



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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SPEAKERS

Dora Williams, Richard Dorsett, Alfred Kirk, Benjamin Feldbush, Jeffrey Boyce, CC Mendoza, Jennie Schoeppe, Jay Warley, Ryan Mello, Verna Lilly, Sally Perkins, Paula Anderson, Laurie Davenport, pamela, Rob Huff, Theresa Power-Drutis, Patricia, Rosemary Powers, Lavada Kent-Napier, Gerald Daniels, Tim Harris, Jake Nau, Don Pritchard, Jenny Lorton

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Rob Huff

Yeah. Excellent. So good morning, everyone. We do have the magic number of 30 plus people in the room now this morning. So I'd like to get started with this week's meeting of the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness. Rosemary, would you like to kick things off?

Rosemary Powers

Good morning, everybody. I'm always smiling when Robert talks about the magic of 30. So I'm glad we're all here. Today. I'm most conscious of two words, memorials and guns. We have a national holiday, marking the beginning of summer and providing many opportunities to remember those Americans who've been killed during wartime service since the end of the Civil War. We meet on the traditional lands with a pure love Tribe of Indians who have steward the land for eons. And remember those who've been killed since the first days of contact with Europeans and the historical traumas still experienced by tribal members today, and we face a continuing reminder that over 100 persons die daily from gun violence in the United States. With the experience of the past days of Buffalo, New York, and you volley Texas weighing like an iron block on the hearts of anyone who has won, ironically, as if



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we needed reminding. June is Gun Violence Awareness Month. And June 3 is Gun Violence Awareness Day. Also called wear orange day. Here's a brief origin story. On January 21 2013 15 year old hedaya Pendleton marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade. One week later, she was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago in a mistaken gang action. Soon after this tragedy, her childhood friends decided to commemorate her but her life by wearing orange. The color hunters were in the woods to protect themselves and others. wear orange began in June on June 2 2015, which would have been her dias 18th birthday. And since then, this has been celebrated each year to this year. It's usually the first Friday in June and it will be next week on June 3. Then Orange is a fitting symbol and the passion of youth does inspire there will be ceremonies to honor victims of gun violence and continuing efforts to work for sensible gun laws and yet the unsettling and pervasive feeling of hopelessness still paralyzes. This is not so different from how facing the violence of homelessness can paralyze. Today we're going to be talking together about how to deal with the traumatic effects of sweeps and think together again about how to deepen a commitment to ending homelessness. Like gun violence, homelessness seems to require the kind of commitment we've not been able to mobilize as a political community. Still Here we are. I agree with the old Marxist, Antonio Gramsci when he said in describing his approach to wicked political problems, pessimism of the intellect, he said, But optimism of the will. That's a good way to remember the kind of people we are and the power we have together when we act on that optimism. So welcome to an exercise and optimism on this going to be sunny day, and usually at this time, I think most everybody here has been here before but just to remind you that when we were speaking, to keep ourselves muted unless we're speaking, to stop the video if we're doing other things, and to use the raise hand function as a way to get recognized So Rob can tell when someone's wanting to speak and keep some order to us. Also, we have norms of community speaking which take up some space but don't take up too much space. Because there are a lot of us here and we all have something we could say. And with that, if there is anybody here today for the first time, or if you haven't been around for a while and want to say hello, just unmute yourself and let us know you're here

Benjamin Feldbush

Hello, coalition. This is Benjamin Fabrice is good to see all of you again.

Rosemary Powers

Welcome back then it's really wonderful to see you. Glad you could join us.

Benjamin Feldbush

Thank you. It's good to see you as well.

Rosemary Powers

Okay, well if you are new today or haven't been around a while and want to make let us know something about yourself, we do use the chat as a place to have conversation during the meeting. So



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it's not at all disrespectful to carry on with people. They're making networking connections that we all want to do here. So, Rob, I'll give it back to you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, rosemary and thankful. Thank you for the thoughtful opening to today's meeting. I don't think we thank you enough for the work you do opening these meetings. So. All right, so let's move to our first standing item that we talked about every week, and that is to get an update on what's happening on the streets this week. And so again, the purpose of this portion of the meeting is to talk about what's changing what people are seeing, who are doing outreach or interacting with neighbors who are living outdoors. And the hope is that we can make connections, observations and hopefully help those who are living outdoors. To find a path toward toward a shelter and encourage our government and elected officials to create those spaces that are so needed for people to have options to move into shelter of all kinds. So let's open the floor. This is open to everyone I see. Jeffrey has his hand up and I also see Richard has his camera on and I know Richard sat at the site of the the city's one of the city's latest scheduled sweeps at 11th and higher Lobos waterway down by marine View Drive but let's start with Jeffrey and then Richard if you want to let us know what's happening.

Jeffrey Boyce

Morning everyone. The problems that we had at 34th and Pacific a couple of weeks ago. Those people have been asked to remove themselves from the camp by the rest of the campers at 34th and Pacific. They are now gone. And they put up a sign on the little driveway that comes in that says no vacancy. I just told them I loved how you did that. And I think that's awesome. And this is your home. You take care of it. Don't ask other people to take care of your take care of you. Take care of yourselves and that's my message to them. And they've done it. So it's a good thing out there. Haven't heard anything else going on but I thought I'd bring that in on a light note.

Rob Huff

Okay, thank you Jeffrey. And, Richard, you ready to talk about what you're seeing out of the lemons and hi Lobos.

Richard Dorsett

Yes, I'm seeing nothing. They were supposed to start sweeping or the people were supposed to be gone at eight o'clock this morning. They're still here. There are no city staff or contractors or anybody out here except Dana, Liz and myself. So I'm gonna hang around a bit, but it may be as a result of a three day weekend. Who knows? Who knows? You know, they've posted it but maybe maybe they're maybe they're just going to hold back. I don't know what's going on. So nothing happening here. Thank you

Rob Huff



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Richard. Do you get a sense did anybody actually leaves the site?

It doesn't look like it. There's a lot of rain Accumulo water accumulation from the rains. People are mostly sleeping in this morning. There's a generator going so there's some some people have power most of the vehicles say that looks like about half of the vehicles there are inoperable and many of them do not have current tabs to be out on the road and many others do not have gasoline to operate even if they are operational. So I don't know that I wanted to see how this goes because I have not seen a vehicular sweep yet. So this will be interesting. But no not there. They're pretty ensconced there right now.

Rob Huff

Okay. So thanks for the update literally from on the streets. Do we have others who would like to share things? Well, I guess one item I will share and I think Sally for pointing this out. This is related a little bit to the 11th and hi Lobos situation. There was a classified notification in the News Tribune earlier this week that the Port of Tacoma is is looking to spend up to \$300,000 to fortify Murray, Milwaukee Avenue, where there is a large number of folks who are living in RVs and vehicles. They've been there for a while because they ran through there a few weeks ago. And so that's that's another development where the port has essentially had enough I guess, of the folks who are living along Milwaukee Avenue. It is a major approach to the port headquarters. And I know from having been down there it's also quite a busy corridor with truck traffic but but boy, it sure bothers me that \$300,000 is going to be used on barriers along a street when it could be spent on a safe site for people to park there I've RVs so others with updates about what they're seeing on the streets and feel free to raise your hand come off mute, Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So some of you may have heard Jenny and I talking when the meeting opened and I wanted though to pitch this out to the entire group that we're looking for someone anyone who's putting out there any kind of foot resources, so anything to help people with the foot problems. There used to be a good program apparently I don't know if there's something that's under the radar right now. But if you have any such program, or if you know someone who's doing it, would you please I'm going to put my contact in the chat. please be in touch with me. I'm going to try to get such a program to come and talk with us during the partner spotlight.

Rob Huff

Thanks Teresa. And I do want to offer another thought I as you know last week, the city conducted a sweep at in the area near 11th and I and m streets and a number of folks who were at that site moved to alongside the Evergreen State College campus at 6:10am. That site is also going to be swept soon. And I know Richard had been keeping track of the number of tents that we're setting up there. The



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irony and futility of it all is that many of the folks who moved back to the Evergreen site are the same people who were at the Evergreen site back in November when they shifted to InM down on 11th. So yeah, I am. You might hear a little frustration from me today. So one last call if anybody has other on the streets items I want to talk about. Yeah, Jay.

Jay Warley

So interesting fact about that. One of the people that so I ride the bus and to come and often riding into the bus. You end up talking to people at the bus stop and I must have a giant sign that says please talk to me because usually it happens. And I was down on MLK and Sixth Avenue waiting for the one and one of our wonderful constituents came up and was like, Hey, I just got kicked out of that encampment over by evergreen and explained to me that they're kind of policing themselves and trying to restrict more movement into the area. So at least we have more example of that same situation where they're trying to limit more damage than what is good in this specific case. People have been asked to leave because of some of the behaviors. So I'm hoping that we're seeing more of that and maybe we'll get less kickback from people. But yeah, there's still an evidence week there this next week, I believe.

Rob Huff

Thanks, Jay. Excuse me, and Laurie.

Laurie Davenport

I just wanted to mention that there was a couple of tents that popped up this last week. At North third and G just right, right across from the conservatory is the right part. Probably fugitives from those sweeps. Yeah.

Rob Huff

Yeah, I would imagine so I've seen some single ones and twos tents popping up in various kind of slightly hidden spaces downtown as well. So all right, so thank you for sharing everyone. We will find hope and I think we've got 55 folks in this room if we all work together. To talk to our elected officials. We can hopefully persuade them to actually get a move on and create space where people can actually go because that's the most frustrating thing that happens every week with these ever increasing sweeps is that people are told to leave you can't stay here but there's no i no indication of where they can go. And they're certainly not enough shelter there may be shelter enough on one night to if everyone was willing to accept the parameters. Of those shelters. But there is no way that there is enough shelter for all the folks who we know are living on the streets to move into shelter. That's a false narrative. All right, Jeffrey.

Jeffrey Boyce

This is a brief note from the Veterans Village at an 82nd and Pacific veterans. You know of any veterans, any of the outreach people know of any veterans that need a cozy place to be. It's a great



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community and please, please please talk to Monique about getting them in there. A lot of the veterans that they had signed up with a waiting list have kind of disappeared. So as any of us that do outreach, that's a pretty normal situation. But we want to fill this place up so that we can keep filling up the deuce places that are built. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jeffrey. And so there's still an opportunity if you have other things you would like to share about what you're seeing on the street. Please do so in the chat. I know there's been a lot of good conversation there right now about footcare. So I'll go to Verna, I saw your hand up before he took it down.

Verna Lilly

Yeah, I second guessing myself. Jeffrey, for this thing with the veterans. Are you looking for us to just ask people when we're at encampments? Hey, you know if you're a veteran, I know a spot or is there something more organized than that?

Jeffrey Boyce

That actually that's the best way to start. That's a great way to start a conversation. Okay.

Rob Huff

Great. So let's shift to our community spotlight for this week and I see Jake now from comprehensive life resources on the call. And Jake, you want to take the floor and talk about what's happening at the hype center. Sure, thanks, Ron.

Jake Nau

Do you guys hear me okay?

Rob Huff

We can. Okay, awesome.

Jake Nau

I apologize ahead of time. I'm actually home with my kids. They're briefly entertained right now but if I have to run away suddenly that'll be why Yeah, so I'm Jake now I'm the program manager for the hype center CLRS hype center. What the hype center is is we're dropping in service center for youth and young adults who are homeless, our areas.

It we're open seven days a week Monday through Friday, where we're open from 7am to 9pm and on the weekends, we're open from one to nine. Our goal is to be a service center, Monday through Friday.



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So we asked folks to come in, you know to be comfortable to have a place to actually be we serve a meal we have showers laundry offer any hygiene services and clothes and then we ask them what their goals are. And we have housing and employment. FCS case managers we have a wise team. We have therapists and nurse on site and we do everything we can to meet people where they are and try to get them where they want to be on the weekends. We just operate as a drop in center. We just you know offer a meal and offer a place for folks to be and a friendly staff is going to greet people by name and care for them. So yeah, and just the briefest of, of briefs that's who we are. And also hearing all that talk about foot care. I'll give a plug for nurse Heidi nurse it does a footcare group every week, which is widely attended because homeless young folk, feet get beat up. So if you're in the age group of 13 to 24 and are looking for a foot care group, and it's happened and every Thursday at 9am

Rob Huff

Yeah, that's great, great information. So that's the age group you serve right is 13 to 24

Yep. 13 to 24 and our our main point of so we're at 815. South pearl. That's right across the street from the Morgan family why? Every morning starts off with us going around the community, in picking folks up who are folks who are in our encampment and in our age range. We'll go pick them up, we pick up people from the rescue mission. The vast majority of folks we pick up is from the beacon, the beacon let's at it at 8am and we take anyone who wants to go in our van and bring them on and then that's how our days then used to is dropping everybody off wherever they want to go. How you've gotten a hold of us in the past is through me or through our phone, our phone number is 253-396-5073 I am actually moving on. So I'm no longer going to be the program manager but I'm really happy and proud to say that Ben fel Bush has taken over. So I'll let him talk a little bit

All right, thank you great. I wasn't prepared. I came listen to you. But yeah, I am the new program manager I'm excited to work with everyone to support our, our houseless folks in the community, regardless of age, just everything that we do. And every group that we support helps everyone. So to get that voice out there and just to get out there and just let everyone know that you know, it takes a community to support these folks and to really help them and I'm looking forward to be a part of that community again and to get out there. So thank you. If you have any questions or comments, I can take that as well right now.

Rob Huff

Right, this is great, great news to hear. You're in that new role. Then and I see Theresa has her hand though.

Theresa Power-Drutis



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Well, Jake, you have been a wonderful community partner and done so much. I was feeling really blue and still am feeling blue about the fact that you're leaving. The only thing you could do to make it any better would be to have been take your place. So I'm delighted that that choice was made and looking forward to to working with Ben and wherever you go next. Hopefully we will still have some contact. I don't know what that is, but it would be good to see you. I have a question. About your weekend. Program. Do you have mean do you have artistic supplies? Do you have creative ways that people can spend their time while they're there?

Yes, we do. And we're always open to more artistic supplies and creative ways for for the young folks to to express themselves. We so anything that anyone could help us with to keep them going and just to keep their activities moving while we're working to get them housed and to get them employed and get them into education and get them services that they need. We're always welcome.

Theresa Power-Drutis

If somebody in this group does card kits, card making kits, how many would you need for our how many could you use, I guess

Benjamin Feldbush

good question. Jake. Can you answer that

1x amount, I guess. Yeah, I mean, we'd be happy to.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Like if I if I brought 20 Quick 2020 Kids, that would be enough or would you rather have 40 kids?

Yeah, I think we could really easily get go through 20 kits and an in a few groups.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Okay. We'll do.

And I do want to say that Jake, and the team at hype did a phenomenal job. I am blessed and lucky to step into a space with the culture that they have already created the work that they're doing. I'm just another support system bring in a transformative approach. Right behind Jake, who has done such a wonderful job with all the young folks and just with his team, that family that they created over there and the trust that they built with our young folks is what's most that caught my attention is just that family in



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that karate and that just that that community that they created over there, which is beautiful. So I'm blessed to be able to follow after Jake and do whatever I can to hopefully step two feet in his foot. But you know, Jake did a phenomenal job and his team did a phenomenal job. And I'm excited to work with all of them.

Rob Huff

Well, awesome. Sounds like this is a program that's in good hands. So that's awesome to hear. I do see a question in the chat and I'm not sure Jake or Ben which one of you want to address it But Alan Brown has to guess it type center need access to coordinated entry?

Jake Nau

Would we do coordinated entry at height. Awesome.

Rob Huff

All right. Anyone else with questions for Jake and Ben? All right. Not seeing each other any. So appreciate the update and we wish you well and whatever your you're moving on to Jake and we look forward to hearing more from you Ben.

Thank you, Jake and gone too far for me knows I'm gonna keep them close by.

Yeah, thank you. I appreciate it. And I will have some more free time. So I hope to be a more active member of this group. I'm going to be trying to become a middle school teacher. So my education isn't where it needs to be. So it's going to take me a little bit to get there.

Great, so yeah.

Jake Nau

appreciate y'all.

Rob Huff

All right. So the next item on our agenda I wanted to see I wanted to carve out some time for Kathy pick to talk about a an issue related to evictions up in the McKinley area, but I don't see Kathy on the call right now unless she's using a different screen name. Yeah, so we'll see if Kathy shows up later, and we can catch that. Catch her for that part of the meeting. So let's shift over to I know, Laurie Davenport had created a new infographic that she shared with the members of the mailing list yesterday and we



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thought we would carve out a little bit of time for her to talk about this new tool. And so Laurie, I hand it over to you. Great, thank you,

Laurie Davenport

Rob. Morning, everybody. Yeah, we have. First of all, we have three new infographics. I think probably most people have seen them, but I wanted to, in showing it to you in a second I wanted to call attention to the little website that we created with our I don't know what we call ourselves. This is for a media group or we're quite small. It's it's been me and Teresa and Danna Peterson have been the regular members. Rob steps in every once in a while we got Dino last time. We're always looking for people who want to join the ideas is basically to get the message out just to get out information, truth, truth about homeless people, why they're homeless, how they got there, what their problems are, how can we solve it because I think I think you know, everybody, regardless of how much they know or what their position is, or who they are, would like to see the problem solved. So we want we think information is the way to do it. So we created this little website. We've been working on it since last fall. It has a lot of information on it. Now let me share my oops see if I can share my screen Okay, so let me get that smaller so you can see it. Okay, so this is the name of the website. It has different graphics that show up. But the idea is, we've got a link to all of our posts that we've done. It's basically just blog posts. We've got a link to the copperhead comp plan. So we can see what's on the county's website. What's happening with that and we've got a link to safe parking. But here is our latest infographic on the morbidity and mortality of being homeless. Okay, yeah, that's the whole thing. So that's available for you to use in any way you want to. And I was so happy. The other day I was at the summit library doing an outreach event and saw this posted, which was very cool. So because I think we're pretty we're pretty proud of this one trying to just put together you know, why? Why people end up on house there are a lot of reasons for it. A lot of different kinds of people. It can happen to any of us. And then we have our fun sweeps infographic and a whole bunch of other things. If you click on more posts, it goes way back. There's I can't believe what all the effort Teresa's gone to to put all these things together. But there are so many lakes here and so many facts and so much that just want everybody to know about it and take advantage of it, encourage other people look at it. So that's it.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Laurie. That's a lot of work and awesome. Amazing. Yeah, super good, man. Yeah. I know that at one point. We've had a few folks posting these graphics around sites as they're being named as sites for a sweep so that there's an informational effort. I think maybe that's an opportunity. I'll join your next meeting so we can talk about maybe how we can start getting these out and getting more exposure and creating more of a groundswell of understanding and support for the issue. Because I do think there's a real opportunity there.

Laurie Davenport

Great. Thanks. Thank you for the opportunity to show it.



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Rob Huff

Thank you. So let's see the next item on our agenda. Let's see if I have Kathy here. All right, so let's shift over to cue up our breakout conversation for today. And that is Allah. What's that?

Rosemary Powers

Something from Paul, I wasn't sure if you saw her she was wanting to speak.

Rob Huff

Okay. I didn't see it. Paula.

Paula Anderson

Yeah, I just wanted to say really quickly, when Laurie mentioned that those that one was up at the library, I have to tell you, a Pierce County Library System has been connecting with newhope As far as our mobile unit and safe parking. I'm wondering if we need to somehow be intentional about getting a regular representative here at the coalition because what they are doing with our safe parking and our mobile unit is literally bringing out computers for the guests to use. They're bringing out resources, they're bringing free materials, magazines, and books and things of that nature. So that just started. It's fantastic for our guests so I can try and make that contact and have somebody attend this meeting. I just think it were we have a wonderful way to advertise anything that we need to advertise to our homeless guests through this system. So

Rob Huff

yeah, that's fantastic news. And and of course we have had folks from Pierce County Library System present recently. So it's great to hear that, that there's a concerted effort to connect with those who are currently homeless. All right, so thank you for that update. Paula and let's shift now over to take a look at a look back at our conversation from last week and Timothy provided me with a are provided both Garrett and I with a summary document of what we all spoke about last week regarding how we talk about the issue in the community about the issues of substance use and mental health challenges when it relates to our current homelessness crisis, so I can share the document, Timothy if you want to run through it. I think you're muted.

Tim Harris

Yeah, just unmuted myself, I think. Yeah, good. So last week, the question was, how do you talk in the community about the issues of substance use and mental health challenges regarding our homelessness crisis? And I think that what we were hoping to get at with that question is how do we bridge this sort of gap between what we know as homeless advocates and folks who work with homeless people all the time, about the sort of, you know, structural issues and solutions and that sort of thing? With what people are seeing on the street, and how they may be viewing the homeless crisis



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and their own neighborhood. I know that, for example, last weekend, Richard and I went out to the Evergreen site and we were talking to people and that neighborhood. And you know, as we were talking, it's, you know, 1130 on a Sunday morning, and there's like, you know, five guys out there sitting in lawn chairs drinking out of gallon bottles of whiskey. And there were neighbors that we were talking about talking to and while there was, you know, really a surprising amount of sympathy for folks who were outside and in encampments. You know, the thing we kept hearing was, you know, these folks were here for two years ago for chip for two years. And our neighborhood really suffered for that. I like sleeping at night sleeping at night. It's nice, looking forward to be able to do that again, once these people are gone. You know, people who want to be helpful really seriously want to be helpful, but their lives are being impacted in ways that that are difficult for them. So the lead quote on here, something I pulled out from it, and I'll admit it, it was me who said this, and I was the only one who said anything like this. I wasn't going to include it in the notes and then I saw I was the only one who said anything like this. And I decided that it should go in there. It's a credibility issue. The community sees mental health and substance abuse stuff on the street. And we don't want to talk about that because it's stigmatizing. So we say the solution is housing, housing, housing, and they're looking at us like how can they be so close to this and so out of touch with the obvious. So going through this, I kind of put it into the three categories that felt like it broke out to me. One was the perspective from folks who work closely with homeless people on the street and they really kind of focused in on their direct experience, which is, you know, how do you work with the homeless people themselves, they were less interested in the public communication issue and they said things like, you know, nothing really surprising here. But you know, good advice. takes time to build trust with people. Housing First. Put people in the position of entertainment, entertaining the choices that they have us trauma informed care on our autonomy, when you're speaking to clients, motivational interviewing techniques, harm reduction practices, and again, building trust, recognizing that people might not even recognize where they have mental health issues. meeting people where they're at, that was a kind of a through line for all of those comments. And then there was the frustration with damaging stereotypes. And frustration with the sweep. So overall, I think that that was a huge piece of context for talking about this question when we did is everybody's feeling really really frustrated with the sweeps and and just, you know, the useless exercise that is. So you know, people talked about loss of ID the setback that sweets represent for people that it creates harm. Sweets create more trauma, increasing likelihood of drug use. The relationship between healthcare and homelessness. Laurie just did that great infographic around this and all of the infographics that are coming out of states safe streets for all are really helpful for the kind of public communication that people are talking about in in this in the next section. Somebody noting that, you know, homeless, homeless dogs sometimes get more sympathy than then homeless people and the need for places for people to go that seems to be the thing that we always come back to with the sweeps is, you know, unless there's somewhere for people to go, this is just damaging. And then thinking about ways to do public communication around this which we were trying to get at with this question. You know, the issue of building empathy out there. A lot of empathy does exist out there. But you know, it's easy for people to think that people are out there just because they're lazy. And I think again, now, helping people to understand just how hard it is, is really important. This, we have a societal expectation that homeless



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people engage in self improvement, quit drugs, cold turkey, not a reasonable expectation, talking about about that the chicken and egg problem about you know, mental health issues and substance use use issues, leading to homelessness but also homelessness. Leading to mental health and substance abuse. needs to get better at crafting messages to better control the narrative need to get better at enlisting the support of the broader community to help communicating that stability is required to address addiction kind of back to explaining the housing first concept in a way that people can understand it, talking about the importance of homeless prevention, and more training and education about mental health issues. Again, support for Housing First. And I think, you know, just kind of honing in on this. The real issue here is, I think getting better at enlisting support of broader community to help you know, because like going back to those people Richard and I talked to this week, and these are people who were once really frustrated with the situation but at the same time really empathetic and wanting to be part of the solution and how do we bring those people into our work, as opposed to driving them away? And then there were a few books that are recommended. Least of us, that's something that's come up a number of times and this group lately. I put in an interview that was in The Guardian with the author of that that really focuses on homelessness, and a sort of a resource from from Niamey on how to help somebody with mental illness except treatment, that PDF that you can download and look at it looks like a good resource. And that's about it for the rundown.

Rob Huff

Thank you for that, Timothy. So I think this is the start of an important conversation. And and maybe as we start to refine, how we want to do public outreach and education around these issues, we can find a nuanced way to address what everybody sees that that mental health and substance use are, are part of living life on the streets for so many people. And do it in a way that's not stigmatizing. And that still provides a path forward for people rather than an excuse for people to be angry or place blame so we can look forward to that conversation in the future. For today, what we thought we would do is because there's so much conversation about the sweeps we are in the midst of a time where we had one sweep last week, the same people who got swept last week are gonna get swept again from the Evergreen campus. And then we've got the high Lobos situation going on and that's just within the city of Tacoma. So, we wanted to ask the question today and have people talking Breakout Rooms about what are you doing personally in response to the increase in sweeps? And what more do you think the coalition should be doing? Because it's one of the conversations that we have at our steering committee meetings at the safe sites for all meetings that happen on Mondays. There's a lot as you can probably sense there's frustration and a lot of concern. And so we thought we'd carve out some opportunity for folks to talk about it in breakout groups. I will say put everybody in breakouts of five or six folks here now and we can spend the next 15 minutes talking about our topic at hand. I will put it in the broadcast as soon as I send everybody off to the rooms and we'll come back here at 10 o'clock.

<breakout sessions>

Rob Huff



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back everyone. I hope that that was a good opportunity for conversation. Hopefully it was long enough to have a decent conversation on the topic and everybody got a chance to know each other. And I'm gonna mute you for some reason J your mic is still on. Sorry. No problem, no problem. So let's shift over to our regular government updates. And I'm gonna do some reading here for the City of Tacoma because it's a flex day, I think for Caleb, who so he could not join us for today's meeting, but I thought I would share what he emailed to me for the coalition meeting today. A couple of items. Well, there's actually six bullet points. First, he says we're excited to announce our new homeless engagement alternative liaison manager the heal team Javon Carlisle Javon has been a program development specialist with the heal team for the past several months and is excited to take on the new role and help find solutions. I'm gonna real quick okay, um, he also says they're currently recruiting for the heal team and will release job openings as early as next week if people are interested. I'm going to post the link to the job application site for the city in the chat. He did offer an update on the 11th and a high Lobos encampment clean up they've been able to make contact with about 15 people at that site so far. That so far eight have accepted services. And they will begin as we know they're supposed to begin the encampment cleanup today. Although Richard had not seen anything as of this morning. They expect it'll take several days and are working with people to overcome the various challenges that they have with their vehicles. They did. As a reminder post for the camera removal at six and M Street. That cleanup is supposed to take place on Wednesday, June 1. And then he offers a summary of from the community meeting that took place on Wednesday for brotherhood rise and I'd like to offer an opportunity for Gerald and maybe talk about that in a moment. But he mentioned 30 people attended that that community meeting. Lots of engagement from the community about the site. He says the city will begin grading the site on Tuesday, May 31. And the presentation itself will be posted on city website and again I'll post that information in the chat. He also said the Neighborhood and Community Services staff will hold two optional pre proposal meetings for anyone interested in applying for funding during the upcoming 2023 2024 biennium. The meetings will provide the same information including timeline what's needed, how to apply for funding, application and scoring overview and more. The meetings are on June 2 And June 8 And again, I will put that information in the chat. So Gerald, do you want to say anything about the community meeting that took place on Wednesday night?

Gerald Daniels

Sure. Yeah. Thanks Rob for the second. We think it was pretty good turnout, we think we had a good rapport with the community. Overall, I believe the community was pleased with the what we're going to do in the work that we're going to be doing and how we're doing the work. And it was a lot of great feedback from the community. Their concerns. I think we were able to ease their concerns because most of the concerns, same concerns we have right safety and security, particularly with us is location we're in being right here by Park and school. So we were able to comfort those things and the city seems to go on to support us on the things we need to make sure we keep those concerns now but also don't know we're building a emergency stabilization shelter, where we'll be building 16 units, two of which will be for family and the other 14 will be individuals or couples. And it will house up to 35 at a time and we we always want to emphasize that up to 35. Right because it's People's Choice. Everyone



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may not want to come in as we will be offering program that helps get them to the next step of housing and those things like that. But again, it's individual choice where we can bring them in and do individual work with them and they decide to make the decision and set their goals and we help them get through it. We'll be feeding them here from the rise Center, which will be right in front of the encampment to be a secure and safe environment. And yeah, we're pretty excited to get it going. Awesome.

Rob Huff

Well, I'm glad glad the meeting went well and you had sounds like 30 is pretty good attendance. So thank you for that update. Let's shift over to Jeff Rogers. I saw you were in the meeting earlier. Do you have any updates from Pierce County Human Services? Oh and **I don't see Jeff on the call now**. All right. So let's shift over. Do we see? Sorry, I'm bumbling around here. I also don't see Valerie on the call. I don't know if Laurie if you wanted to share anything related to the rental assistance program.

Laurie Davenport

I do know that there is still rental assistance available. People can continue to sign up and get assistance will end sometime this summer. I think the county is going to try to give 60 days notice so that people know when it's going to end and when the new program will start up. We talked about a little bit about the new program last time I think and I don't know any new information about it yet, but they're working on it. And otherwise we just we have a new schedule. Speaking of the awesome Pierce County Libraries, we have a new schedule for June and July will continue to be out their schedule is I'm not sure if it's up to date yet on Pierce County website. But on our housing Justice Project Site all the dates are out there including the dates from World ourselves too. So it's been great to work with the providers. It's been very busy every time we go out. So we're we're still working on it. We're doing great.

Rob Huff

Fantastic, and thanks. Thanks for being here and being able to step in. I know that that's just a tiny piece of your work, but but I'm glad you're able to be here when Valerie can't so let's shift over to updates from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. Jenny you have any updates for us?

Jennie Schoeppe

Good morning, morning, buddy. I'm also one of those people homeless kid up with a kiddo today. So fingers crossed. Screens are babysitting right now. So do what you have to do. Um, I also I just want to say too, I mean, there's been a lot of crazy horrific things happening around around the country. Rosemary sort of spoke to this. Just want to say that I know a lot of parents especially young kids are struggling this week. So my heart is with you if you are having a hard time sending your babies to school. Just want to say that I'm so health department um, so we are seeing increased cases and increased hospitalizations. I think you all probably are aware of that. The CDC recently moved us into the medium community level. We still don't have you know, a return to a mask mandate or anything like



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that. But I would just encourage folks to to make decisions about layering up protection. If you are in a position where you're working with folks in crowded spaces, do what you can to encourage safe practices. Again, there's no mandate, and I know that some folks I've talked to to shelter managers who you know, have to weigh the they have to weigh the the safety the mitigation COVID against the risk of getting in a potential alternate altercation with someone you know, there's there's all kinds of things to consider. But if you're in a position to encourage folks to wear masks, if they can that's that's probably a wise wise way to go our hospitalization rate which is what we look at as a more accurate representation of where things are at versus the case rate because there's lots of problems with that. But our hospitalization rate is up about 78% Since the last data report. We're still not anywhere near that Omicron peak that we experienced, but we're creeping up towards where we were with with the Delta. The Delta cases in last summer. So I'm also I'm hearing from folks it sounds like symptoms of COVID. This this time they're there. There's a lower percentage of cases that are that have loss of taste and smell, which I thought was really interesting. And so what that means to me is that and I'm sure you all experienced this too, but anecdotally like I'm hearing my family has been sick with colds I've heard other people being sick with colds and so what it means is that it may be harder to tell whether you have COVID or you have a cold or you know what, what is it um, so please, testing is still really, really important. I'll share some resources in the chat of where you can find testing. We work with the shelters to get tests, test kits and things like that out there. What else? Yeah, I'll share the testing information. We're seeing influenza, we're seeing flu, so please, getting getting vaccinated for flu if you haven't had your flu shot, and then monkey pox has been on people's minds. So um, I just saw an email this morning from from doh that I haven't had a chance to, to fully digest but I think it was just confirming a case in King County. So there I think as of yesterday, the CDC was saying there about nine nine cases suspected or confirmed across the country including one in King County. That was just confirmed. So what to know about that um, it is there's still very very few cases. Symptoms are like a rash which can be can be confused with other rash you know other viruses that that lead to rash like herpes, syphilis, etc. spreads through body bodily contact, it's there's a higher risk among men who have sex with men, but anyone can be can be affected and infected. So I will drop numbers to call if you are, you know, hear of anything or suspect any problems with folks that you are working with. And I will share Well, I was going to share our provider advisory but it's outdated now. It's a little outdated, so I'll just share sort of a high level summary in the chat. And then finally just wanted to say that we are working really hard internally. There's a mighty group internally here at the HUD TPC HD that's been pushing for increasing our internal coordination communication to serve the population of folks experiencing homelessness and folks like you who are advocates and service providers. And we are looking forward to some changes here in our department that will help us show up, have a coordinated response have one voice and really hopefully help support the Pierce County comprehensive plan moving forward and so just excited to be part of that. Work. You folks have specific questions for me.

Rob Huff

So I see levadas hand up I think she had it up before you started speaking but a lot of did you have something you want to the general question Yes.



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Lavada Kent-Napier

My question was, did you have data on how COVID affect businesses, the after effect? Did you have the data?

Jennie Schoeppe

Can you can you repeat that or Rob, could you repeat

Rob Huff

it? Go ahead levada.

Jennie Schoeppe

You're breaking up a little Nevada.

Theresa Power-Drutis

It's because Pamela's mic is on.

Rob Huff

Okay, let me turn your mic off briefly. Now

Jennie Schoeppe

better Yeah, can you repeat the question about what kind of data you are looking for asking about

Lavada Kent-Napier

how the after effects of COVID after after COVID any data in reference to how is affecting businesses. With employees out sick though employees double A lot of employees are double working, they work two jobs and they get exposed to COVID on one job and then they have to go into quarantine. So they're both businesses. suffer because they don't have the employee and then they have to close down because everybody if the person has COVID and everybody has to go into quarantine.

Jennie Schoeppe

Yeah, we recognize that as an issue. I don't have data at my fingertips on that. And I think that we do produce data on number of outbreaks. And so I can look into and share next week sort of what the trends are looking like in terms of outbreaks in businesses, schools, etc. But there have been increased outbreaks. So the assumption would be that that those things are having more of an impact. Again, I always go back to this to like vaccinations. I mean, there are breakthrough cases and folks who are vaccinated but they're minimal, minimally impactful for most of us. And so, vaccination is really the way the way to go. Because our hospitalizations are really severely negative impacts are seen among those



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who are not vaccinated or who are under vaccinated So, getting your full vaccination series getting boosted, encouraging others to do so. So important.

Lavada Kent-Napier

So my question another question, when you become that sedated and you expose by COVID or you contract COVID You still have to go into quarantine. Am I correct?

Jennie Schoeppe

If you are vaccinated you do not need to quarantine. At this point, you are supposed to wear a mask and encouraged to test after an exposure or after. So if so, if you're exposed to it, you're encouraged to test but not quarantine. If you're vaccinated if you have COVID Ah I don't think I don't think people who are vaccinated need to quarantine or or or isolate at this point, but I will get that answer in the next few minutes and share it with the group. Sorry about that. Things change all the time. But if anybody else knows better than me, I know I'm supposed to be the expert on that. But I will figure that out and share with the group in the next few minutes. Are there other questions for me?

Rob Huff

Pamela did you have your hand up for question for Janney or was that just in general?

pamela

I did. I wanted to know about the heel team. Um, you said the next meeting was like June 2 And June 8, but you're gonna post it though, right?

Rob Huff

Yeah, so I posted in the chat for the encampment cleanup. No, that was a meeting regarding funding opportunities.

I have some clients that need funding opportunities.

Rob Huff

Yeah, this these funding opportunities are particularly for providers that provide services for those clients. So you can see that okay, go back in the chat and I wanted to know, all right, thank you. Okay. And Patricia I see you I have your hand up

Patricia

going back where they talking about the isolation for COVID-19. At this at this point, my understanding is to isolate five days after the show of symptoms, no matter if you're if you're vaccinated, that's my understanding. So yeah, it's still highly contractable and to mitigate that, so thank you.



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Rob Huff

Thanks, Patricia, and we'll wait. I'm sure Jenny will clear that up for us in the chat here shortly. So any other final questions? I don't see anybody from Pierce County Emergency Management on the call. And they can't always attend but wanted to pause for a moment and see if we have anybody here who I'm not recognizing. And I'm not seeing anybody. Patricia, I see your hand up again.

Patricia

I just want to say that they're doing a lot of work and they're doing a lot of work to extend in more rural areas when it becomes to emergency management and disaster. So even though they're silent here, they the reason why they're silent is they're so busy doing stuff. So I just wanted to highlight that. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thanks. All right, so let's shift to the next item on our agenda and this one's gonna be relatively quick. So typically, I give tried to give an advocacy update regarding what folks can do to to I need to get my document up to engage with our political officials. To advocate on behalf of the folks who were so concerned about and this next week, at least for the City of Tacoma, there's not a whole lot to engage around the city of Tacoma has canceled their study session next Tuesday as well as their Tuesday night regular meeting. So, so those opportunities don't exist this week. But I did want to tell folks to put something on their calendar. So on June 9, at 4:30pm, the community vitality and safety committee is going to hear is at least currently scheduled to hear a briefing on the Pierce County comprehensive plan to end homelessness. I think the hope in this briefing is to bring members of that committee along with more information so that the city is more aware of what's in the comprehensive plan to end homelessness, and can integrate that into their thinking regarding the issue of homelessness in Tacoma as well. So that briefing will take place like I said, on June 9 at 4:30pm. And that will be available online. In terms of Pierce County, I wanted to recognize that the Pierce County Council unanimously voted this week to support a safe parking ordinance. And this version of the ordinance includes a pilot that allows up to four civic sites to host safe parking sites. And I see councilmember Ryan Mello is on the call here. I don't know if you wanted to say a word or two about this Ryan

Ryan Mello

shrub. warning everybody just pop in and as often as I can to listen to the conversation and learn. I'm pleased that we approved our interim regulation for safe parking in unincorporated county. Thanks to everyone who weighed in in various ways. It is very impactful to hear from advocates. It is an interim regulation, as Rob reminded us so it has a life of six months. It's a way for us to get a regulation to legalize safe parking relatively immediately. And give us time to put together a permanent regulation. So over the next six months planning staff will be working with the planning commission to put together



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a permanent regulation. I do fully intend for the permanent regulation to be more expansive and more inclusive than the current interim regulation which is pretty constricted, still more constricting, especially as it relates to secular sites. non religious sites around the county. So I'm glad that we were able to get something in place relatively immediately after some stumbles. But there's work ahead over the next six months as we craft a permanent rule that I think is more expensive and more inclusive. So Thanks, Rob.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Councilmember Melo, and it's my understanding that the county executive has has said that he is willing to sign this version of the legislation Correct.

Ryan Mello

That's my understanding as well. Okay, great.

Rob Huff

Teresa, I see you have your hand up.

Theresa Power-Drutis

This question is for you, Ryan. First of all, congratulations on pushing that onward and I watched some of the awkwardness at the meeting. So I'm glad it all sorted out. I also want to make a request that before you make a permanent policy that someone possibly you but someone from the county come to our safe sides for all meeting to discuss some of our concerns about what might what might be the restrictions they get put in there that changed the current situation. For people who are doing this as religious organizations. And if there's going to be no impact on the Washington State law that allows this, if nothing will change about that if suddenly people won't be required to pay permit feeds and so forth. We'd like to just know about that and make sure it's explicit in the new regulation. So it'd be good to have somebody show up and talk with us and our meetings are posted right on the coalition website, say sites for all and please feel welcome anytime. And if we know someone's coming, we'll be prepared to speak specifically on that topic.

Ryan Mello

Thank you, Teresa. I'll ask our planning staff to be sure to work with you to as an interested party as they craft their permanent regulation. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Perfect, and I see Jeffrey with his hand up as well.

Jeffrey Boyce



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Councilman mellow. I just want to make sure having had my hands on 17 set before and trying to and also one of the writers. I just want to make sure that whatever the county does, does not interfere with the structure of 1754 in regards to religious organizations, being able to post safe parking. Thank you. Yeah. Keep that in mind, please, because that will create some problems. Thank you.

Rob Huff

All right. So thank you so much for being here. Councilmember mellow, and hopefully we haven't scared you away. Good. All right. So next on our agenda today is an update on the Pierce County comprehensive plan to end homelessness. I don't have anything new to offer today but I will offer that at the beginning of at the beginning of June, the first Friday in June. The Advisory Board for the comprehensive plan will be meeting holding its monthly meeting. I'll report back from that meeting regarding what's what new developments are underway. But one of the things that are on the agenda that's on the agenda for that meeting on the first Friday in June, which will be next Friday is the charter for the advisory board itself. So I know that's a bit wonky stuff, but I'll let you I'll translate it and and let you know what's coming out of that work and what the latest update is. Sally, I see your hand up.

Sally Perkins

Here. The county has released the RFP for the consultant to help with the design of the Unified regional structure and it's due the proposals are due back to the county on June 10. Very tight turnaround. But the copy of the RFP is on the Human Services website. Anybody who wants to see it.

Rob Huff

Thank you for that. So next item on our agenda would be an update from the safe sites for all committee. I know Jan is not here. And Edie is not here. Anyone else from the committee who would like to offer a quick update. I know I attend those too, but I talked too much. Yeah, Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

I talked too much too. But I Here it is. There's a lot of work we're doing around the distribution of emergency supplies. And and working out. Exactly. This last week we talked about what would be the trigger points from our perspective, and we're pushing those forward. I will give you an update after we have a conversation with the county about that. But the idea is setting up this network of distribution for when the heat does hit, which who knows when and if it will hit this year but if it does, we want to be ready for it. So a shout out to all of the folks who've been working on this both the distribution plan and and the plan of trying to get people together. But one of the things that is still in the works is the mapping of making sure we know where people are so that when we're distributing these emergency supplies, we know where to send them. And the volunteers who are willing to kick into gear when the heat gets to a certain level or in the winter when the chill gets to a certain level and help us get the things out that are going to help people survive. So if you're one of those people and like to be involved,



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come on and join us in the meeting or send Jan a text or edit text. We're happy to have you on board, Verna. Oh, you're muted.

Verna Lilly

For me, I have the chat up on the big full screen and so I couldn't get to the button to unmute myself. But I'd be happy to be a content along with you. Perfect.

Rob Huff

All right, so any other coalition committee updates so we need to share with the larger group today, rosemary, anything come to mind?

Rosemary Powers

Nothing today. Thanks, Rob.

Rob Huff

Okay, so that that opens up time for some good trouble announcements. Anybody have anything that would be that they'd like to share with the larger group? Donald did I see you raising your hand there? Okay. Anyone else who wanted to share anything with the group for this week? Timothy? Thank you.

Tim Harris

So I know that I've been threatening to start a street newspaper for quite some time here. And I've decided that I'm just going to stop letting excellent get in the way of good and get a street paper on the street in about a month or so. Any way that we can we've actually got a prototype of the dignity city in the can that we plan on tweaking endlessly over the next month and there is a lot of organizing to get this thing going. And what I would like to do is form a little Advisory Committee of folks who have been in Tacoma for a while and can basically pitch in and help me get this thing done mostly in the form of advice. And connections. So if you're interested in helping dignity city, get off the ground, we're looking at a first issue coming up basically, June 30. I'm going to put my email and the chat and let me know that you're interested in Ben and I will be in touch.

Rob Huff

fantastic news. That's awesome. All right, rosemary, I see your hand up.

Rosemary Powers

So I just wanted to reinforce an earlier announcement. I put it in the chat. As a reminder, Shereena put in early in the meeting that there's a recent food resource and market that's coming tomorrow. It's every second and fourth Saturday from 10 to two and it's at 4819 sells 12. So anybody can come and get things that they need. And if you are represented organization who you might have clients who aren't able to come you can come yourself and get things for people. So it's a really great group. And so I



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encourage people to show up and they're also looking for anybody to volunteer to help them so if that's something you're like you'd like to do, that's possible too. So thanks very much.

Rob Huff

I think you and anyone else with items that they want to share for the good of the order I see I see Richards camera has come on

the the city had revisited 11th and marine View Drive and told them that they will be clearing them out on Tuesday, not today.

Rob Huff

Okay. That's a helpful update and that makes a lot of sense. I see Theresa and then Donald has his hand up.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Just a quick thing. I forgot about the holiday weekend. We are not meeting Excuse me. I was inviting people to the safe sites for all meeting. We're not meeting this Monday. We'll be meeting the next Monday. So just an update.

Rob Huff

Thanks, Teresa. And Mr. Pitchford.

Don Pritchard

50 cities on 66 in Furman the food bank hours is every other Saturday and we give out food to families boxes. And then when we when we close we have also boxes of dry food and things like that. So anybody can come families or what have you. Counseling are whatever they need.

Yeah, where are your hours? And what

Don Pritchard

time I'm in the morning. We start at around eight o'clock and we go until people stop coming. Thank you.

Rob Huff

And Stacey asked in the chat, Donald which organization is that again?

Don Pritchard



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That's how superior foundation. Perfect.

Rob Huff

Thank you and thank you for being here. Yes. Anyone else was items for the good of the order. And you can always use the chat for those as well. So I do encourage if you have want to offer feedback on today's meeting, please use the chat and you can send that to me directly or you can send it to the entire group. Let us know what works and what didn't today. I know today's meeting is a little different than usual because we knew we were going to have a smaller gathering with the holiday weekend coming so just to wrap up today's meeting, like to offer an opportunity if anybody has any success stories that they would like to share. Yeah, Jeffrey

Jeffrey Boyce

go to the Veterans Village. Go getting a good luck at it. It is a wonderfully setup. The city did a pretty good job. It took six months but it's pretty good job. They have guests in there now and looking for more veterans. But it's a good it the concept is right. I mean that's the only thing I can say is the concept is right 25 to 30 people, keep it small, provide security and just provide love and support for anybody who comes in. But I highly encourage everyone to go out and visit

Rob Huff

I'm sure Monique would be glad to see us Yeah, Donald I see your hand up I had done

Don Pritchard

this, you know had a stroke. I got shared memory thing. I lost you. Okay, sorry about that. If it

Theresa Power-Drutis

comes back tell us a success story. Oh,

Don Pritchard

yeah. Thank you. So, both of our assistant managers. One has been there for four years. And you know has a beautiful job on the border. And so he's moving into his own apartment in Seattle. And it's closer to his job 20 minutes to the job and so I'm just really proud of both of my assistant managers. My assistant manager he got back with his wife and his and his son. And so they have an apartment and they don't read very well. Very well and just proud of

Rob Huff

them. That is a great note to end today's meeting on so I want to say thank you to everyone for joining us. Today and I wish everybody a safe Memorial Day weekend. If you have an interest in the ability to hang out, we are going to have a small group of us planning for upcoming meetings. That meeting will



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commence here in about five minutes but to everyone else. Wish you a safe holiday weekend. We'll see you all next week.