



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - info@pchomeless.org

Friday Coalition Meeting Chat – May 20, 2022

00:15:08 - Stacey Soltoff: - I can only stay for the first half today

00:15:23 - Stacey Soltoff: - I have my coffee! 😊

00:15:41 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Coffee is required!

00:15:52 - Stacey Soltoff: - I dont "people" without my coffee at this time of morning 😊

00:19:03 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Zoom Norms

Mute yourself when not talking.

Use Zoom's raise hand feature if you have something to say.

Limit distractions by turning off your camera if you need to take another call.

00:19:08 - Stacey Soltoff: - to paraphrase my minister: it is good to breathe together today! 😊

00:19:18 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Community Norms

Lead with a racial equity lens.

Be aware of power dynamics.

Challenge concepts, not people.

Listen to learn.

One person speaks at a time.

Speak from your own experience.

Make space, take space.

Assume best intentions and take responsibility for impact.

Be aware of time and agenda.

00:20:38 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Community Norms

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Assume best intentions and take responsibility for impact.

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00:22:16 - Keivn Roberts: - Good morning Rob! It's good to be back!

00:23:32 - Julie Hoffman: - This is my first time attending - I recently found this group while looking for resources for families - I work in the Pierce Co Early Childhood Court.

00:23:44 - Courtney Love: - *6 mutes and unmutes phones

00:23:54 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Thank you Courtney!

00:24:26 - Christina Qiao: - Christina here with Tacoma Rescue Mission, I haven't been on in quite a while but glad to be popping in when I can! :)

00:25:35 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Welcome back, Christina!

00:25:46 - Jake Nau: - Jake with CLR Hype Center. I'll have to pop off at 930 but I'm happy to be here until then

00:26:01 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Welcome back, Jake!

00:26:20 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Welcome Jake! It is good to see you

00:27:07 - Richard Dorsett: - My comments to city council: J. is pregnant, T. has cancer, B. got beat up "pretty bad" the last time he was around police. What do they have in common? All are homeless and



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were swept in the latest displacement of Tacoma's down and out. It's time for you to stand and say "Enough!"

Many I know like to imagine that they would have stood strong and linked arms with John Lewis, gone to jail with him, fought the good fight. But I see that is not true. We don't have a Bull Connor and his firehoses clearing the streets, but our sweeps are no less harmful; and our bridge has people trying to live under it, not fighting to walk across it. Stop these damned sweeps! Stop them now.

We can debate how to end homelessness. What is not up for debate are the cruelty and inhumanity of the sweeps of homelessness encampments. Every time this happens, the homeless ask, "Where am I supposed to go." If you sit by while this trauma occurs on our city's streets, if you offer no alternative, shame on you.

We have passed this wa

00:28:32 - Stacey Soltoff: - oof, Richard. those are some powerful words!

00:31:47 - Stacey Soltoff: - I agree w Jay that we need to push harder on both tracks - fighting harder to prevent sweeps & stepping up in solidarity to help the folks being moved (hard reduction)

00:33:07 - Rob Huff (he/him): - There are really no places. We need to show up at Community Forum and demand that the city open safe sites where people can and will stay.

00:34:14 - Keivn Roberts: - There are 2 new tents on the lot between 19th and 21st and Tacoma Ave in front of the Oasis of Hope Center on G St. They told me that they were from the area that was swept this week.

00:34:32 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Thank you for that update, Kevin.

00:35:05 - Sally Perkins: - I think there are more tents at 15th and Yakima too.

00:35:31 - Jay Worley: - Sally do you have a rough number?

00:35:58 - Jeffrey Boyce: - I saw 9 tents there this morning.

00:36:23 - Sally Perkins: - Jay, I don't know an actual number, sorry.

00:36:35 - Jay Worley: - its ok. thank you

00:39:59 - Jay Worley: - Thanks Jeff

00:43:14 - Sally Perkins: - Kevin, who is the funder who is not continuing your Team's funding?

00:43:30 - Rob Huff (he/him): - It's all good, Dora. We are glad you can be with us!

00:46:25 - Keivn Roberts: - Sea mar was partially paying for the launch of the program, but wanted us to be fully funded by grants and the medical visit productivity. They decided to disband this program after we did not secure the grant funding in the recent highly competitive field.

00:48:18 - Sally Perkins: - Kevin, I am really sorry to hear this. Yes, the funding environment is extremely competitive. Unfortunately, your program, which is SO important, didn't become a priority for funders. Thank you to Sea Mar for getting it started.

00:49:26 - Keivn Roberts: - It was our pleasure to do the work!!

00:52:21 - Jay Worley: - Kevin your program as made quiet an impact. Do you think letters of support would help next time if you could find a funding option?

00:53:16 - Jay Worley: - brb

00:53:52 - Sally Perkins: - It would be nice to see the local health care systems put some \$\$ into this important work at Sea Mar...it would save them money to have this care provided up front and avoid more serious health problems.

00:54:36 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Is Elliot still going to be this kind of work somewhere else?



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- 00:54:39 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Agreed, Sally. Being able to go out to clients and connect them to health care feels like an important resource.
- 00:56:08 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Coffee inspires me too!
- 00:56:10 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Showing that you care first!
- 00:56:40 - Timothy Harris: - The thing I miss most about smoking is giving them away.
- 00:56:53 - Judy TAYLOR: - building Trust, first! is Key
- 00:57:04 - Jay Worley: - back
- 00:59:16 - Dora Williams: - The showers are first come basis. Their name is put on a list and they have 20 min to shower.
- 01:00:27 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - So would it help to have more showers and/or more volunteers?
- 01:00:45 - Dora Williams: - more volunteers
- 01:01:32 - Dora Williams: - We escort people downstairs
- 01:02:00 - Janet Runbeck: - Christine Lindquist, MPH
- 01:02:43 - Stacey Soltoff: - @theresa, I think we need more shower options across the county, period. I would love to see shower/laundry buses
- 01:03:27 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Ed and Jan can probably talk about that element
- 01:03:32 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Dora: if you send me a description of the criteria for the volunteers you need and what the time commitments and tasks would be - I'll promote the opportunity when we are presenting our Homelessness 101 sessions
- 01:03:51 - Janet Runbeck: - Safe Sites for All zooms every Monday, noon. We are planning the distribution of emergency supplies throughout the county. All are welcome, by registering on the Coalition website
- 01:04:00 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Thank you, Jan!
- 01:05:15 - Dora Williams: - Yes I will get on that. You can go on our website for anyone who wants to volunteer to fill out the application.
- 01:05:20 - Dora Williams: - Thank you
- 01:05:56 - Sally Perkins: - Dora and Kevin, thank you for this very helpful presentation.
- 01:06:15 - Dora Williams: - @Sally, Thank you
- 01:06:26 - Courtney Love: - we've had snow in June and 80° weather in March. extreme is the new normal
- 01:06:58 - Sally Perkins: - @Dora, you are most welcome. :)
- 01:07:06 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Without a map it will be impossible to reach people in the event of a climate emergency - it is important to balance the risks/benefits. The violence we have seen so far has been at well known campgrounds - it is unlikely that vigilantes will seek out unknown campsites
- 01:07:40 - Sally Perkins: - In government files, it is a matter of public record and may be required to be disclosable under the public records act.
- 01:07:51 - Rob Huff (he/him): - There have been discussions about how to keep the list of areas where sites are located limited in access to providers and outreach workers.
- 01:08:58 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Also - we could just keep the small, unknown campsites in the hands of case managers but let's get organized around not duplicating services and not leaving people out
- 01:09:56 - Sally Perkins: - Please do not be naïve about who might request the list as a public records request. Keep the list in a non-government setting.
- 01:11:04 - Caleb Carbone: - Caleb Carbone, ccarbone@cityoftacoma.org
- 01:11:49 - Rob Huff (he/him): - We appreciate the work you are doing, Caleb. And for being open to conversation.
- 01:11:53 - Jay Worley: - Caleb thank you for your efforts and work
- 01:12:39 - Jay Worley: - and what day will that sweep happen?



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- 01:15:14 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - We cannot frame this as either caring about the environment or caring about people. We can do both!
- 01:15:18 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - There are serious environmental hazards when human waste and cleaning products go down storm drains throughout the county (especially in Tacoma). Easy solution: establish campgrounds now
- 01:15:36 - Stacey Soltoff: - agreed Theresa!
- 01:15:40 - Dana Peregrine: - There are a lot of rv's and campers at the Hylebos site. It has formed pretty recently, over the last couple months.
- 01:15:52 - Timothy Harris: - This is the "cauterization" police promised at the TacomaSafe business forum.
- 01:16:02 - Jay Worley: - thermal tarps
- 01:16:04 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Our City Council members and city leadership need to hear these concerns, loud and clear!
- 01:16:14 - Stacey Soltoff: - & harm reduction - provide enviro-friendly soaps & hygiene products to unhoused folks
- 01:16:30 - Janet Runbeck: - Caleb, will we see the City on Monday's Zoom?
- 01:18:31 - Jay Worley: - Jeff, pierce county community services?
- 01:20:12 - rosemary powers: - We need more focused strategizing to promote safe camping sites. the continuing sweeps are as troubling as Ed indicated. Still the hazards of unsafe, unregulated sites should be addressed as well
- 01:20:15 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Stacey - I'm providing Pure Castile Soap on the block whenever I can - but that depends on donations and out of pocket capacity - so not always available. But campers and people living in vehicles are enthusiastic about receiving the soap.
- 01:21:50 - Janet Runbeck: - Today's DEM emergency weather planning meeting was canceled.
- 01:25:48 - Stacey Soltoff: - does the Rental Assistance office have a one-page flier for the community - steps to take if you're afraid you're about to be unhoused?
- 01:28:06 - Laurie Davenport: - Here is the presentation from Commerce on the rental assistance program: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/p64p429n53ho9tg/Eviction%20Rent%20Assistance%20Programs%205.19.22%5B74%5D.pdf?dl=0>
- 01:29:14 - CC Mendoza: - Thank you Timothy!
- 01:30:47 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Timothy - your categories are great - they DO make the responses digestible :) Thank you!
- 01:31:56 - Laurie Davenport: - Stacey, I don't think they do -- we have handouts on the landlord-tenant law that applies to this. I think this needs to be more than a one-pager and we are working on a larger resource packet.
- 01:47:01 - Janet Runbeck: - Rm 2: Complicated issue. We don't know what to say to those who are in obvious mental distress, and we don't know how to address the problem. What did I miss?
- 01:47:23 - Julie Hoffman: - Group 7
- Issues with the sweeps – those impacted lose everything in the sweeps (ID, SS card, etc.) – which then takes them longer to be housed. Adds more harm.
- Assumption – on drugs or mentally ill: but not actually as high a percentage as people think (lots of reasons people are unhoused).
- What happened to do no harm? Move them, creating more trauma – increasing likelihood of increasing drug use.
- Relationship between healthcare and homeless – 48 years life expectancy for homeless individual.
- Thoughts – if I were in their place, I would be getting high too. Housing first – people deserve housing!



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Harm reduction/motivation interviewing – takes time to build trust with people. Homeless dogs are housed and fed!

Don't go in talking first – feed them, clothe them, try to house them first before talking about substance use. You have to give people what they need first before you can talk to them.

Need to see more permanent housing – not just shelter.

01:47:35 - Julie Hoffman: - More transitional housing, more money for tiny homes/ADUs. As homelessness increases (individuals and families) – we cannot keep moving them every few days. Rent control!

Communication with people who don't have an understanding of how challenging homelessness is (thinking they are just lazy).

01:48:07 - Serena Thomson: - Room 3 Use trauma informed care approach, autonomy when speaking to clients, Motivational interviewing techniques to withdraw change talk, harm reduction techniques, also utilize outreach information sheets and there was more but this is what I remember

01:50:15 - Clinton Brink: - I didn't catch the room number, but our room discussed the following:

01:50:16 - Jenny Lorton: - jenny.lorton@insidepassages.org

01:51:12 - Kristina Lamb: - Kristinal@associatedministries.org is where I can be reached.

01:51:17 - Gerrit Nyland: - I was just wondering how you were doing, Reverend Pitchford. Good to see you.

01:51:58 - Clinton Brink: - There's a chicken and egg problem with regard to homelessness and mental health issues. A lot of people assume drug abuse and mental health issues are the cause of homelessness, but in many cases, drug abuse and mental health are just a symptom.

Regardless of which comes first, we need to address the issues of homelessness and mental health issues instead of shaming or blaming people for it.

01:52:03 - Rob Huff (he/him): - To attend in-person, the special meeting will be held at the Center for Urban Waters, in the Commencement Bay Conference Room, located at 326 East "D" Street. The meeting can be heard by dialing 253-215-8782 or through Zoom at www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 and entering the meeting ID 894 9617 1192 and passcode 896569, when prompt

01:52:04 - Timothy Harris: - room 4: People needs and stories are complicated and can't be reduced to simple categories. Need to share stories and get better at crafting messages so as to better control the narrative. Also get better at enlisting support of broader community to help. Stability is required to address addiction. Addiction is just piece if the "cascade of problems" people are dealing with. Our work is to put people in the position of entertaining the choices that they have. Really listening is at the core of effectively helping.

01:52:06 - Clinton Brink: - We have a societal expectation that homeless people engage in self-improvement and quit drugs cold turkey. It's not a reasonable expectation. These people are concerned about getting enough food and water, staying safe, shelter, etc.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It seems like most resources go to trying to help those who are already addicted. We're perhaps not focusing enough on prevention. If we provide people with more opportunities, more education, and more support in the first place, they may never resort to drugs or experience mental health issues in the first place. Lack of support is, perhaps the root cause of both homelessness and drug abuse.

01:53:37 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Wow Clinton, well done!

01:54:03 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Can I always be in your group?

01:54:06 - Serena Thomson: - Room 3 and don't be afraid to ask. Use open ended questions

01:54:44 - Dana Peregrine: - Room 5 - More training and education about mental health issues! For example, how it affect's the brain and how typical conclusions about behavior and motivations are not



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appropriate, nor helpful.. Need to be stable enough to benefit from mental health services, and this can be "a very long walk". Patience and understanding when dealing with homeless that may have mental health issues. Build trust. They may not even recognize they have mental health issues. Two books recommended are, "The Least Of Us" and "I Am Not Sick, I Don't Need Help"

01:55:48 - Rob Huff (he/him): - The Housing Alliance is excited to announce a free training on the Housing Justice Narrative! How we talk about affordable housing and homelessness greatly impacts our ability to advance the campaigns, bills, and budget appropriations needed to prevent and end homelessness and to secure the vision that everyone in Washington has a safe, affordable home.

Join us for a comprehensive training with our partners at Community Change. Learn from experts including advocates with lived experience of homelessness and housing insecurity on how to educate decision-makers and the broader community on solutions we need. Learn to tell your own story, practice new narratives that leave harmful language to the past, and join a learning community of fellow advocates in a supportive space.

01:55:59 - Rob Huff (he/him): -

<https://housingalliance.salsalabs.org/hjntraining/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eid=0dbee18f-deb6-44b1-ae60-222cb515be9f>

01:59:40 - Rob Huff (he/him): - DEM = Pierce County Department of Emergency Management

01:59:48 - Gerrit Nyland: - Special In-district County Council meeting - Wednesday, May 25, 6pm in the Lakewood City Hall Council Chambers - 6000 Main Street SW, Lakewood, WA or via zoom - <https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/j/97661787423>

02:01:25 - Gerrit Nyland: - Attached above is the agenda for next Wednesday's in district meeting.

02:02:13 - Kenneth moultry: - 253 981 5832 kenny,wdtg@gmail.com

02:02:39 - Timothy Harris: - Is the FOB site connected to electricity yet?

02:02:47 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Yes!

02:03:52 - Sally Perkins: - Caleb, thank you so much!

02:04:05 - Janet Runbeck: - When will the Port of Tacoma encampment be removed?

02:04:40 - Rob Huff (he/him): - It will be posted next week, according to Caleb's update

02:07:44 - Gerald Daniels: - Thanks Theresa

02:07:56 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - tpdrutis@nctacoma.org for the coolers and if you can help with pillows

02:09:04 - Laurie Davenport: - Speaking of changing the narrative, don't forget to follow ss4a.pchomeless.org. Our latest infographics are there and we should be posting a new one next week.

02:09:23 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Does anyone have a resource for foot care? Real problems are more visible than ever on the street.

02:10:45 - Keisha Joyner-Intern@AM: - Thank you

02:11:12 - Gerrit Nyland: - The free clinics are all that come to mind around foot care. Not easy to get to if you have foot problems, but such is life.

02:12:20 - Jay Worley: - there seems to be a few things badly needed but never add to bags and such. foot care, bus pass/orca card and such

02:12:34 - Rob Huff (he/him): - Alright...let's do some planning in 5 minutes! I am going to step away for a minute.

02:14:50 - Jay Worley: - have to run have a good rest of your friday

02:15:14 - Janet Runbeck: - Jay, your contribution is wonderful

02:15:14 - Jeffrey Boyce: - And to you Jay

02:16:29 - Janet Runbeck: - Teresa, will Monique take used pillows for the FOB site?



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02:17:32 - Jeffrey Boyce: - I understand if they are cleaned.

02:19:36 - Janet Runbeck: - Friday might be skinny attendance. Holiday

02:21:14 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - Good point Jan

02:22:26 - Theresa Power-Drutis: - 2 weeks from now would be good for the neighbor one

02:22:49 - Janet Runbeck: - Jan will be gone...