



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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SPEAKERS

Christine Lindquist, Patricia, Alfred Kirk, Jeffrey Boyce, CC Mendoza, Jennie Schoeppe, Jay Warley, Gerrit Nyland, Rian, Rob Huff, Andrea, Theresa Power-Drutis, Joe Perva, Kenneth King, Brittany, Mireya Borunda, Rosemary Powers, Carolyn Weisz, Thomas Breitenbauch, Tim Harris, Janet Runbeck, Jenny Lorton

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Rosemary Powers

Thank you everyone for allowing me this opportunity to address you so often. This morning. I have two things on my mind in my heart. One is rain and the other is the January 6 committee. House investigation. And so first the rain in the spring late spring of 1978 while hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail and the High Sierra experienced many days with rain showers. Not so much at night. But enough times in anticipation of all night rain. We dug a trench around our small tent to encourage the water to go somewhere else than in our sleeping bags. It didn't always work and waking in the middle of the night with soggy socks. Half wet bag. It was literally chilling to the bone. I was walking for adventure. I could have backed out but yesterday is the rain poured down. I can only think of our homeless tenting neighbors who might right now have soggy socks, soggy bags, and maybe soggy everything and even with the sun peeking out this morning nowhere to dry it out. I found in a quick Google search that the human body can lose 25 to 30 times more heat when it's in contact with cold wet objects than in dry conditions or with dry clothing. So while the rain keeps our region temperate unveiling glorious green glow growth it damages those living on the street was increased morbidity and shorter life expectancy until we have adequate housing. We need more plans to help in the rain as well as the heat and the



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cold. So if you have ideas would like to talk about what you're doing or what we might do more together, just let us know. And now about the January 6 hearings. It's a different kind of showing to the bone. But as I watched and listened to the testimony and to the video evidence, I was shocked all over again and left feeling deeply angry and sold troubled and more so knowing as any Twitter follower would know that the fox channel or on TV was not going to cover this news but instead hosted a commercial free tag team of commentators casting the hearings as boring democratic propaganda. So what to do other than watch and worry about our democracy. But I got a little inspiration from early psychologists Carl Jung, he was responding to a woman who asked his advice on how to live and he urged her to consider whether she wanted to go her own path or follow some authority. He said if you want to go your individual way, it's the way you make for yourself which is never prescribed which you do not know in advance and which simply comes into being of itself when you put one foot in front of the other. If you always do the next thing that needs to be done, you will go most safely and sure footed Lee along the path prescribed by your unconscious. If you do with conviction, the next and most necessary thing. You're always doing something meaningful. So I invite you to greet this day with me a day with a little sunshine doing for rain or for national recognition, the next thing the next best thing that needs to be done. So welcome to our open table where we welcomed diverse perspectives on how we might work together to end homelessness. As we meet just to remind you of a couple of our norms for reading together. If you're if you're not speaking, we ask that you keep yourself on mute. So we minimize background noise. And if you're doing other things to stop your video as well, if that's something you're able to do, excuse me. So we also have more focus on our time together. We also use the chat as a place for networking. If you're new to the coalition today. Just know you can ask any questions there and people will be responding. We have a wide variety of resources in the room and people have often answered questions in unexpected ways. So we ask as you talk together that you think about the space you're taking or the space you're not taking. We have almost 50 people here today and if everyone had a chance to speak as long as I have spoken, we would not be out of here for a while. So remind ourselves to be inviting others to speak and sharing our ideas in the chat if we've already spoken. I think I will stop there for today in terms of community norms, and do others next week. So if there's somebody here who's new today, we'd like to say hello, just let us know. If you're associated with a group or or if you're just here to find out what we're doing. So you can unmute yourself or or raise your hand. That's the other thing I forgot to say is to raise your hand when you're wanting to be recognized. So sorry for forgetting that. Anyway, I'll stop now and see if some folks are new and would like to say hello

Mireya Borunda

right. Hey, good morning, everyone. My name is Anita. Yeah, that and I'm with Molina Healthcare. I just noticed that there's this meeting and I was just wanting to listen in and learn more about the services. I'm here to support in any way I can. And I'm fairly new so I'm just hearing and listening and making sure if there's an opportunity to support through Molina Healthcare. I'll make sure to volunteer. Thank you. Thank you. Yeah, thank you.



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Rosemary Powers

Thank you, Maria. It's wonderful to have you with us and there'll be lots of opportunities. So your work is really important. So thanks for coming.

Thomas Breitenbauch

Well, my name is Thomas Wright. I'm from beacon Health Options. So we can help now house a housing program and also a homeless outreach program. And so just we do, we are the ASL for Pierce County. So we will hopefully want to be involved in addressing homelessness in our community. So I here to learn

Rob Huff

and to meet.

Rosemary Powers

Wonderful to have you Thomas. And I'm sure we'll be contacting you soon about letting us know a little more about your process and Teresa is raising her hand there. She's the one they'll be contacting you. So you might be in touch over the chat.

Rob Huff

Great, thank you.

Brittany

Hi, my name is Brittany. I'm an RN and I'm taking a BSN course and community health is a big part of that and I was just here really to learn and see what kind of options are out there and learn more about what's going on. So

Rosemary Powers

thank you wonderful. Thank you for coming. Brittany look forward to talking with you too. All right. So if there's anyone else who's new today, who'd be interested in in doing some networking, use the chat to put your information in and how do people contact you and what you're interested in knowing more about and someone will likely follow up. So Rob, back to you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Rosemary. And thank you welcome everyone who's new to the meeting. And it's great to see 50 Plus folks here on this Friday morning. So let's kick off with the section of this meeting that we do every week. That's updates on what people are seeing out on the streets. As a reminder, the last couple of weeks we've talked a lot about sweeps happening within the city of Tacoma. So any updates on what's happening at 11th and high Lobos, for instance where the RVs were supposed to be being



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moved. anything along those lines would be helpful and just raise your hand as I see Jeffrey has done so Jeffrey, go ahead

Jeffrey Boyce

I all I can say is the 34th and Pacific encampment is pretty much self run. It's an experiment. They're parts. They're learning the hard way sometimes how to manage their own camp. But they're doing well. They have asked for a no vacancy sign on their camp, so they don't get anybody else. I was down on high Lobos on Saturday and pretty much everybody was still there. I didn't see too many people moved on and the mound is grown a little bit and they're trying to be quiet. Very quiet. And veteran's village is thriving.

Rob Huff

Thank you very much. All right. Thank you Jeffrey. And Richard. I see you have your hand up as well.

Rian

Yeah. Not so much on marine View Drive this week. I did get some for gas cards from St. Vincent that I distributed to give people some gasoline to help get them moving down there. And the thing that I'll be watching for next is the Port of Tacoma is announcement that they may spend upwards up to \$300,000 to put concrete barriers on Milwaukee way which will displace a number of the vehicular campers there. I've reached out to the one of the port commissioners and staff as well. Haven't heard back I've got a call saying they will call but I haven't heard but we'll make the suggestion that perhaps an acre of land and that \$300,000 could be spent more effectively than on concrete barriers. So still, we'll hold holding to see what happens there.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Richard. Okay, anyone else with updates on what they're seeing on the streets this week? And Jeffrey, your hand still up there you go. Great. Okay. So it sounds like a relatively slow week. Obviously, I I'm very, I take to heart Rosemarys comments about how folks are sure to be quite wet out there today. So sure if if people have the ability to take dry socks and and that kind of thing to folks they encounter on the street here over the next day or two. I'm sure that it'll be much appreciated. And I see vertha your comment in the chat. Thank you very much for adding those words to our contemplation for this morning Berta All right. So I know Joe Purva from Lehigh wanted to offer an update on a couple of items here this morning. So since we have a little bit of extra time in our on the streets section Joe, do you like to do that now?

Joe Perva

Thank you, Rob. And thank you everyone for just a short moment of your time. I just had to add a few things that I wanted to share some exciting news that are coming down the pipeline. Like Lehigh is looking at mine, the Candlewood suites and Lakewood, which will have 83 rooms for families and



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singles with children. So I'm super happy to hear that I'm always a big fan, especially when they get family shelters another very much needed. And another amazing thing announcement AIDS is that we are looking at the Heron hotel and Tacoma. That one is going to be kind of split and it'd be 55 rooms of permanent supportive housing and 31 rooms. For low wage workers. So I just kind of wanted to give an update of that just something that's you know, coming down the pipeline to get super exciting and so I'm super happy to hear that so I just wanted to be able to share that information with you. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Great Joe, do you have a sense of when either of those projects would become I mean, when they're projected to maybe become available?

Joe Perva

Yeah, so I know that I knew that a lot of those kinds of questions are gonna pop up. I was gonna put my information in the chat because I don't have the exact dates and so on. But I know that this is in pipeline. So I definitely want to throw it out there because I know you know, it's, especially with the weather and everything you know that you know I wanted to kind of let people know that this is what some things that we're working on.

Rob Huff

And you'll you might notice in the chat, Heather's asked if you could just put that brief information in the chat as well. That'd be helpful. Absolutely. Perfect. Anyone else with quick questions for Joe? All right, thanks. Thanks for being here. Joe. Thanks for the update and and the commitment to helping shelter in house people in our community.

Joe Perva

Thank you very much.

Rob Huff

All right. So the next item on our agenda is I know Richard Dorsett, you made a visit to Spokane earlier this week. And you shared I think, was some of us on your the group of folks who you email have a few thoughts of what you learned from that visit, but I thought it'd be good to spend a few minutes this morning, if you would to share what you learned about camp camp hope in Spokane. Sure. And

Rian

and some of the things I've done recently, most of what I've known about homelessness has been in Tacoma and Pierce County. So last month we headed down to San Diego came back up to California and Oregon visiting homeless encampments, meeting with advocates and finding out what was going on. So I was able to experience what's happening in Los Angeles, Bakersfield, San Francisco, Sacramento, Medford and onwards. But I learned about this encampment over in Spokane. I get the



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updates and notices now for the Spokane Coalition on Homelessness that I would commend to people. It's a way to see beyond just what we have here. And what I had hoped to do was expand my knowledge of what was going on out there. And so that's that was part of the purpose of my trip that went on over to Spokane because what I had heard was that they had a very large encampment on State department of transportation property and on the heels of the sweep of the 705 and being told that that's unavailable to do a permitted campground. I was wondering, well, what the heck is going on over in Spokane? So there's sort of some interesting history to it. I think it's pre COVID. There was an encampment in Spokane. That was swept and it reestablished itself at city hall in downtown Spokane. And that wasn't very popular. And then the, they resettled over on a piece of DOD property that had been acquired, housing had been torn down. And then ultimately the freeway project that was going to go through that piece of property was not built, so there were some parcels. So this is the first it's I would say it's a non permitted no barrier encampment that I've seen. And it's very interesting. It started out with a couple of 100 people, but their current census is just under 500, running 565 to 500 or 465 to 485. It's on a large were blocked. It is has police presence from the perimeters. So there's none of the none of the typical thing where derelict vehicles and drug dealing and other activity that they've come down pretty hard on that. And so you're either either in the property or or it's kept clean of other activities going. It's not permitted. It's not a permitted loud encampment. But D O T has made the decision not to make everybody leap, but there's kind of a interesting arrangement going on there. It has, among other things, a there's a road that goes to the middle of the encampment, that's a fire lane, which is interesting. Yesterday or Tuesday with Monday when we were there, whether they brought in a couple of large I think they're 3000 gallon water containers that will be supplied twice a week by a local contractor. They wanted to go that route rather than having 1000s of water bottles distributed around the facility. They've got a dozen porta potties, they have some sanitation. Garbage picked up we walked the perimeter and then through the encampment this on sanctions, low barrier encampment is cleaner than pretty much any encampment that I've seen in Tacoma and Pierce County they keep it clean. There are there's a I wouldn't call it an office tip but there's a place where they can store food. They have weekly visits with medical teams COVID COVID services. As I mentioned, the police presence, they have weekly pet care also that goes on. So it's quite a lot of stuff going on there in and on. I mean, formerly it's an unpermitted St. campground, but it works quite well. And it allows advocates to get in there service providers to get in there and work with the people that are in the encampment. I think that the city from what I hear over there is keenly aware that where they just decided to shut this down, they would have roughly 500 people moving back into downtown to Spokane so that I think they're reluctant to go that route. Point is after five years of having an emergency of homelessness declared in Tacoma we have yet to have a permitted campground of that nature, anywhere in our city. And it's a shame because right now we have by my estimate, three to 400 people that have been displaced that are moving about the the one other note, I guess I would make with in terms of the headcount, the almost 500 People in this camp hope is about half of the point in time count for the county of Spokane. So we regardless of skepticism of those numbers, overall, they are estimating about half of their point in time count numbers are able to fit into that one property that one encampment that is low barrier. And is seems to be functioning quite well. Finally, I guess too, if you



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check out the Spokane coalition, I don't have the actual lake in front of me but Marie Smith who I get the information regular information from out of Spokane is also doing documentary work on Camp hope and other interviews in Spokane if you want to know what's going on over in the Inland Empire, so that's kind of a quick wrap on what I what I saw on what I know and kind of wish for with it, we'd have something similar for Tacoma Pierce County.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Richard, do you have do you have a couple of moments for some questions? Oh, sure. Yeah, absolutely. Yeah. And just so folks know I did just post the link to the Spokane Homeless Coalition website on on the chat. So. So I have a question and then Theresa, I see your hand up. One that I have for you though Richard is so is it your understanding there's any kind of agreement with wash wash dot about the use of the site or is it kind of vulnerable to you know, a decision happening on the part of washed out that they've turned their a blind dye so far but could change momentarily.

Rian

I think it's a blind eye and an informed I don't think there's a formal agreement. I think it's informal. It could change. It could change but it serves a function for the city in the county of Spokane. And while D O T. Probably would prefer not to have it. It appears at least for right now. There's no move to eliminate it. And there was also additional self management there brought in some security cameras this last week. And so they're trying to self manage. And I think if they were to change their mind and move everybody off, there would be quite a disruption in the City of Spokane.

Rob Huff

Yeah, because one of the reasons I asked is I know that, that there's a governor, an initiative by the governor to create funding opportunities for counties and municipalities and potentially not nonprofits to do cleanups and provide some sort of offer of alternative shelter in rights of way along, washed off properties. And that's something that's happened. Happening meetings are happening about it currently. So so what I was wondering is whether you know, as that project moves forward from the governor's office, if what you experienced at Camp hope is kind of precarious because of that additional funding

Rian

that did come up. I was a little surprised with the encampment. I had heard that it was on next to it 90 And I was expecting something similar to our our 705 situation, and it's not that at all. And it's unlike a lot of the 1200 right away issues with the department transportation or under bridges and on freeway structures. This is actually an open field. It's it's probably a few 100 yards away from i 90. And so those issues of preventing people DLT people from doing maintenance and checking electrical boxes and stuff like that, none of those issues seem to come up with where camp cope is located. So it's quite, there is a difference between, say 705, which was literally under a freeway structure. A lot of the people



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that are under bridges and that sort of situation and what can't hope is so again, it could change quickly, but some of those reasons that the governor has that authority don't seem to be president with camp hope. Got it. Thank

Rob Huff

you, Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So, Richard, it's like having our own investigative reporter going out in the world and bringing news back to us. I really appreciate that. I have I'm wondering about a couple of things. One is you talked about the security cameras and the porta potties and some sanitation and garbage collected is the city of Spokane paying for those things. Do you know? The

Rian

they're picking? No, they're paying for the porta potties. And the garbage collection. They do need larger garbage cans, the water it's a group called shuls it's a day it's a day facility in Spokane that I think they went out and somehow acquired the water containers. The cameras I don't know about that. So yeah, some of this stuff is taken care of by the City of Spokane. The police presence they did not have Spokane police department it was a Chevy Malibu that the police officer was in. But he was he had a badge and was looking to see the legitimate police officer when he told me to move. But so some some of all of the above and then Advocacy Service Providers are bringing food and fair at seeming fairly comfortable engaging with the people that are there. So services can be provided as well. And again, that would come from I don't know maybe Spokane Health Department safer COVID But it seems like a lot of people are getting in there. It's 500 people and there's a lot of people in this encampment.

Theresa Power-Drutis

And that brings me to my second question. It's like amazing to me that they don't mean when you talk about self self management. I wonder how unstructured it is because it sounds like they're not having any fires. They're not having human trafficking. They're not having sort of the problems we have every time our cameras get bigger people start using them as places to stash stolen goods and the whole neighborhood goes to sort of wildness so how how do they do that with self managing is clean. I mean, that's just a miracle.

Rian

They I don't know how they keep it clean. But as we walked through there, it just wasn't the kind of garbage that I'm used to seeing in an encampment people. If you have garbage cans and places to put it in a city that will pick up and get rid of the garbage. That campers the people in the Campement tend to try and keep their places clean. So that goes on. They do have little fire pits throughout the



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encampment for cooking. I heard of one fire but there have not a lot of fires. I mean they certainly whenever there's fire you can have an outbreak. The self governance I can check more on that. I don't know of a governance structure. So I would use the word self managed rather than self governed. I don't know that there's a structure for governance just yet, but it's a pretty dense encampment, frankly, but it seems to be working. They if somebody comes in and needs a spot there are like we were there. Marcel was talking to people say hey, there's a spot over in that quarter of the property. And helping direct people to where they can go. So it's it's like I say this is the first low barrier encampment that I have gone to. No barrier encampment that I have gone to. And it seems to be working quite well for what they need. We also visited an addiction, drug drug treatment facility that was similarly no barrier. Unlike places that requires sobriety, they'll take all comers and their goal was to reduce use, rather than saying no use and so a couple of innovative programs we were able to see over there.

Rob Huff

Great. Thanks, Richard. And I saw a couple of hands up. Andrea, I know you've had your hand up. Did you want to ask a question? I know you put it back down.

Andrea

Oh, sure. I actually work in Spokane with pathways to Washington and I don't work with the chronic street homeless population anymore, but I can honestly say that I think there's some differences in the population between the west side of state and east side of the state. I know that I was never I never felt scared walking around with three homeless you know, we would usually go in pairs or something like that, but then I would go visit Seattle and I'd be like, oh, I need to get out of the street. I I don't feel safe right now. So it's not at it's a rough crowd. But I don't think it's as frightening as people you have to deal with over there. So that could be why the camp is better able to self managing itself. It's a different, different culture, I would say.

Rob Huff

And Jay, you had a comment you wanted to make as well.

Jay Warley

I think the largest point to make here is that they are not constantly slept, they do not live underneath the same fear mongering. They do not have the same treatment or aspects. They have a different set of material necessities that are being met. And they have a higher quality of life. All of those things are categories that we are missing for our homeless in large cities, the treatment of how we treat people the way that we interact with them, the amount of services that are provided and their constant displacement versus being left alone and allowed to thrive are the biggest differences between those two things. Not to mention differences from city structure to being out in Spokane, which is kind of like a smaller city in a much larger area with a less dense population around it. So their resources are drastically different from our own. All of those things combined are going to create a completely



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different atmosphere that we could try to imitate but we have to stop the sweeps. We have to stop the way that we're treating them and you have to stop the community almost level of abuse towards the Homeless Action. Oh, thank you, Jay

Rob Huff

for that perspective Well, I appreciate you sharing what you learned Richard and and let's stay in touch. I know that Teresa brought up the the idea of inviting some folks from the Spokane coalition to participate in an upcoming meeting and I think that's a great idea to hear their perspective on on Camp hope and what's happening in Spokane. So we can reach out. Good, thank you. Yeah, great. So let's shift to our major topic we wanted to discuss today and that is to do something that we haven't done for a while so it's been I think it's been since like 2020 that we last did a basic coordinated entry 101 sort of overview. And I think the last time it was done, Garrett did the overview and he was not yet working for the county when that happened. So we wanted to we thought it might be a good idea to talk about how coordinated entry works, especially for folks who haven't been with the Coalition for that long. And Jenny Lorton from the inside passages has offered to provide an kind of overview for folks and so we thought we would open that opportunity. And then I know Carolyn Weiss has joined us as well wanted to share some information at the end of the presentation, so I hand it over to you, Jenny.

Jenny Lorton

Good morning, everyone. Um, yeah, so I'm going to talk a little bit about coordinated entry and then I also wanted to explain our referrals and matching process because they think that that's always kind of a little bit of a mystery to everyone how do people receive a referral for a subsidized housing program, Rapid Rehousing, permanent supportive housing. So my referrals and matching team is here as well, to help take some questions as well. So I'm going to share my screen okay, so um, first and foremost, I am going to share this is the most recent information that has been pulled out of Hemis. So this is a coordinated entry. We have a monthly meeting with a team of folks. It's a coordinated entry Improvement Process Improvement meeting. So we have a lot of conversation about data that we're seeing. Come out of him this is our Homeless Management Information System. So think of it like our centralized database. So everyone who comes into coordinated entry, their information gets loaded into that system. So this is a snapshot of the most recent activity for all the households who have access services through coordinated entry. The main thing that I'm going to point out here is this nifty little pie chart. And what we are seeing is a shift in the system. For those who are first time homeless. We used to see a lot of activity here in the lighter color, which was people accessing the system multiple times. So we had worked with them maybe provided some services, maybe not provide some services. And so they will be coming back through the system multiple times. We've seen a huge shift here. You can see this as the larger part of the pie. It's the first time they've ever been homeless. And I certainly have some thoughts on that, but I'm sure you all do. as well. And then you'll see the little scribble chart as I'm going to call it down here that shows new episodes by week and so you'll see kind of the peaks and valleys there. You'll see that this goes down substantially here. And that could just be kind of a fluke, is what I'm going to say. It doesn't necessarily mean that we have less homelessness coming into the



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system because that's not accurate. It just means that for whatever reason, there was a shortage of individuals or households coming into the system that given week. Or it could also mean that the data didn't get uploaded that week, and then the next week we're going to see it spike back up. This map over here is showing you where homeless households are saying that they stayed the night before they have their conversation. So you can see there's a large majority in Tacoma proper, which I think we all kind of understand. But we do have households scattered around the county. So there are those who are in our more outlying areas. And so it's really great when I sit in this meeting to hear folks that are in these outlying areas doing some of this really great work because we do have households in all of those areas. Any questions on that? Before I move on to the next piece?

Rob Huff

I'm not seeing any hands raised.

Jeffrey Boyce

KENNETH King has his hand up

Rob Huff

Oh, Christine does too. I was just wondering,

Kenneth King

I was just wondering if, if we have an idea of how many people might not be returned to services because they're not adequate at this time.

Jenny Lorton

I'm sorry, because they're not adequate at this time. At this time. That's a hard one to capture. Because if they're not returning to services, then we haven't, unfortunately been able to have a conversation with them to understand where the gaps in the system truly are, unless they're being captured by our outreach teams. If our outreach teams you know are out there and they find them and they're able to have that conversation, then they would get, you know, loaded back into hummus and that conversation would be in there. There's not a question through that conversation that asks about struggles with services or anything like that. So it wouldn't be a data point that would be captured. It would just be something organically that would come through a conversation. But we're definitely taking that feedback as well. Christine, yeah, go ahead.

Christine Lindquist

Yeah, thank you, Jenny. I'm so happy to have this information. This is really helpful. So I'm just wondering about the whole the whole database system, like where is that housed, and who manages it and, you know, all that piece?



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Jenny Lorton

The county, so the county managers Hennis, and they are the ones responsible for the database, the administration a bit, issuing licenses to all of us who have access to the system and doing the training on how to utilize it all of that the county Thank you. Sure. Janet,

Janet Runbeck

Janet Oh show when we are 333 plus 675. So for the month of May, that was 1008 points. Are any of those representing families with a single number and that represent more than one person is one question. And the other question is of the 1008. Does that represent the entire number of folks persons experiencing homelessness that touched the hem a system that month?

Jenny Lorton

You are correct, yes, it is going to represent families. The data that we track is based on head of household. So the head of household is one of those numbers and then one of those numbers could be to your point, a family of say font if right, so it's not the number of heartbeats that have come into the system. JAY

Jay Warley

I actually have two questions that are kind of along the same lines. One, we have all been there'd been a lot of groups questioning how many people have been incarcerated, that become homeless? Is that information in the system? And likewise is the information in the system of how many people have been blocked from services because of behaviors or rejection from a site because of negative incident, so that we can see how many people aren't allowed at a certain place or how many places a person can no longer go to blocking them from services besides just I don't want to go there, or they're inappropriate for me, but also, then not allowed to be back because of behavior and otherwise or incident.

Jenny Lorton

So let me answer your first question. Those coming out of incarceration. There are a couple of questions that are asked during that coordinated entry conversation. We call it a Creative Conversation. There are a couple that are asked about criminal history. They're very specific because it's data we collect for the housing authorities. So we know that when we're going to do a referral if they would be eligible for a Tacoma Housing Authority funded project as an example. So it's Have you been convicted of manufacturing methamphetamine. Have you been convicted of a sex offense? So they're pretty specific questions? Not necessarily. Are you transitioning out of institution? It's not necessarily that specific of a questions or capturing some of that data. But everyone who comes into coordinated entry is eligible for a conversation so they can certainly come in request services, have a creative conversation, and then we're capturing some of that data during the conversation. The second piece is blocked from services as an example, I think you're asking like, have they been banned from a shelter,



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for example, that is not necessarily logged in Hemis, so all of us in the system wouldn't see that but for an example, my navigators at inside passages, if we want to try and connect over someone over to nativity house, and they've been banned from services, it's a phone call we have to make in that's kept with the shelter. So the shelter will say we need to just make sure that they're able to come to us right, and the shelter would have to look it up within their internal system to know. Did that answer your question?

Jay Warley

It did. Thank you. You're welcome. Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

This this is a follow up question. Today's question. I I understood that the basically the first conversation that that people were during that time, if they didn't have a diversion, I'm trying to trying to use your language that they didn't have a creative solution that wasn't about being involved with coordinated entry that you worked on a priority list and I I understood that one of those things was about being institutionalized that that was considered one of those barriers to receiving housing as am I reading that wrong.

Jenny Lorton

So that's kind of the next thing I want to go into with all of you is what that process flow looks like through the system. So that's the next piece that I want to show everyone. I'm actually not going to pull up the next slide. I'm just going to talk you through it. So when an individual or household wants to, you know access services, they are going to access a coordinated entry point. So you can come to PC homeless.org, which you're all familiar with. To access this meeting. In the green top toolbar, there is coordinated entry locations, you can go there and you can direct people to any of these Coordinated Entry sites, or they can call 211. When they call 211211, we'll do a quick screening with them to make sure that they're eligible for services and then 211 can schedule a coordinated entry appointment for them. Or on the flip side of that, they can go to any of these physical locations that are listed here. There's quite a few as you can see, or if they end up having contact with one of our outreach teams, the outreach teams can also do that conversation. So the conversation happens. It's a pretty extensive conversation. It's about an hour to an hour and a half, so it's very in depth very thorough. The CEE specialist is going to walk through what their current situation is, what their previous history with homelessness is, they're going to collect their general demographic information. And they're going to talk about some of the things that all of you have just referenced, previous institution information, criminal history, information. All of those things are considered barriers within our system. They are going to initially have a conversation about diversion if the household believes that they have a deliverable solution which would be diverting them out of our homeless system. What that means is, do they need just a one time financial assistance to build their own housing solution? For an example? Yeah, I have an aunt who lives in Montana and she says that I can live with her but I don't have any way to get there. That is a deliverable solution. We can pay for a bus ticket to put them on a bus to get



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to Montana, and they now are housed. That's a wonderful solution, right? Or, yeah, I've actually found someone who will rent to me, but I don't have any way to pay my security deposit. Great. We can pay your security deposit and we can help you get into that housing. That's the deliverable solution. The Coordinated Entry specialists will work directly with them on working through that process, obtaining that money, getting the check cut out to the landlord, whoever that needs to be. And they've been diverted they go into diversion. If there are no solutions in that arena, then they go on to the priority pool. They go on to the priority pool for 90 days. And during that 90 days, ultimately they end up on the prioritization list. The prioritization list is where my referrals team comes in. That is where they can have the opportunity to be selected for one of the subsidized housing openings, Rapid Rehousing, permanent supportive housing, those types of things. I will tell you, as of today, there are over 2000 households on that list. We do not have enough openings, to support all of those households. So that's also where my navigation team comes in. Right. We are going to work with the households to see if we can find other housing solutions, come up with other creative ideas, connect them to other funding sources, do all those things and work through plans with those households. Now, like I said earlier to Jan's question, when I say over 2000, that is one line, meaning that's the head of household. So some of those, many of those are families, right? So one of those lines may be a household of three or it may be a household of eight, right? So that's not the number of heartbeats in our system, who are requesting services. So that sounds very daunting. But what I will tell you is we try to focus on the positive. There are openings from our housing programs coming through every single day. So the quicker we can place those households, the quicker we can support more and more and more households. So the way that prioritization list works is it's dynamic, meaning it moves every day because there's people coming into our system and people moving out of our system. So a household that may be number five today, may be number 20. Tomorrow, or they may be number five today, and they move up to number one tomorrow. Because that prioritization list works on their prioritize based on their barriers. So as I mentioned, that conversation is so thorough and in depth, that the barriers that they are giving us the information on is how they are prioritized. So we are truly supporting the highest barrier and the most vulnerable households in placing them in those in those referrals and those housing openings. They go on to the priority for for 90 days, as I mentioned, if nothing happens in 90 days, they just need to contact their CEE specialist and a CEE specialist goes through their conversation with them. They ensure that nothing has changed. They update anything that has and then they put them on the priority pool for another 90 days. So they can continue on that list. Rob I saw you wave your hand.

Rob Huff

Yeah, just Andrea has a question has their hand raised for a while now? Hi, yeah,

Andrea

I we have staff in Tacoma that have been calling to one one, uh, trying to schedule those appointments. And we're always told that we have to go stand in line at associated ministries, and we know that that's probably a really long wait, but you know, we have no idea. My staff are supposed to spend an hour



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with people a week and they can't wait hours in line. We would really like the staff to be present at that conversation because a lot of our clients will minimize things that are going on and we want to make sure they share all that information. And also a lot of them just don't follow through. We tell them to go down there and stand in line and they just don't do it. So we would like to make sure that we get them there. So I guess we're trying to figure out how do we schedule these appointments because we keep being told that we can't. Yeah, so

Jenny Lorton

that is a known challenge with the system right now is getting through on 211211 is working to address that they've implemented a call back system where if you call and call and call and call and you can't get through, there's a mechanism that says you can dial in your number and we'll call you back that has not rolled out as successfully as they had hoped. So they're working on that as well. So what I would suggest is you can directly reach out to either associated ministries or to Catholic Community Services. They're the two largest Coordinated Entry providers in the county. You'll see there's a few others on this list, but they're, they're the largest team of CEE specialists. You can reach out directly to either one of those and express your challenges and see if you can if you have a lot of clients that you need to get through, you know in into coordinated entry, express your challenges and see if you can set up a direct partnership with them. And then you would be able to do a warm handoff of your clients directly to one of their team leads. And then you would kind of have that direct relationship to say, Hey, I've got this client, can I get them scheduled with their team leads? And then you would kind of have that relationship built? That would be my suggestion. That's how I'm able to work and inside passages. I've established that relationship because I have so many people that come to me who haven't had their CE conversation. And so I've developed those relationships and I'm able to do that.

Rob Huff

Thank you. You're welcome. Yeah. Another question from the chat from Nicole is does a person has to be homeless or at least at risk of being homeless to meet with Coordinated Entry. Nikolas had clients who are at risk and 211 says they don't qualify for meeting.

Jenny Lorton

That is correct. To qualify for a CTE conversation. You need to be homeless for one night in Pierce County.

Rob Huff

currently homeless correctly,

Gerrit Nyland

so we'll throw in that we have \$2 million that's going into an upcoming rental assistance NOFA this summer that is going to allow people in Category Two and three which is basically at risk of



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homelessness, um, to have access to basically diversion like services, case management and temporary financial assistance and much like diversion but for at risk. So that's something that should be coming online this fall, if not sooner. So that's a known problem. And we've got a small amount of resources going into that and I think we'll see how inadequate that probably is. But it gets us going at least

Jenny Lorton

Yeah, yes. Thank you for adding that Garrett. We're all very excited even though it to your point is a small amount. It's a step in the right direction. And I will also add there is another kind of caveat to that. If a household is actively fleeing a domestic violence situation. They also qualify for services. So that's an additional layer there and we work with a lot of households who are actively fleeing dv so keep that in mind as well. If any of you connect with a household who is actively fleeing, they would also qualify and they need to be connected to a coordinated entry right away. So just a couple of other data points than to share with you. This is diversion exits and destinations in the last six months. And it's split up over the providers who have had those conversations and done those services. And as I mentioned, associated ministries and Catholic Community Services, we call them CCS are the two largest providers so I can just kind of break down the those two So the red is homeless, the green is housed in the purple is other other destinations. So unfortunately you can see diversion. You know, as I kind of talked about that program, homeless so diversion is only 30 days. So if the household chooses diversion, they go into diversion for 30 days and they actively work with the CEE specialist on a housing solution. At the end of 30 days, they have to go somewhere they can roll over into the priority pool. But when they're exited in Hemis or database, they have to be given a destination. If they're still homeless, then that's why these numbers look the way that they do. They would go into the priority pool at that point, right? And it's not like they don't have you know, someone who can potentially work with them. They can be referred to one of my navigators for an example. But we can see here, and we are a client choice system. So the CEE specialists doesn't navigate them to choosing diversion or choosing priority pool that is their decision they get to choose. So it's just helpful information to kind of look here. Same with the next one, diversion outcome by year this is an interesting one to look at. Because if you see the trends, there's less people choosing diversion. So entered, the light blue is no and the dark blue is yes. Historically, there's been more households who have chosen diversion like back in 2016, it was kind of 5050 and as of this year, the majority of households have chosen priority pool. So that's just some interesting data to take a look at. Now I'm going to show you one based on referrals. So this is everyone who has entered our system versus the number of referrals received. So this is a good one to take a look at. Because this is how many housing programs have had openings that we've been able to fill versus everybody, you know, coming into our system. So you'll see there was a slight dip in May. I expect that to go up for June. Typically our funding cycles are that June is kind of I actually expect that to continue downward. Excuse me when I said that, and then it's going to go back up in July, are funding cycles are typically that funding is winding down and everything gets renewed effective July 1. So I took I'll see a little bit of a decrease May June, and then starting in July, everything will go back up, because that's when funding is renewed.



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Rob Huff

So if that's helpful at all, to anybody.

Jenny Lorton

Questions, Ryan, I think your hand was up first. Ryan,

Rob Huff

you are muted right now. I think so.

Rian

Sorry about that. So this list is new entries every month. It's not the cumulative total.

Jenny Lorton

That's correct. It's just the entries for that month and then the number of referrals that we did, okay. Is

Rian

just curious, is there another chart that kind of shows the cumulative totals because, you know, this tells the story of us losing the war by, you know, about 170 200 people a month.

Jenny Lorton

I don't have that right now, but I can certainly request that data. So when Garrett was working for CCS, he was kind of the data guru over there. And Hank is the person who kind of stepped into those shoes. And Hank is also now doing a really good job at pulling those reports and putting that data together. And I can certainly ask him to do that. I'll make myself note.

Gerrit Nyland

Yeah, at some point, the county will be publishing that I've basically got those reports done. And it's it's important to pay attention to the number of people currently homeless like that's the really important part. But to your point, this particular visualization of the flows in and the flows out, I think really speaks to the gap in our system, right? Like we need to design our system larger, right with more resources than the flow and if we want to reduce the number of people homeless, so looking at the number of people homeless, super important, but this particular visualization, I think is the most important which is, you know, we do not have the resources for when people become homeless to serve. Right. Our resource like there are not openings and rapid rehousing there are not openings in permanent supportive housing. Right. When those open up Jenny's team fills them. And then the people that need it, that are unable to be successful with diversion don't have, right, the deeper intervention available to them. And so we're going to see our population increase as long as that mismatch and what happens



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to most of the people we don't really know, but 70% of them. We just don't know what happens to them. They disappear from our system.

Jenny Lorton

Yeah. And that's where this comprehensive plan to end homelessness comes in. And it was built in a way that it's a very large undertaking because of the gaps in our current system, and it's going to take time to get it implemented. But that's why Garrett now works for the county because that is his job. His job is to make it all happen. And it's going to take a while but it fully addresses all of the gaps in our system. So find the money, get it implemented and make things happen. And the plan is wonderful. I mean, it really does address the gaps in our system. So I know that these numbers they look bleak. They certainly do. But there is at least a starting point which is a plan at how to address them. Theresa, I think you were next.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So I want to say that I believe these numbers are actually not as bleak as they really are. Two things one, I don't know how many people were with this group when we're meeting in person and we had a group of people come and talk about their housing successes and getting people off this list into housing and some of them acknowledge that the rental situations they got people into were costing 80 to 100% of their income. So just want you to think about that for a minute. So they go on this list as being housed as a result of coordinated entry and interventions. But how long are they going to be housed? And how likely are they to come back when it was such a fail? The other the other thing that I want to ask about is and that's not the fault of that's not the fault of coordinated entry, it's the fault of we don't have we don't have housing that people can afford, but as a logical, it's not logical to give somebody a place that cost everything they have. So the other thing is a question. When people don't call back after 90 days, and I know many many people out here who who've been on coordinated entry list for some time and then they just give up and they never go back. So those are that 70% That Garrett is talking about, I think where where do they show up in the chart? If they've been on there? Do you assume they're unhoused do you assume their house? What what is the assumption made? What? What part of that bar do they go to when they just stopped calling back?

Jenny Lorton

So the exit date, when they're entered, that exit date gets entered automatically. And when we enter an exit date, we already have to put an entry for why they're exited and where they went. Basically, that exit date gets entered as completed program because they would have completed priority pool because they came to their 90 days and there is an option in him is to say that we didn't have a conversation with them. So we don't know where they went basically. And that's the option that we choose. Here's what I can tell you about those people if they don't those households if they don't interact with us and they just fall off the priority pool. That's a place where my team comes in. And I also know that some of the CEE specialists not all of them, but some of them when they have additional time in their day which is not very frequently but when they do they there's a report that we can pull in Hemis that shows us



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those exit dates, and they will go through and look at okay, this person is coming up to exit and they'll outreach it doesn't catch everybody it doesn't. Our clients that inside passages, we're monitoring that one of the first things we do when we intake a client is we look at their Hemis record and my navigator will know when that person is coming to exit so that we can make sure we stay on top of that and let them know you need to call back to CTE. Right? So we're helping to monitor that with all of our clients. It doesn't catch everybody but it at least helps. My referrals team also supports in that work. There is another list in him is called the chronically homeless master list. Once a client reaches the chronically homeless definition, they go on to the chronically homeless master list. That is also 90 days. They go on that list for 90 days. It's the same amount of time it just filters them differently. For an example when we're looking at referrals or pulling for housing, things like that. My referrals team is monitoring that list and people falling off of that list. That population is a little bit harder to keep engaged with the system. So we're doing that outreach with that list. But folks,

Theresa Power-Drutis

so if they if you lose track of someone and you can't make contact with them, you make the assumption that they're still homeless and they're not going to show up so they would show up in that band. Have they exited to homelessness? Yes, that was my question.

Jenny Lorton

Okay. Yep. Yeah. And just as an ad for everyone here to know, when my referrals team polls, a client for a housing referral. We only have two days to fill that housing referral before we have to send it to the housing provider. But in that two days, my team are absolute rockstars. I'm just gonna tell you all. We do everything we possibly can to locate that client. If we can't call them if we can't reach them by phone, or email or any of the traditional methods. We dig into their Hemis record and see, are they currently at a shelter? Have they interacted with outreach? Do they have a case manager we reach out to everyone and anyone we cast a very wide net to try and locate them. I mean, I can tell you some real success stories about you know, outreach, going out and finding the person and then telling us I located them, I know where they are telling me what I need to do. We do everything we possibly can to ensure that that individual or that household does not lose out on that housing opportunity.

Rob Huff

Any other questions? Awesome.

Jenny Lorton

I hope this was helpful and kind of took away maybe some of the mystery of kind of what happens when a household kind of flows through the system and how the referrals process works as well. Great.

Rob Huff



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And Jenny, I would encourage you if you had the opportunity to look back through the chat. There were quite a few additional questions that were asked. I will do that right now. Notice. Yeah, that'd be great. So if you can answer those in the chat and then also, thank you, Mike. Mike Yoder for that update about the availability of walk in coordinated in entry screening appointments. So I know there's a lot there's a lot to digest here. And we're going to add to that. So Carolyn, do you want to offer your additional perspective and what we plan to bring back next week?

Carolyn Weisz

Sure. Thanks, Rob. And Thanks, Jenny. That was super helpful as kind of a baseline for people understanding the system. So I'm a social psychologist at the University of Puget Sound and also a member of the Racial Equity Committee of the COC and the coalition two different committees but I'm through that lens, a group a pretty large and diverse group of people were convened by HUD as part of a national project on Coordinated Entry trying to understand it and address and improve the system especially through a racial equity lens. In other words, serving what we know is a group of highly over represented people in particular African American folks, but maybe, you know, other other particular groups over represented in the system as well. And so that group convened for gosh, started over a year ago and came up with a research project to look at Coordinated Entry through a racial equity lens and do some qualitative interviews, particularly with a focus on kind of an innovative project that was happening under the COC umbrella. I don't think you see it, saw it in the list of providers because it's a sort of subgroup of Catholic Community Services. And that's the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance, which applied to be a coordinated entry provider, specifically trying to do connection with African American folks. And so we have some qualitative data that helps understand people's kind of lived experience with the system more generally, and we think hopefully, would provide insights on trying to improve the system in a, you know, climate where again, Jenny kind of described it really well. It's a system where a lot of people experience barriers and are frustrated and have very long wait times to get into housing. And so next week, Mike craw and I will present a little bit about that project and the data, and we'll appreciate your all insights and questions

Rob Huff

then and I'm happy to answer any questions now, but hope that it's good. Yeah, Jan, you have a question.

Janet Runbeck

Ah, Dr. Weiss. Always a pleasure to see you. I'm wondering if the reduced rate of using diversion is associated with the lack of network support that might be available for folks who would have been able to use a bus ticket to get to Montana in other words, does Aunt Sally in Montana herself suffer from increasing poverty? So she can't take on another person in the house? So it is it is the I wouldn't think that the reduced rate of diversion means that there aren't folks who could use it. I'm wondering if diversion itself has fewer possibilities to get folks out of homelessness? Um, well,



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Carolyn Weisz

one thing I would point to it's a great question. I think that's always the case that the networks of financial support are limited, which is one reason people are homeless. And the spark report which was is now you know, five years old or so has a name for what you're describing network impoverishment. And I think the key because clearly that's if there was help to be had, it would be there, but the key is that network impoverishment, as a barrier is probably over represented in communities of color because of the wealth gaps in the US and so so I think that's one thing we don't the qualitative data doesn't speak to that directly. But that spark report actually, which also did both qualitative and quantitative analyses, definitely points to that locally. I'm not quite sure geographically how that fits in. So thanks. And, Jay,

Rob Huff

one more question from you.

Jay Warley

I'm sorry. That I keep on harassing people today. No problem. So I have always had this question. We have a bunch of people at top that have this one point of view, and they use quoted data. And then you have people that are actually living the experience and going through these things. And there seems to be a huge gap between the understanding of a lived experience situation and the quantity of data that is mined from the top about experienced this situation. How much information are you gathering or getting from people with lived experience? And how much of an impact is that data from individuals affecting your information and output?

Carolyn Weisz

So two things because you're right on about those of us in privileged positions to do this kind of work, often have not experienced homelessness, nor am I a person of color, but I will say intentionally one of the reasons this project took so long is our very first objective was to make sure the research team was super diverse and included people with lived experience in how we envisioned the project and wrote the interview questions and then I think I see Gerald Daniels on the call the Brotherhood rise center was the partner who actually did the interviews. Oh, hey, Gerald, and it was great. And then we had a very this this broader network kind of helping to interpret things. So that's one way we kind of addressed the challenges you're saying and then another thing that makes the project unique even though it's a very small sample, and not representative of everyone experiencing homelessness, they all identified as black, and we're heads of households. And so that is the data qualitative data, not quantitative. And I think there's a lot to learn from the quantitative as well as the qualitative but you know, we're doing our best because I think you're absolutely right. There's there's kind of an insider view. And it's important to, to make sure those voices not only are understood, but are also in the



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spaces where they're helping to make sense of the data and, and make decisions about how to use it. So thanks for that question.

Rob Huff

Well, I want to thank everybody for the very rich content today and look forward to continuing this conversation next week. I see, Alfred that you have your hand up if you have the ability. Could you drop your question in the chat? The reason that I ask is because we have gone well over on our agenda, and I want to make sure that we have an opportunity to to get to a couple other things on our agenda before we wrap up. But I do hope that if people have additional questions, they can drop them in the chat. And I know that this is a topic that's near and dear to all of us. And one of the challenges that our community and so many communities have to overcome is the lack of resources and the challenges to go through the process. So So thank you, Carolyn. Thank you, Jenny, for such rich content this morning and and for everyone for being so engaged. So let's move to our government updates. And this section actually will probably be relatively quick today because city of Tacoma I don't believe has a representative representative on today's call. Caleb is not here. Anyone else from the city of Tacoma who wanted to share anything? Okay, and I also do not see. I'd say, I don't think Jeff was going to be here either. From the county so I don't know if anyone else from Pierce County Human Services is on the call and wanted to offer an update to that.

Gerrit Nyland

I just had a quick announcement that the unified regional approach request for proposals has been extended by two weeks, so it had a due date. of June 10. So that's looking for consultant to lead the kind of community effort to design what are kind of unified regional approach to homelessness, regional meaning Pierce County, so our Pierce County approach, how do we bring you know all of the groups that are stakeholders together to build a coherent system, so that's due on the 24th. So if you know consulting firms that have expertise in that area, they have a little bit more time to put a proposal together. I'll drop the location of that request. For proposal in the chat.

Rob Huff

Right, thanks, Garrett. And, yeah, one

Gerrit Nyland

more. I've got one more ahead. And Tuesday, I think at noon that the county study session, there's going to be a conversation and presentation by county staff around the severe weather work that they're doing to put hopefully, a plan together to respond to the warm weather and cold weather in the next year. So that's discussion. That's not an opportunity for public comment. It's the study session. So it's really county council getting updated by the county staff. So I'll put a link to that as well. Thank you, Garrett.



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Rob Huff

You read my mind because that was what I was going to mention. So So I also did not see Valerie on today's list of attendees. So I don't think we have an update on Pierce County rental assistance. However, Jenny is here from from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. What can you tell us, Jenny?

Jennie Schoeppe

Good morning, everyone. Hi. I'm glad to be here. As always. It sounds like there might be some new folks I probably should introduce myself. My name is Jenny sheppy. And I work in the communicable disease division at Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. TPC HD. And my role is to liaise with a between our division and homeless service providers are broadly defined, as well as our FQHC partners, federally qualified health centers, so I work with CMR and chc. And I typically give COVID updates here and trying to broaden that a little bit to other communicable disease and other information that I can share from other teams here at the health department. So first, we start with COVID. Our numbers are kind of interesting this week. Our hospitalizations were actually see we actually saw an increase in about 35 of about 35% Over the last seven days and some concerns about hospital capacity. So That's never fun. Our rates of cases, hospitalizations and deaths are still relatively low, very low when compared to the peak that we saw in January. But we are at a medium community risk level. And this means people at high risk for COVID illness should still be wearing masks. Doh also strongly recommends that folks in congregate settings wear masks so that is relevant for our shelter folks. Obviously we want folks to be getting vaccinated and if you are not fully vaccinated and boosted if you're eligible, please do that and encourage others to do so. And as usual, I will share some relevant links including whether you know information on whether you are eligible for booster and then our vaccine page. I will also share our Pierce County data dashboard page for folks who like to look at that data and that links to the state data as well. We have been really fortunate to not see new COVID outbreaks the last few weeks in our shelter system. So that's really wonderful. I don't think our testing team had any updates this week, but I will I will share testing information in the chat as well. If you're an organization that needs testing kits, I can connect you with our you could reach out to Kaitlyn directly. She will help you you can also fill out a Microsoft form link and get testing kits which we have a very good inventory of right now. With monkey pox virus in the community. I'm sure you've seen this in the news. I tried to find updated data this morning. It looks like we might be holding steady with just one case in Washington in King County and our around 30 cases in the US. So if you're working with if you're in a position work with clients or patients, we want just folks to be aware and have a heightened suspicion for monkeypox. If you see rashes in folks, if if you work with men who have intimate contact with other men that is a higher looks like a higher risk community right now. Though anyone is Is anyone is vulnerable really. So I will put our STD call, clinic information or number that you can call the department to report or ask questions. And let's see. Sorry, not keeping it short. I always try but I fail. I was really fortunate this week to go out with Verna and Jan from MRC Medical Reserve Corps as well as Marcus Taylor community health worker here in our STD team out to a couple encampments in Tacoma. And we talked to folks about syphilis handed out some information as well as condoms. The



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MRC is continuing to do that work in conjunction with our CHW which is a great, great partnership. And if you have questions about that, I'm sure Jan will be happy to answer them. Or Verna Lilly. And then I'm just going to I will try to wrap up now but I did want to share some other sort of non communicable disease information from team members at the department about some concrete goods for families of small children that had been made available from the Pierce County early childhood network. And then some information from our Maternal Child outreach team who may be doing a community spotlight in a couple of weeks. And that additional information I will share in the chat. Are there any questions or comments?

Rob Huff

For me? Thanks,

Jennie Schoeppe

Jay. Just thank you shared the link for more free tests. That's a great, great resource. So thank you, Jay, for sharing that. Okay, all right. Feel free to chat me questions. I'll be here for the rest of the meeting.

Rob Huff

Awesome. Thanks as always, thank you. So because of the the deep dive we did into Coordinated Entry this morning. We use up all of our time so I think what we will do is shift our our breakout conversation to happen following the information that will be shared by Dr. Weiss and and guests next week. So we'll talk about coordinated entry in a breakout conversation next week. But I would like to still go back and take a look at last week's conversation. So Timothy, you up for doing that? Yep, happy to do that. Great. I will put it on screen here.

Tim Harris

Cool. And after I'm done talking, I'll drop the document in chat so it's easy for people to download it. They're interested and that yeah, so this was a really interesting conversation. And a lot of thoughts. Kind of going in the same direction. I put some framing quotes up top comments that people made that seem to go directly to the issue a few things that are sort of get in the way of honest conversations with the broader community, talking about how we avoid some topics because we don't want to further stigmatize homeless people and the whole echo chamber thing and needing to get outside of our comfort zones and talk to people with different views. And and do that in in a way that is is open to listening. There were a lot of comments about how public conversation on street homelessness and I do want to stress that that's really what we're talking about here is is is conversations about street homelessness and the public debate around that, that people have less patience with it than they did a year ago. frustration about use of public funds and and and perceptions of effectiveness and lack of progress. A lot of conflation of crime and homelessness. And you know seeing a lot of victim blaming going on out in the community. And people talking about how when these conversations arise our



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tendency is to raise and deflect rather than kind of get into a direct conversation and people feeling like we need better tools to be able to have those conversations and be on message with those conversations. long list of potential actions that could be taken. I'll try to quickly summarize a number of people talked about a social media work group and appreciation for the role of Teresa and Laurie who have been really kind of carrying the burden for this work and doing a lot of great stuff and in recognition that you know, this is just a couple of people and that they're there. We could use more energy and that work also a recognition that the coalition already has a lot of good messaging that's been developed that could perhaps be more effectively pushed out. Some talk about needing an elevator speech. Again, that goes back to the kind of coordinated messaging that people are hoping for so that we can be publicly more on the same page and how we talk about that. A lot of people talking about the links between homelessness and trauma, that there needs to be more public understanding about that and messages of compassion. And you know, what we're up against. People talked about how some of the larger agencies have a lot of contacts and a lot of access to the broader public through you know, their social media and and and contacts lists and and perhaps there's some potential to partner with them to push out message and discussion about the importance of equity messaging and the many routes into homelessness and and the need for more storytelling because, you know, people can relate to individual struggles often better than they can, you know, sort of broader just numbers and statistical picture and that sort of thing. There's a list at the end of kind of miscellaneous observations that didn't obviously fit into any particular category. You can take a look at that for yourselves and I will go ahead and post these and chat now. And this is helpful.

Rob Huff

And yes, it's definitely helpful and thank you for the summaries I hit. I don't think we can say enough about how you take all of what people say and coalesce it into something that is even more digestible and meaningful. So thank you. Appreciate that. Thank you. All right. So let's see what we have left on our agenda with our final 29 minutes actually, we'd prefer to wrap this up around 1050 if possible. So very briefly, I will offer an advocacy update. So during the study session, there's really nothing at the city of Tacomas study session on Tuesday at noon. There's really nothing directly related to homelessness on the agenda at this time. However, something that coalition members may want to pay attention to is the news yesterday that one of the city council members has submitted his resignation. Connor Connor McCarthy, who serves in an at large seat is stepping down. And so there will be conversation during the study session about the council's appointment process that will be used to appoint someone else to fill that role through the end of the term. So that will be of interest because clearly that's another council member with another perspective on homelessness, affordable housing, all of the things that we care about. So that's worth paying attention to for us as well. During the regular city council meeting at five o'clock on Tuesday, there is an opportunity during community forum for folks to comment on anything that the city council has purview over and that could certainly include commenting on what the city is doing regarding sweeps. So so that's an opportunity as well, and again, that's Tuesday night. Five o'clock is when the meeting starts Community Forum forum will be part of the meeting. So if you have an interest in in advocating that the city creates low barrier sights and creates



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an actual place for people to land, while they insist on continuing to do sweeps, that's a great opportunity to do that. So that is it for advocacy. I know that Garrett already mentioned and provided the link to the meeting of the Pierce County Council study session on Tuesday where we all could tune in and listen to what the County Human Services staff have planned regarding inclement weather and those who are currently homeless. I did want to also touch base briefly on the Pierce County comprehensive plan to end homelessness last week last Friday the Advisory Board met and had its monthly meeting to hear an update on where things are with the progress toward the comp plan. There was discussion of the the request for proposals that are out there regarding to regarding the regional approach and hiring a consultant to do that work which Garrett just mentioned, that that NOFA has, has been extended by two weeks. There also is a document that Garrett put together for the advisory board that offered updates on the current progress toward the various priorities in the plan and Garrett, is that available on the comp plan site at this time? Or is that something that I should just drop into the chat

Gerrit Nyland

Excellent question.

Rob Huff

I know it wasn't there in the agenda documents last Friday, but I haven't had a chance to look this week. So

Gerrit Nyland

yeah, that's a good question. I know the meeting minutes or posted with some things. If not, I'll make sure it gets there but you can put it in the chat. Okay.

Rob Huff

Yeah, as I get an opportunity, I'll drop that in the chat before the end of today's meeting. I also wanted to mention related to the to the comp plan. That Heather moss and John Barbi both attended the city council's community vitality and safety committee meeting yesterday afternoon, and they gave a briefing on the on the comp plan for city council members, which I thought was really helpful to provide a way to connect the city elected leaders who serve on that committee to the comp plan where maybe they didn't have as much information or background earlier in the process prior to the meeting. It seemed to be a good conversation. A lot of a lot of verbiage from Kansas City Council members regarding the impact of homelessness in Tacoma directly and an appreciation to the county that the county is stepping into finding solutions for homelessness to a greater degree than they then the county has before. But I will drop some information from that CVS meeting into the chat as well and then get an opportunity here. So that's it for the comp plan. update any questions on what has been discussed so far? Before we move on? In the rest of the agenda? All right, not seeing any so let's move to Jan with an update for the from safe sites for all.



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Janet Runbeck

Thanks, Rob. Our meeting is every Monday at noon. We zoom. Go to the website to register we welcome everybody's opinions and expertise. The three main focus areas that we have is safe our safe parking network, which is now considered successful. Executive Dan Meyer signed the county version approval of the ordinance. However, even though County has promised to fund the the work of the safe parking network, we're hoping to hear on Monday whether or not we've seen a nickel of any of that funding. Paula Anderson has worked more on faith than on dollars. So we really are hoping for there to be some financial support behind the promises that we've been having. But the network itself is doing very well. We also talked about the response to the city of Tacoma as far as what kind of response should this coalition have? Rob huff and Ed Jacobs are working on a revised edition of a letter that has been sent out representing the coalition to the city of Tacoma. And that reflects our view of how can we be sweeping encampments sites when there are no suitable places for folks to go. So look for a current edition of the letter to the city of Tacoma in response to the sweeps that they announced and this coalition does let folks know through our listserv when we find out that there is a sweep to happen. The third thing that we talked about is the emergency distribution network. On Monday, we did have Caleb from the city of Tacoma who promised us for for the first time before the event, our novel that we the City of Tacoma is providing many pallets of water to the stability site. Details to follow but the promises there, the site has been reckon determined. We have both formal and informal networks of outreach members team teamwork that goes out to the folks who live in the streets. So if you want to be part of this distribution network, either as a formal outreach worker or informal like a faith based or caring person, come to our meetings and get involved. However, all I'm hearing from the county is that they will present to the county on Tuesday. We really would like the county to show up at these meetings or some other acceptable side because of the city is upping their provision of supplies. Would that not reduce the burden on the county that we will be asking for as far as similar supply so we're working on a distribution site, distribution networks of workers and funding for the supplies that will be needed to serve those who will be hit the hardest when inclement weather comes which may be as early as next next week. So again, join join us on Monday at noon at honor zoom address.

Rob Huff

Thank you again. And there's also a moment here for any other coalition committee updates. Yeah, Rosemary.

Rosemary Powers

So all I have today are dates next week. When two groups are meeting the governance work group will meet on Thursday the 16th at nine in the morning. We need to get that up. On the website yet for anyone who might be interested last week you may remember we affirmed a new statement of our mission. This week we'll be working on a statement about what it means to represent the coalition and how we want to be sure we encourage diverse voices but don't have speed. People speaking for a whole group unless that's been approved. So we'll be working on that on Thursday. And then at Thursday afternoon at three from three to four is the monthly meeting of the Race and Equity



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Committee and that needs to be also posted so you can see it if you're interested in helping us determine what we could do next. And we may have some responses to what Carolyn's project is, I'm not sure if she can come but if not, then we'll we'll talk about that at our next meeting. But we'd love to have more people join us. So those are the two meetings coming up next week.

Rob Huff

Thank you, rosemary, and I will get those posted to the PC homeless website here right after this meeting. All right. So this carves out a little bit of time for us to ask for any other updates from the group assembled. That would be good to share. With the larger group are good trouble announcements. Anybody have anything this week? All right. I'm not hearing anything. Oh, I see Jeffrey wait for waving his hand.

Jeffrey Boyce

Don't know if this is good news. I think it is. 34th and Pacific Pacific self managing group have told people to leave when they cause problems and brought the police in a no vacancy sign on their site. They're really working hard to try to manage their own site without interference and and I applaud their efforts. It's hard, and it's difficult, but it can be done. And so I believe they're an example of what can be done over a period of time. Thank you all and have a good weekend. Thanks, Geoffrey.

Rob Huff

And anyone else with items that are just for the good of the order or if you have a success story to share? Yeah, Teresa

Theresa Power-Drutis

I just I saw that. That Richard posted the thing about fop, but that was actually we were required to respond to that. So it was it's not really open to everyone. That's my understanding. It is anyone else understanding it differently.

Janet Runbeck

RSVP. That's my understanding.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So they they had a limited number of spaces and they RSVP them so but that is still to say it's a great thing to go out there. They're very welcoming. Some other time to visit. The site and see what's going on there.

Rob Huff

Thanks for that. Anyone else with items for the good old order? Yeah, see, see.



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CC Mendoza

I have something cool to share to start the weekend. We just housed a young woman yesterday morning who has been living in her car for two and a half years. And she worked really hard to get all our documents together which is not easy ever. And she wants to get mental health counseling she wants to get substance abuse treatment and now that she's house, she can do it. And it's combination of everybody on this call everyone who works for the homeless. We all did it. So this belongs to all of us. Okay. That is

Rob Huff

awesome to see. Thank you for sharing that. Patricia. Your hands up as well. Yeah.

Patricia

Hear that? I was wondering if you did have a connection for the substance abuse treatment because I wanted to offer provider up for that that does it in the way that one can do it. I'm just gonna say like ideal options. I don't know what the treat the treatment plan is but that's that's sort of an example of when people get house they do want to get clean and sober. So to align that

Rob Huff

thank you very much. Thank you, Patricia. Yes, it's a great opportunity for a new start. And, and really appreciate hearing that about those opportunities. And that's why we carved out the time in the meeting to go ahead and celebrate those success stories in the community. So do be thinking as you as we're going through the next week of great new stories that we can share, had next Friday's meeting. So anybody else with any final items they want to share before we wrap up this Friday morning. All right. Well, I want to thank everybody for being here. And yes, thank you, Michael for the reminder about Project Homeless Connect coming up in Fife on June 24. And there's a way to connect to that at associated ministries. So thank you for that reminder. And I want to wish everybody a safe and healthy weekend. And look forward to seeing everybody again next Friday. Thanks everybody.