgers

That is a challenge. What role does D EM play what role does Pierce County Human Services play and those roles are going to be clearly defined within whatever policy we create. So that's coming, I guess I would say, and Jan, just so you're aware, and Ed is part of our conversations representing the coalition with any of the conversation we have with our Department of Emergency Management city of Tacoma, Lakewood, and then the representative from Puopolo. So the coalition has representation with Ed Jacobs, who's a part of those conversations.

Rob Huff

Thanks, Jeff. And I do know Ed has been attending those those meetings that have been happening on Friday afternoons. So he is I'm sure relaying some of the concerns. It just sounds like maybe a meeting to get everybody on the same page would be worthwhile. Since it sounds like there might be some duplication happening. So I'm glad we talked about this this morning. Let's Oh, I see. Garrett has his hand up. All right.

Gerrit Nyland

I just so I'm with the county on the periphery of this but the leadership conversations have been that what Jeff is working on is something that functions outside of the Department of Emergency Management, right Diem Department of Emergency Management works on big things and the goal is that human services developed the ability to respond to normal cold weather and normal hot weather and normal smoke events without needing to escalate to Department of Emergency Management. And, again, I'm committed on the periphery. But that that's been the clear indication from leadership is that there may still be events that need to escalate beyond what human services is capable of doing through its providers. But that's the goal is to be able to distribute water to all the encampments without



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needing to involve emergency management that it's normal operations of the homeless system. So how that comes out in the policy is Jeff and his team but but on the leadership side of the county, at least again, the goal is to have these capabilities built into the homeless system because emergency management really is about things that don't happen normally and aren't built into normal operations. When it snows snow plows come out, they plow the roads. That's normal operations when it's when it's a month of snow and the snow plow, people run out of sand. Emergency management comes in to help them to find sources of sand and things like that, right. That's where emergency that's like the delineating line. So the goal is to have human services capable of responding to normal annual weather conditions in ways that keep everybody alive.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thanks for that clarification, Garrett. So I think I think Jeff has heard us there's a clear desire on the part of the coalition members to be a more included part of the planning to make sure that the folks who we've been advocating for are going to be taken care of in the next critical weather event. And so let's let this sit for now. And come back to this battle next week. Jeff, maybe we can do a quick report back next week to see where this is at. All right, so let's shift to our next item on the agenda and what do you know we are running behind on the agenda? And I thought today it was going to be a short meeting. But this is all really important conversation. So why don't we shift to do our breakout conversation right after the government updates, and since we're close to 10 o'clock, let's move into those government updates. So I did get you may have heard earlier the mentioned from Monique that Caleb is out of the office today from the city of Tacoma. He is not able to join us today. However, he did send me an email last night with information that he would like me to share. So I can do that here verbally and I can paste this in the chat. After walking through these items. But what did he share? Link to the shelter, emergency temporary and emergency shelter performance pages that they report to the city council which I will drop the link in the chat. In terms of encampment outreach is report is that the heal team visited nine locations over between May 2 and sixth which resulted in contacts with 42 people. Five individuals were connected to resources. I am not sure if that means that they actually moved into shelter. I can ask Caleb for that clarification. There is a critical item here that I wanted to share. And it regards the services that the Gerald's trying to expand at brotherhood rise. So on May 25. A community meeting is going to be held with the surrounding community regarding expansion of shelter at brotherhood rise at 2135 MLK Jr. Way. This meeting is going to be held virtually and let me put the information here in the chat. This is a real advocacy opportunity for members of the coalition to encourage the city and community members to to move forward with expansion of shelter at that site. And I don't know if Gerald is still on the call. Yeah, Gerald you already you want to say anything about this upcoming community meeting?

Gerald Daniels

Oh, no, I just kinda agree what you said it's a good opportunity for the coalition and community members who really care to get involved to help us really put this out there presented to the community as an opportunity to help one you know make, make the community more productive. By being able to,



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you know, house people to give them services and, and to show that they can make a difference. Because those who will be building a house and people we actually are actual clients, and we've been training them on how to build those properties. And so I think it's a good look and a good push

Rob Huff

great. And, Gerald that site, if I remember right from the city briefing a couple of weeks ago, would expand the number of shelter spaces on at brotherhood rise by 35 spaces that right?

Gerald Daniels

Oh, well it wouldn't expand because you know, we're not really a shelter, but it will be to 35 we will use for that actual area and hopefully we can expand from there.

Rob Huff

Okay. Great. So yeah, I do encourage folks if they have the ability to attend that community meeting, and share your support for that project. Those are the updates that I have from the city of Tacoma. He also offered some an update about the fob hope site Monique site at 82nd Pacific Avenue. But we already heard from Monique with a even more pertinent update. So we will move on any questions about what was provided by the City of Tacoma? All right, so let's shift over to see Jeff if you have any additional updates from Pierce County Human Services.

Jeff Rodgers

I do and I apologize. My camera's off but my computer's been kind of lagging this morning and sometimes when the cameras off it helps. Um, I just wanted to share that we're going to be releasing a request for proposals also known as the RFP for a consultant to help us provide capacity building for existing agencies, agencies interested in receiving our monies. We know that turnover within nonprofit organizations is high. And we need to ensure that the agencies that we work with are successful, both operationally programmatically and financially. So we feel the need to provide some capacity building technical assistance kind of work. So we're looking for a consultant to help us advance that work locally, to work with existing as well as agencies who are interested in getting our money who apply and aren't successful with that funding process. As we all know getting money from government is the easy part. But managing and administering those governmental funds that come with a ton of regulation and requirements can be the more challenging part. So that's coming down the pipeline soon. That is the only update I have for today.

Rob Huff

All right. Thank you, Jeff, for that update. Gerald, I see your hand up.

Gerald Daniels



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Yeah, quick question for Jeff. So this agency that's kind of new to work with the county within the last year in a consulting work. How would that work be laid out as far as parameters right? Because it's easy to say okay, we bring a consultant in and have the consultant, go to an agency and show the agency how to work with the county but what we're experiencing is the reverse, right? The county needs to also understand how to work with that agency. Because each of us work in a different way based off our vision and our model. And with the bureaucracy comes in for us is when you assume that we don't know something as far as policy or understanding the spending, things like that, and that causes friction. So I think that's a great idea to bring a consultant in. But the write up has to be equal, because the county has stepped into new territory by taking on new ventures with new organizations. In order for this to work, it's like a relationship. When you go to a relationship, you have to know each other you have to get to learn each other. You have to understand each other's weaknesses, their strengths. You can't assume that because I'm a male, which I'm not, I'm talking to 10 pounds, but if I was a male that 145 pounds, you can't assume that I'm weak. Right? You have to come in and know my strengths. So if that's the case, I think it's very valuable to lay the right groundwork and to have a clear understanding that we're trying to help communicate and connect both sides of understanding that's what makes relationships better. Thank you, Rob. Thank you Gerald.

Jeff Rodgers

I've taken some notes on that, Gerald.

Rob Huff

All right. So any additional questions or comments for Jeff? Please drop them in the chat. I just was looking at who's in our meeting today and I don't see Valerie here from Pierce County. Rental Assistance, so I don't know that we're gonna get an update. There. Jenny, do you want to share anything from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department

Jennie Schoeppe

Sure. Hi, everybody. I'm happy Friday. I say this every time but I'm truly going to try and keep this short today because there's been a lot of lively discussion. And we'd like you all to continue to be able to do that. We're continuing to try and get folks vaccinated. The data actually look pretty good. hospitalizations are down the last week so that's great news. We've been working on trying to raise community awareness about our test to treat program and that is a program that connects folks who've tested positive who fit certain criteria. So are you know who are vulnerable to risk of illness connects those folks with free access to medications. If you would like more information on that, let me know. Yesterday was a really fun day I went out into the community with our COVID vaccine nurse lead, and visited nine shelter and other service sites to meet with folks face to face and share resources for our COVID vaccines for the on demand model that we're using. We shared some resources about hepatitis talked a little about the congenital syphilis cases that we're seeing, as well as educating people on the test to treat program and it was amazing. It was great. I love being out there. I love meeting face to face. We met some new contacts. So that's always good. And just to build relationships, and we got to



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hear about what folks needs are from communicable disease division as well as other support that the health department can offer, including an invitation to join an event that the rescue mission is having downtown later this month. So exciting stuff, please let me know. Excuse me, please let me know if you have questions about anything I've mentioned today or anything else. And just a reminder to anyone that might not know me or might be new to the call. I serve as a liaison between the communicable disease division at Tacoma, Pierce County, health department and our homeless service providers. You can reach out to me anytime and if I don't have answers, I'll try to connect you with folks who do. Thanks.

Rob Huff

Thank you Jenny. And thanks for being here every week. Appreciate it.

Jennie Schoeppe

My pleasure.

Rob Huff

Excuse me. And I don't know if we have anybody from Pierce County Department of Emergency Management on the call. I'm gonna pause for a moment for that, just in case. All right, doesn't sound like we do today. So let's shuffle our deck a little bit more and shift over now to our breakout conversation and we'll start that with a review of what we talked about last week and Timothy if you can share the document if you'd like to kind of walk through it.

Tim Harris

Great. So last week's question was what do you do when you encounter someone with medical needs? On the street? And there were not really a lot of direct answers to that, but there were a lot of frustrations that were shared with the releases to the street and that sort of thing. There were some gaps in care that were identified and some things mentioned that people would like to see more of some of the general issues that came up probably not real surprising to hear is you know, people are encountering folks outside that shouldn't be outside that should be continuing their their healing and that came up quite a bit. Some horror stories about appropriate hospital discharges were mentioned resistance by hospitals, to treating folks who have been recently discharged and and also just difficulty in helping people follow up with their primary care in terms of getting information and and knowing how to be able to help people. There is a quote here that's worth pulling out. It's very frustrating that even for someone with many years of experience and advocacy around homelessness, medical mental health, that people with medical conditions are not getting needed care. We know the resources to refer people to but there may not be anything there. So it just seems like an area that you know needs need some attention. Some of the identified gaps in care. Wound Care, they're probably not a big surprise to anybody. But care is a general issues some places that exist that we need more things like them were mentioned like CLRS Park Place nursing care for homeless folks and the Ri international involuntary



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admission center for people with mental health crises. See issue of people refusing hospitalization, medical attention due to addiction issues and some frustration around how to deal with that. One person taught there were one group talked about people needing training and how to spot DB issues or trafficking issues and try to pull that out. And get people help that they need. And apparently, there's a Medical Outreach Team at CMR. That's going to be coming to coalition meetings soon. Maybe they can help inform us a bit about this and and it was mentioned that the needle exchange ban does some wound care and some foot care but we need more things like that.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Timothy. Any buddy with additional questions or comments that they would like to share regarding our breakout from last week. Let me stop sharing this so I can see you all right, not not seeing any. Thank you again for doing this Timothy. I've had some comments in the background about how much value it does add to have these summaries and go over last week's conversation. So it's really appreciated. Courtney your hands up?

Courtney Love

Yes, it took me a second but in addition, just a reminder, to create effective change, we need to change the system. And the citizens or the initiative to the legislature that whole Washington is collecting signatures for currently is a pathway to creating the change of the system we need. You can find petitions near you via the website [whole.washington.org](http://www.whole.washington.org). Thank you.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thank you for that, Courtney. All right. So with that review, of last week's conversation set aside so I was struggling at the end of the day yesterday to come up with what our breakout conversation should be today. And I thought why not turn to inspiration. So let's spend the next 15 minutes talking about where are you finding your current inspiration for your work to end homelessness. As we run into these hurdles and challenges, it can be awfully easy to be discouraged, but what keeps you going that's that's what I thought we could talk about in the small breakout small room breakouts this morning. So let me set up these rooms. This will be the same routine that we do every week. I'll put folks in a room with five or six other individuals, please have at least one person take notes from the room and share those in the chat so that Timothy can pull together those notes after the fact and we will come back to the fall to the regular meeting at 1028 I hope everybody has a good conversation and I will broadcast the question to the full group to the breakout rooms momentarily.

<Breakout Sessions>

Rob Huff

Welcome back everyone. Hopefully that was a good opportunity to network and have a conversation please. As a reminder, paste your notes into the chat so that Timothy can collect the knowledge of how Earl being inspired to do this work and appreciate appreciate that. Let me take another look at my



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agenda. So what we have coming up next is a quick advocacy update and I'll provide that. So what I've been doing in these advocacy updates are like describing opportunities to advocate at the city, county and state level this week that to come to City Council during their study session. We'll be reviewing their state and national legislative agenda and any updates related to that. So if you want to see what the city cares about and what progress is being made there, that update will take place during the during the study session. As a reminder, the study session doesn't really offer an opportunity for public comment, but it's also it's a great place to learn because that's part of the actual a lot of the business of the council takes place. Last week, or actually this week at the study session that count the Council heard about the house America program through the Department of Housing and Urban Development and a vote to join that program is on the agenda for Tuesday night's agenda. So if you would like to speak to that that's an opportunity as well. Pierce County Council their agenda for next week is not yet posted. It's posted later today so if there's any highlights either I or I know Sally keeps very close. tags on that what's happening with the county council as well. We did. I think it's already been discussed at the safe sites for all meetings regarding safe parking and I think I'll leave that to chance if you want to talk about what we understand is coming next from the county council regarding safe parking. And then statewide there's not a whole lot happening. Other than background conversations regarding issues related to homelessness and housing, a lot of reports from your local legislators to the constituents are happening right now. So if you have an interest in in hearing from your representative, and you're plugged into those updates in email or you receive the mailing the snail mail there may be an opportunity to meet with your legislator in the coming weeks as they meet with constituents between sessions. So that's the quick and dirty for advocacy. Let's see where at 1030 The next item on our agenda is quick update on the Pierce County comprehensive plan to end homelessness. And I know that I attended last week. The advisory boards meeting which Garrett helped, helped at that meeting as well. I attend those meetings as a representative of the coalition as a poor substitute for Maureen Howard who was unable to attend. And there were a few I would say the key items that were covered in that two hour meeting were updates around the implementation of the plan. And I'll outline a couple of quick highlights and then Garrett, if you have stuff to add, that'd be great. So the key items that were covered, were an update on the unified regional approach, which included discussion of the request for proposal that's going to go out. There is a notice notification of Funding Availability that's planned to come out later. This month. The date that was discussed there was around May 20. With a target goal of selecting our consultant to begin work on the unified regional approach and what that should look like beginning in July with the idea that that that model and the advice will be come back to the county council or to the full advisory board and to Pierce County Human Services by the end of the year. So anything you would add on that Garrett? No. Okay. There was discussion about the expansion of navigation services. And let's see not a whole lot of let's see to some agencies have been identified there we'll be able to do that work. approaches such as critical time interventions will be could be part of that work. There was an update on the community first village and maybe that would be a good topic for us to invite somebody to come talk to here at the coalition to hear what's the latest on the community first village, but a provider has been selected for the first phase of that project. That will be the Tacoma rescue mission. And they're doing two things in this first phase feasibility study and then



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addressing the development of the construction of the village so they're still as I understand it, search for the site. So where the actual property will be for this project. But yeah, let me see if I can get somebody maybe Garrett, you can help point me in the right direction to bring somebody in to talk about the community first village and where things are out there. There was a lot of conversation about a pilot project to address transportation needs \$50,000 being used to work with Pierce Transit, to offer additional orca cards for folks who need transportation and there are five agencies participating issuing about 500 cards for a one year pilot, so that that coming up. Regarding outstanding American rescue plan Act funding, there was conversation about the shelter access hub which was part of the plan and an RFP coming out in late spring regarding that, so if you have an interest, you're working for an agency that has an interest in our watch for an RFP coming their shelter expansion. There was just some discussion about Of course, they the second Pacific site that Monique has been working on and we're all eagerly awaiting the opening the rise site which actually Oh, well also the 35th and Pacific sight that the city is looking for the possibility of doing temporary shelter there for up to 50 people, and then the upcoming expansion of the Tacoma rescue mission for an additional 120 congregate beds. And the last item that we talked about was safe parking. It was just an overview of where things stand with the legislation regarding the safe parking ordinance that was vetoed by the county executive. And there was discussion about the work that Paula has been doing with additional church potential church locations and the contract that is in final process. So there were there was public comment during the meeting. I want to thank folks like Sally Perkins for for weighing in during public comment. And yeah, that kind of covers what we did for a couple of hours. Last Friday. Those meetings currently are once a month on the first Friday of each month and you can find the the link to those meetings that can be attended by anyone on the county's Comprehensive Plan website. I'll put that link in the chat. So any questions about the current status of the comprehensive plan? And of course Gary beat me to putting the link in the chat. Alright, so let me look back to my agenda. To see what else we got. So speaking of safe sights for all Jan, would you like to provide an update from your committee?

Janet Runbeck

Well, I got so hot there. I had to take my sweater off. Let's let's talk about the goals now because I feel like we've been thrown a new twist here. So because of a lack of knowing about mapping and how mapping is important in safe sites for all the name of the committee has safe sites for all it's open to everybody, including government every Monday new. So we saw a gap in mapping and how outreach teams can find folks who actually need help to be safe. So we've done some internal work to generate interest in doing mapping. The response to the safe parking ordinance being vetoed by Mr. Dan Meyer is a discussion and people are hearing things individually. So we as a committee have not heard anything officially from council members as as a group, but I want anybody to jump in here if they've had a personal conversation because I do know that folks have had side conversations with their council people. The emergency network distribution, I've got a question Joe Purva you're here. Has Has anybody in county planning. Talk to you about the Lehigh site on Hosmer Aspen court being a site for distribution during inclement weather?



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Joe Perva

Yeah, sorry. My camera's all messed up. So we have in I've already mentioned that before that we would be more than happy to be a distribution site for you know for supplies. For inclement weather.

Janet Runbeck

Like right, but But I talked to you about that personally. You said Yes. How's the county talk to you about that?

Joe Perva

Um, nobody has specifically brought up any information but aside from us here on the coalition.

Janet Runbeck

That's my point. That's my point, Dion. Dion Jacobson. Are you here from St. Vincent DePaul. You were here earlier.

Rob Huff

Looks like Dion's left. Okay. She

Janet Runbeck

left. She has told us as a group that she has churches that would be, you know, throughout the county, able to be a distribution site. She's not been contacted by the county. If even if it came through for us in both situations, and they were surprised that they were not contacted by the county in either situation, because they are part of monthly planning meetings. Yet when our emergency came they were not contacted except by me. So um, you know, as far as I can tell, we can all go home because the county is taking care of it right? That's that's just the insanity of it all. So I am confused as to why we are working so hard in safe sites for all well and let's get to say parking network. Paula Anderson is our safe sites or safe parking network manager. She was told by the county last year back in December that that they would have the contract to continue on a successful pilot project. We did a pilot project with money quickly distributed from greater Tacoma Community Foundation. We did safe parking network. It was successful. The county said they would do it and to date she's not been paid. We are in the middle of May. She's not been paid by the county. So I think we need to have to take care of communication issues. But I am frankly at a loss as to how we can go forward when there's been such poor communication with government or let's just say a lack of direct response. I don't even know that. If we come up with a list of emergency supplies and a list of distributors, and a list of outreach workers which we do and a list of of maps where folks are who actually dying out there and losing their kidneys and fingers and all that. I don't know that we're gonna get any reimbursement by the county. So I'll just shut up.

Rob Huff



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Dan, I appreciate your passion. I said that in the chat. I do think I know Jeff has heard heard your voice today. So I am hopeful that that is going to be meeting of the minds so that we can move forward in a productive way. Okay, so I'm going to take a deep breath and see if Rosemary has anything to share regarding other council committee updates.

Rosemary Powers

I think the main thing I would say is that we're the Governance Committee is been given a new charge to think about policies around how we encourage groups that are looking for support from a variety of other organizations for grant requests and maybe making how we can do that as a group that doesn't have a an organizational framework. And that also would not want because we have people competing for different kinds of grants. We want people to have the opportunity to really say we could use an endorsement from groups of people who share our background, our interests, our passion, our missions. And so we want to make that available through the coalition but we're not quite sure how, what kind of policy we should have. So that's something we'll be working on in the next few weeks. And the race and equity committee will be meeting on the third Thursday, which is next Thursday from three to four. That will be on the coalition page for you to come if you'd like.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Rosemary. And that brings us to an opportunity for folks to share announcements that would be good for the for the group of 42 folks who really care who are still in today's meeting. So any any announcements for the good of the order good trouble we can get up to Teresa?

Theresa Power-Drutis

This is just a quick response to some of the stuff about the safe parking thing. And perhaps it's for the good of the order. But rosemary and I and it sounds like Sally attended the council meeting, the county council meeting where they addressed a little bit safe parking. And I want to say, Jan, that I'm with you with the fact that it's really frustrating that things are not happening quickly. And that whole speed of government thing only satisfies so long. And for so many situations before it's just too hackneyed to be meaningful. I do know that there were several council members during that who were really advocating for pushing this through. Sounds like it's kind of stuck in the financial side of things. It's not stuck in terms of support. So I'm not saying be patient because I don't think that your strong suit is patience. I think your strong suit as being fiery. But I do also want to say that we are not alone in this and it's good to have Garrett with us pushing from his side. And we have Jeff with us who's pushing from his side. And I think we need to keep voicing this but we also need to recognize that it's not that that Heather moss is trying to stop us from being funded. It's about the way that county government is set up to not be very efficient.

Rob Huff

That is very diplomatic. Monique, I see your hand up.



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Monique Brown

Yes, thank you two things. Um, the last time I was on the call to Lady so they wanted to come get those stuffed airplanes for me, and no one has shown up so if you're on here, please come get those airplanes so you can get them to the kid. The other thing I got a donation last year was about a \$44,000 donation of clothing. It is sitting in my storage and P wallet and it doesn't make any sense to be there. I have shoes and I have lots and lots of jeans brand new everything brand new shoe still in the boxes. So please reach out to me if you can use it and give it out to folks because it makes no sense to the city.

Rob Huff

And anyone else with items for the good or Erica, I know your mic is on if you wanted to say something. Now,

Erika Snell

I don't know what's going on. I'm sorry. I'm trying to figure it out.

Rob Huff

No problem. I'll just mute you. All right. So I actually wanted to add something to the end of every week's meetings going forward. And I think we mentioned this last week. I have not been didn't line somebody up for this but just wanted to provide an opportunity of folks have a success story. Some good news that they would like to share at the end of this week's meeting and plant the seed for doing similar at the end of all of our meetings going forward. I think we need to make sure we celebrate the good work that's happening and the progress has been made. So I see Jan put her hand up and I hope that for some success.

Janet Runbeck

It is I heard your your introduction is success. Back in January of 2021. This coalition did a major forum. And we invited people from government from business from nonprofits. We invited all the decision makers from throughout the county to to voice what they see the problem is what we see the problem is and then to list what our needs would be in order to serve those who live homeless. It was a huge forum well attended as a result of that meeting in January of 20 chci Franciscan, now Virginia Mason CHR Franciscan donated \$5,000 for a street medic program. We used to call him a needle exchange as our fiscal agent. And thanks to Richard Dorsett, who just showed up out of the goodness of his heart, we were able to come up with a first aid kits to hand out to folks who are living in encampments or who were in the streets. We are now going to spend down the end of that \$5,000 And as Richard says, when you do street and camp homework, the number one thing that folks really appreciate are our food items of food. The number two things is medical supplies. Now these these first aid kits, are literally a bandage to a bigger problem. And the \$5,000 is just a band aid to a gigantic problem. But it is



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the success of this coalition and it does increase engagement with folks living on the street and you know for every wound that we can prevent furthering infection. That's one less 911 call. So thanks to Richard, thanks to this coalition. Thanks to ch I Franciscan.

Rob Huff

Thank you for that Jan and Serena your hands up

Serena Thompson

Yeah, I do have a success story. One of my participants recently on May 5, which was my birthday, after several months of she's trying to get SSI and being denied, denied. I hooked her up with a lawyer service and on May 5, she was approved for her benefits which is she's been living off \$146 or whatever that small amount they get from ABD. So this is great. Made my birthday. That's

Rob Huff

awesome. And that those are both great examples of things we would like to be able to share at the end every meeting and do what we can to call attention to the good work that's being done by folks who are attending these meetings. With a little luck that can help provide some of that inspiration that we talked about during the breakout sessions. So we have come to the end of today's agenda. There's one more item and that's an opportunity for folks to reflect on today's meeting and provide feedback regarding what worked what didn't work, what can be done better next week. I invite folks to put that information in the chat. Or you can also email me and I will put my email in the chat as well if you'd like to get a hold of me that way. Because we want to keep improving these meetings going forward. Oops. And I didn't send that to the everybody. Including maybe you need a better moderator. You know, so if anyone anyone is willing to step up and facilitate occasionally I would love to hear it. So. Thank you everyone for attending today.