



## Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

Fri, 6/17 8:59AM • 1:48:21

### SUMMARY KEYWORDS

pierce county, caseworker, system, coordinated entry system, people, coordinated entry, meeting, community, homeless, catholic community services, day, homelessness, moving, relationship, share, sweeps, talk, carolyn, vehicles, good

### SPEAKERS

Jeff Rodgers, Richard Dorsett, Keith Helmka, Mike Crow, Sally Perkins, Patricia, Janet Runbeck, Courtney Love, Rosemary Powers, Jeffrey Boyce, CC Mendoza, Carolyn Weisz, Jennie Schoeppe, Ed Jacobs, Jay Warley, Theresa Power-Drutis, Gerrit Nyland, Jenny Lorton, Reverend Pitchford, Shannon Ice

This Transcript is created by artificial intelligence – mistakes are numerous. Consult the audio at <https://podcasts.captivate.fm/media/338fcc60-eea9-4a5e-b589-52ea611862b6/2022-06-17-CoalitionToEndHomelessnessProviderMeeting-Audio-converted.mp3> to verify anything that seems crazy.

### Theresa Power-Drutis

All right. Well, we're here at 901. So we will get started I think. Can somebody post the agenda in the chat? I didn't come prepared to do that. Rob is so he's like a machine when he manages these meetings. But today, he is off. Actually, he had the nerve to take a vacation and one every 10 years, what can you expect? But CC Mendoza and I are going to co host this meeting in his stead. And so if somebody else can put that in the chat, that'd be great. And over to you Rosemary you are muted.

### Rosemary Powers

I'd like to start today with reading an acknowledgement of the land that we're on. I haven't done that in a little while. And I want to always remind us that we are on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe, the people that people have lived on and stewarded these lands since the beginning of time and continue to do so today. We recognize that this land acknowledgement is one small step toward to ally ship, and we commit to uplifting the voices experiences and histories of the indigenous people of this land and beyond. So welcome today, and I was trying to put the Zoom norms and community norms in the chat somehow I can't do it. So I'll figure that out. And I'll talk about that later. But today, I have two



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

things on my mind are two actually two celebrations. One is Juneteenth and the other is Father's Day. So they're both being celebrated on Sunday and I just have a couple thoughts. So Sunday, the 19th marks the 157th anniversary of Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Emancipation Day, Liberation Day and Jubilee day. And on this day in 1865, two years after the formal issue of the Emancipation Proclamation, the last enslaved peoples living in Galveston, Texas were finally made aware of their status as free people. Approximately 250,000 black people were liberated on this day. And the following year, the first Juneteenth Celebration was held commemorating the day on which the last slave enslaved peoples were freed. Today it's widely celebrated as a holiday. And there are some fine events happening in our county that we can put in the chat later on. If you know of any that you want to encourage people to attend. Please add them. And the important it's important to honor the resilience and accomplishments of black Americans and at the same time, this acknowledgement reminds us of the legacy of slavery in the insidious persistence of systemic racism, including the over representation of black people among those experiencing homelessness, as as a coalition of people committed to action to end homelessness. We're aware of the statistics about disproportional representation. We also know it's important to examine the ways our homelessness quote system may perpetuate the racism that causes disparities, and how this system could be changed. Today we'll hear from Michael crow and Carolyn wise about a racial equity study project related to coordinated entry and we'll have the opportunity in breakout groups to talk about ways to improve coordinated entry. The effort to understand the way systems work and don't work for specific targeted groups. is difficult, but essential work. Juneteenth reminds us to celebrate one another, in a commitment to the work as individuals, participants in a particular agency and members of this coalition and just a thought about Father's Day, it's organized as a complement to Mother's Day in the early 20th century, actually by a woman in Spokane. This day reminds us to pay attention to our relationships, as fathers, as people with fathers and as people thinking about fathers living on the streets. On this last point, here's another opportunity to reflect on the resources processes and systems that are needed by single fathers living homeless on ways to connect and reconnect fathers living homeless to their children. And the challenge of keeping families together when family shelters are full. So celebration, reflection, challenge and hope for a light on the path that often seems dim and uncertain. I'm reminded in closing by Young Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman, she said there is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it. So welcome, everyone today. For those of you who are new, I will go over a few norms that we have in our meeting so that your understanding how we work. Some of them are obvious if you're a zoom veteran so we won't spend a long time on them. But since I couldn't post them I'll just say them. We ask that you mute yourself when you're not talking that you if you're doing any other activity answering the phone or something that you need to do during this time, because you may be an expressive speaker and use your arms and hands a lot when you talk. It's good also to stop your video during that period. So we make those two requests. And we also ask that when you want to make a comment or ask a question that you use the raised hand feature on the Zoom. It's a we're able to keep track of people and make sure we see people who are interested in speaking and also if since Teresa and CCR co hosting today, I think they'll probably be able to see any hands that are up but that really is our best way of making sure people have a chance to speak. We also use the chat function as a real



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

networking tool here. It may not be the same in other groups you're in but ask any questions there make any comments there carry on conversations there. It's not seen as disrespectful to the speakers. It's our way of making sure we get a lot done. And in terms of our community norms. I'm just going to read three of them. This morning. We have about eight or nine and so we'll make those available when I can do it. But to begin we are norms on our commitment is to lead within a racial equity lens to be aware of power dynamics and to challenge concepts, not people and listen to learn. So with that let me invite new people or people who've been away for a while to use the raise hand function and let us know who you are. And if you represent a group or a part of a group, it's not a time for a long introduction. We'll have time to speak in small groups later but to let us know you're here and that your what kinds of interests you have. So anybody is new, just raise your your hand and we'll recognize you Well, I don't think I'll wait longer for that. But if you're new and was just like to tell us about yourself in the chat, please feel free to do that. Well. If you'd like to contact any kind of agency or person involved in something just make that note as well. And I see that Garrett has posted the community norms in the chat so you can take a look at those there and I'll turn it to you, Theresa, I believe

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I ran muted instead of muting. And anyway there it is. Thank you for those thoughts and the I love that little part of that poem. This week on the streets for anyone who's new even though no one introduced themselves as new. That may be because we have shy people in here. So know that you are welcome to this table. And if you have some insight about the street, something that's happening, this is a time we set aside for people who are doing outreach or people who are living on the streets or people who are interacting to tell us a little bit about what they're seeing. So I hope one of you folks who do this a lot will demo that so that other people's will people feel free to join in all right, I'm gonna have to prime the pump. So here's your on G Street. We had a meeting of the neighbors in this community, and it was a little disheartening the street our street has become quite chaotic because of the sweeps that have been going on in the city. People have been landing here. And we had my my daughter in law drove up to deliver vegetables and someone who is doing a sex worker came up to approach her and it just felt like oh my goodness can we have just a little bit of piste as we did several months ago before all the sweeps. So a lot of the people who have been living here for really some of these people have been living in their vehicles here for decades. And some people have been here for over a year. There are people who have here came here during the first part of the pandemic, that those people are getting squeezed out by people who are intimidating them and bringing in a lot of commerce onto our streets. So I'm a little ticked off and I'm not sure quite what to do. But that's what's happening. On my street. And Sally.

## **Sally Perkins**

What I'm seeing are individual tents. There was one on the parking strip near Tacoma Community House yesterday. I didn't walk by there today, so I don't know if it's still there. And there's a larger one between 11th and 12th on L which is right by the construction site. And all the construction vehicles for the building that's being built at the corner of 12th and MLK. So what I believe is happening is as the



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

sweeps continue it people are scattering into single tents or two tent kind of little groupings, but they're showing up in places that they haven't been before and in some times, those are dangerous places like the one near the construction.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Thank you and then I see Jeffrey has his hand up

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

three people out it was 34th and Pacific ended up the end. Veterans Village that's good news. And they're very concerned 34th and Pacific about the sweeps and they're worried about the bad element moving in they have a no vacancy sign again, back on their entrance. I'm seeing a lot of solo people moving during the day, which is unusual. Usually they move at night. So I think yesterday I saw five different individuals or couples moving along 38 Pacific and 56.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Thank you for that. I see. One raised hand where is it? Oh, that was just You just took yours down. Geoffrey. Anyone else want to add something what you're seeing on the street?

## **Richard Dorsett**

I don't know how to raise my hand.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Go ahead, Richard.

## **Richard Dorsett**

A couple things. The Sweep at 11th and marine View Drive has pretty much been completed there was one vehicle a van and his possessions that was still pending movement. Three or four of the vehicles moved one block and are now on marine view drives so and when trailers stuck in the bushes they're the two pending sweeps one I think is scheduled I don't have the notice. But as on the 21st is the encampment under the 11th Street Bridge. A month ago we counted 48 vehicles. It appears to be quite a few less than that right? Now although we did not do a count. And as with a lot of vehicular encampments, it's difficult to do a people count because people are in the vehicles and I do not go knock on doors and rather try to get there at times of day when they might be out working on cars or cooking but that's one pending sweep. And then we also did a count of Milwaukee yesterday where there are also same number 48 RVs vans, trailers, some structures and then any number of miscellaneous cars and trucks some of which it's difficult to tell if they are workers who have just parked for the day or if they're more permanently in their vehicles but that will be swept. And again this is actually that may be the one that's the 21st the one in 11th Street actually had a four week notice posted and that's the first time I've seen one of those. The issue down there is we have done a count of



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

over 200 vehicular campers in the tide flats and so those are going to be out those unlike the tents where you have solos that somebody was just describing of ones as chooses around town. That's what happens and there's a lot of people out that have been swept that are solos these vehicles are often 40 foot Winnebagos and large vehicles. And so I know some of those are moving up to Green River on the river road up there but we can also expect to see those moving about town in the coming days as the Sweeps are launched. Some of the vehicles are inoperable. Many of them do not have current tabs. They lack insurance, they lack gasoline, so it's going to be a bit of a mess and they this is kind of a new thing. I've watched 13 sweeps since last fall. Mostly well almost exclusively tent encampments. But now that they're moving into vehicular encampments, we should see the collateral damage if you will, coming from these sweeps. So stay tuned. I mean, that's what's coming up next.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Thank you. Thank you, Richard. And I see your hand every

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

day. Some recent things that come up in regards to not having tabs and whether that vehicle is legal or not belong versus Seattle case indicates that if somebody claims that this is their house, this is their home then it cannot be impounded. It has to be moved maybe but it cannot be impounded if they claim it is their home. And this is Ben was issued by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals this last year.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

So it might be time to set up another visit from the folks who are doing the vehicle home work in Seattle to talk with us about that and get that a little more clear again, especially for new people who haven't been here.

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

Yeah. Reverend Bill Bill Curlin you guys have been working with I can get into the coalition. That's

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I can. Let's talk about that in the planning meeting anyone else who has ideas around that you're welcome to come to the planning meeting after this meeting. Anyone else have something from the streets news from the streets? All right. I am looking and I am not seeing Terrell, but I don't know if somebody else from the Pierce County AIDS Foundation is here you are Will you speak up and if not, we will postpone his spotlight. If he shows up we'll have him do it. Oh Patricia. I see your hand up and I bet you're muted.

## **Patricia**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

I'm trying to get off mute. Can you hear me I guess it just says regards to the vehicle laws but there's also there's vehicle ticular laws, which like you still have to have your plates and registration and stuff before they can impound it. And if they're past 45 days they can impound the vehicles. Thank you.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

All right, so some more clarity around that would be good. And so because I don't see I didn't see anyone. Oh, Keith. Go ahead. Good morning, everyone.

## **Keith Helmka**

My key social worker Virginia Mason, Franciscan health. I just, I wanted to just share as a as a as a as a Tacoma resident. I sit on a tiny homes Community Advisory Council and I know that we have a PPD liaison that comes to that meeting, who I think also has confirmed that they cannot tow vehicles that are residences and I don't know if Joe Purva can maybe help get contact information for maybe one of the TPD liaisons to come to next week's meeting. To help clarify that for this for this group.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

That's an excellent idea. Not to throw

## **Keith Helmka**

Joe out but

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

so that I think there's a question out there for you, Joe, did you want to answer it or do you want to postpone it until the after meeting meeting?

## **Keith Helmka**

I think I have the contact information. I just don't know if it's my place to share it.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Okay, let's maybe talk after. Thank you for that Keith. And it's good to get people into the conversation because sometimes I forget who all is here. Sometimes I think we all forget all of the people who are here. So we will move on and not do the partner spotlight until we have somebody from the Pierce County AIDS Foundation. If there's some breakdown in communication, we'll work on getting them here next week. So we had set up for 925. Now let's hope that we do have CC Are you game for doing the intros?

## **CC Mendoza**

I don't. Where's the agenda?



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Oh, sorry. It's posted in the I'll do this since and maybe you can work on the community updates. This was a last minute decision to do this code. Hosting so

## **CC Mendoza**

that you can't tell. So

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Carolyn and Michael, are you in the room here? Yes, there we go. Here. Very good. This is the it's really exciting that I know that Rob was even talking about taking a break from his vacation. I don't know if he did or not to hear these to talk about a project they're working on. It's very relevant to this group. And most of you probably know Carolyn wise from her participation in this coalition for quite some time. And Mike, who is is here with her to talk about the research that they the demo project they're doing. You want to take it away.

## **Mike Crow**

Yeah, I can. I can go ahead and get started and thank you all for having us here today. I'm Micra. I'm a faculty and director of the Public Administration program at the Evergreen State College and just want to say at the outset that this is a project that isn't just me and Carolyn, but rather we're sort of here representing a much larger workgroup that that was assembled to, to carry this project forward. So I'm sort of thinking of ourselves as spokespeople here rather than as leaders on this particular project. And I do have some slides to share if I can do screen sharing if that's possible.

## **Rosemary Powers**

Tracy, you're muted.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I'm checking to see if Garrett is making that possible.

## **Mike Crow**

Okay. Thanks, Garrett.

## **Reverend Pitchford**

All right. I was working on homeless count numbers. What am I supposed to do?

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

It's okay, I think I can do I'm going to enable share screen there you go.

## **Mike Crow**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

Oh, much oblige. Yeah, so the toggle. Let me just sort of introduce this project a little bit here. So this work really sort of emerged out of an opportunity that the Tacoma liquid Pierce County continuum of care received in late late 2020. Arc COC was one of eight across the country, selected as part of a racial equity demonstration project that the Department of Housing and Urban Development put together. And the basic goal of that project was for each of the eight participating CoCs turn Nephi one concrete improvement that they could make that would advance racial equity in their coordinated entry system. So in response to that the continuum of care formed a small workgroup. To to put together an idea and plan for a project. That group came together in October 2020. And from there, we really sort of expanded the workgroup to include representation from from among those who have lived experience with homelessness, representing many of the nonprofit organizations working on, on on homelessness in Pierce County. Local governments working on homelessness, and then universities including evergreen and Carolyn Weiss, who is, as you all know, is from New York City Puget Sound. So, what we did in this day, basically, ultimately, we decided it was most important to hear directly from black families about their experiences with the Korean entry system. So earlier this year, we worked with the Brotherhood rice center to carry out interviews with 16 Black families who've been through the Coordinated Entry System in Pierce County, within the past year about their experiences. And one of our chief conclusions from that really focuses on the importance of the client case worker relationship, that that particular relationship is crucial to getting successful, successful outcomes in placing people and families into permanent housing. And so our recommendations really sort of revolve around how do we bolster that relationship? And ultimately, we really put a lot focus on a unique partnership to develop between Catholic Community Services and a co ministerial alliance to try to improve that relationship. So that's what Carolyn and I are going to focus on discussing today is the findings of the net interview study. Our starting point, really as a workgroup came from the spark report in 2018. And as most of you know, Spark report, recognize that that it not only identifies it racial inequity is a reality in homelessness and in providing court energy systems across the board but then it's a reality also within within Pierce County. And in addition, the spark report also went to some lengths to try to identify what are some of the causal factors in that and one of the ones that was most important for us as a work group to focus on was there finding that homelessness is not is both a function of economics but it's also a function of the, what they call network impoverishment, that those experiencing homelessness normally are themselves impoverished, but they lack social network relationships that can help them provide a safety net that will keep them out of homelessness. And so that particular funding response report also sort of informed how we approached this particular study. And ultimately sort of led us to think more carefully about this relationship that develops between Coordinated Entry clients and coordinated caseworkers. So to carry this work out, we want to be really mindful as a continuum of care about making this a project that will not be really an academic study so much as it would give voice to those who normally don't have voice in the Coordinated Entry System. So as we were beginning to study, really, it was sort of myself Del Mar algae and Ann Marie Edmonds, with Pierce County Department of Human Services sort of a lead role in the first couple of months. And we recognize pretty early on that will work best for this kind of project is a community based participatory research approach, which basically holds at least for the study designed for three foundations are to come from those who are most affected by the



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

results of the study will have so in putting together a workgroup and inviting people to participate, we tried to be very mindful to bring in a wide variety of people who work in the foreign entry system. Both coordinate if you providers. The local governments Pierce County, Lakewood city like wood city to come up and those with lived experience of homelessness. And we we all try to be very mindful of bringing people when with those. We also had, because of the relationship with Department of Housing Urban Development, we had access to 300 Technical consultants who assisted us throughout the course of the project in and so I just wanted to be mindful about that. And so, over the course of early 2021, our focus really was on designing a study and identifying the kinds of questions that we ought to ask if we're going to try to understand the experiences that black families have with the Coordinated Entry System. So this the ultimate questionnaire and research study design emerged out of participation from everybody on this workgroup, and that makes us a little bit unique compared to other kinds of studies. It's not often that you take his community based participatory research approach to try to hear voices but in my experience has really worked effectively to try to make sure we're asking the right kinds of questions to try to shed light on what the experiences of black families had been with Coordinated Entry. One of the things that we focused on as a workgroup in particular that that drove us was to try to better understand a a unique partnership that emerged out of the trip program between Catholic Community Services and decode and histo. Alliance in in 2020. So one of those term partnerships brought together to cover ministerial alliance to work with Catholic Community Services. And the basic idea behind the partnership was it took over Ministerial Alliance had been involved in homelessness services for quite some time in Pierce County, but they wanted to expand what they were doing to be more active participants in the Coordinated Entry System. And so they partner with Catholic Community Services in order to gain that expertise and access to the Coordinated Entry System that Catholic Community Services could provide. So, this was a rather unique we saw it as a rather unique kind of partnership in large part because of common ministerial alliance. You know, has a status within to come as black community as being a what we consider to be a trusted messenger. They have long lasting and deep ties within among black families in in Tacoma, something that the Catholic Community Services is less strong at, at the same time Catholic Community Services has the expertise and resources and access to coordinated entry that Tacoma ministerial alliance could use in order to help TMA enter into the Coordinated Entry System. So the partnership The main advantage of the partnership is it provides a way for a trusted messenger within the black community to play a more active role in helping people through the Coordinated Entry System. And therefore, our hypothesis really was it well, this partnership probably would result in a better experience for black families going through court and entry. Because they're working with an entity and with caseworkers, who are part of that community and well integrated that community and are trusted by members of that community more so than would be the case with Catholic Community Services or associated ministries. So we wanted to focus in particular, on understanding that relationship and how that evolved. And then at the same time, as we're digging into this work as a work group, one of the things that we really came to focus on was it the way in which that partnership with TMA and CCS The main advantage that it's would have in court and entry is in the greater attention. It gives the client caseworker relationship, that by being more culturally competent that the community alliance would be in a better position to build



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

trust with the client, and therefore being in a position to get more information about the needs of the client to work more collaboratively with the client in terms of identifying what their needs are and identifying a permanent housing solution that will work for them. And providing a way for the client to be able to navigate a really complex Coordinated Entry System more effectively and for them to persist through the various kinds of hiccups and challenges inevitably occur when a family is moving through the Coordinated Entry System. So with we were really mindful about that relationship and wanted to understand that relationship more as a goal in the interviews that we conducted. So, Carolyn, if you're here, I'll turn things over to you Carolyn was our point person really in, in developing the methodology and helping us to see that part of the study through So Carolyn, I'll turn things over you to pick it up on the methodology we use.

## **Carolyn Weisz**

So I'm, I'm in a car around when matchI driving I can see you Mike, but I turned my mute off. Can you see and hear me?

## **Mike Crow**

Yeah, I can. I can hear you Carolyn. And I'll go through the slides as as as we need to here.

## **Carolyn Weisz**

I'll just do my voice then. So I'm just continuing from what Mike was talking about. The methods were developed by many of the people on that large team and bedded by a diverse group, but we intentionally wanted the interviewers and recruiters to be people of color who were experienced with trauma informed care and so we developed a kind of partnership with a brother at Rice center, who were fantastic in having their staff participate and be trained and doing the bulk of the work. Associated ministries was also critical in helping with the recruitment process, but brotherhood rise Center did recruitment and all of the interviewing and Pierce County provided a sort of randomized list of black heads of households who used coordinated entry in the last year. We didn't have the capacity to recruit people. enough people to compare the Tacoma ministerial alliance clients in particular, we a lot of people, this was right in the middle of the inclement weather and COVID crackdown. So from the call list of black clients, we just sort of got whoever was available to come through and most of the audiotape of the interviews were audio taped if you were in person and

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Carolyn, you might turn off your video and just use the audio because you're breaking up quite a bit.

## **Mike Crow**

Okay, Carolyn, I see you there. But wait for Carolyn. Carolyn to come back. I'll pick it up a little bit more. So the the Brotherhood y center really was took the lead role in actually conducting the interviews on behalf of the COC workgroup. And those happened primarily in December in January, December 2021



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

and January 2022. And we use those interviews basically to we transcribe those interviews. We received some support from Carolyn students at the University of Puget Sound in order to help make that happen, and a code of the interview results in order to come to some of the conclusions that we did for this particular study. Carolyn, are you back yet? So just to give you an overview, we ultimately had hoped to interview about 25 or 26 participants. We actually were able to interview about 16 Black families as part of this study. The majority of those households were currently experiencing homelessness. And most of the households turned out even though we randomly sampled, most of the houses we interviewed were from associated ministries, with a smaller number representing people with record entry with to co administer your lines or with Catholic Community Services. If we had a pretty good distribution of people who use different kinds of coordinate entry, you know a number of them indicated that they went through diversion and then number when both use both priority pool and diversion. So, overall, we feel like we got a pretty good representation of black families that went through the Coordinated Entry System. And we found overall was was was pretty interesting. We get a mixed bag in terms of satisfaction with Coordinated Entry overall, but one of the things that sort of stands out is that satisfaction with the with caseworkers was something that turned out in our view to be really sort of important to the person's overall experience with the coordination system. When families are going through coordinated entry, their point of contact and their understanding what that really sort of comes in that case for her and so the relationship that evolves with the caseworker is what returns out to be most important understanding whether they received only we're seeing a successful outcome but whether they evaluated themselves whether it was a successful experience for them overall. I'm going to kind of skip down to a couple of other things here. And come back to some of the things that came out as really important with respect to the relationship with a caseworker pretty consistently, when when when the respondents are talking about their relationship with the caseworker, the things that stood out as being important really were having consistent communication, you know, having that constant point of contact, knowing what's going on and not feeling like you've been neglected or dropped off. Those turned out to be really important in underscoring the evolution of a trustworthy relationship. One where the participant felt like they can be honest and in direct with the caseworker about what their needs are and what they needed to have. happen. When it came to the their their finding permanent housing needs. The ones that really value that relationship the most indicated they felt not as comfortable but like the caseworker was the person who shared their experience. Who understood what they were going through. And all that speaks to how important it is for the caseworker to be in a position where they can convey that where they have some shared understanding or there's the personal experience or because they're a trusted member of this community. That the client is a member of.

## **Carolyn Weisz**

Oh, sorry. Keep going when you get to the last slide. Let's see. Let me see if I can. The one on we'll keep going.

## **Mike Crow**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

Okay, yeah, it's just getting started talking about some of the themes that came up with caseworkers. Did you want to chime in at all, Caroline? So I talked about some of the positives, you want to jump in on some of the negative ones?

## **Carolyn Weisz**

Sure. And if I get cut off, you just jumped in again. Yeah. Thanks, everyone. And the negative I'm assuming you talked about the positive is kind of the flip side that in the caseworker relationship in particular, some of the things that were really frustrating for people is not getting called back or not having people return messages or just the lack of I mean, I think that was really a big one and it was related to a feeling that the system and that the relationship wasn't effective and there wasn't kind of a reliability, trustworthiness and a lot of comments about wanting more communication frustration that there was not enough communication, and things were a bit confusing.

## **Patricia**

Want to go to the next slide? Yeah, so

## **Mike Crow**

my key findings or recommendations? Yeah, so this is kind of

## **Carolyn Weisz**

our, our summing up slide, where we also took liberties to make some recommendations and informed by that larger group that you saw. And so one of the take home points is that the caseworker relationship matters, especially the amount and reliability of communication and this is a big one, because we know that there's often not enough resources for caseworkers to be in constant communication over time with their clients as they're navigating, and so advocating for caseworkers to have that bandwidth and that flexibility seems like it's really important. And trust is also important, both with the caseworker and with the system itself. And trust is a multifaceted and hard thing to create. And so cultural competency is definitely a piece of the picture as well as that theme of the consistency of communication and follow through. And then also some of those frustrations around the housing resources not being really affordable and available. feeds into trust in the larger system. The third bullet is that the Coordinated Entry System is complex and uncertain, even as the providers are trying to be clear and well trained and providing resources, but it is a lot to track and the timelines. For engaging and then having to reengage when things aren't going well are often confusing, and so having ways for people

## **Mike Crow**

Oh, Carolyn, I think you're breaking up again. But I try to fish Carolyn's thought here. What was it? What wait Well, Carolyn are used to there so one of the key things, though, that I think really sort of comes out from this is and the connection that we make back to this unique partnership between



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

Catholic me service and to Community Alliance. And what we think is really valuable about that sort of approach that was taken there is the fact that because that client caseworker relationship matters. So much of the quality of it matters so much that it is especially important to be mindful about cultural competence in developing that relationship. In organizations that can provide that to a cultural competence that status is a trusted messenger can really has the potential to greatly improve that relationship and lead to much better outcomes. So we can't really conclude a halt work. So those are our preliminary conclusions. And from there, we're hoping to be able to be able to build on this a little bit more so I can think open things up to questions. I saw something a chat about target universalism or asking to talk about criminal targeted universalism. So I'll just address that really quickly. Targeting this one of the things about about this study, I think that's really important is it is the extent to which in underscores the importance of targeting Universalist approach in thinking about delivery of Coordinated Entry services without here's it because that client caseworker relationship is important and trust building is important. That is important. Be mindful about where clients are coming from, and that's inevitably gonna be affected by by race by family household composition, and can therefore be enhanced by that by taking an approach that that is mindful about that and targeting universalism occur does exactly that. And Jenna, I see your hand is up. Would you like me to three? Would you like me just just to call on people or would you like to manage?

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I'd like you to go ahead and call on people but maybe you can stop sharing the screen. Oh, sure.

## **Mike Crow**

Yeah. Yeah, Jenna, would you like to jump in?

## **Janet Runbeck**

Yes. Thank you this this is a great presentation. But you bring out the act of addition in me. What I've got is is an observation of of, I think might be a limitation of the methodology which has to do with the characteristic of your sampling size. And I'm going to give you an example of what I mean. Basically, all of your partners in this particular project, brotherhood ry CCS, TMA associated ministries. They're they're all exceptionally wonderful for us here in Pierce County, but they're all faith based. And and what what, for instance, Wednesday, when the Medical Reserve Corps team went out as an outreach team, to an encampment, a very large encampment, we met a woman who was a newly homeless it's February 1 time experiencing homelessness 50 years old, a white homeless because of a partner abuse of a rental situation, recently raped and you know, another heartbreaking story. But in the experience of becoming homeless, she lost her faith. So she now says that she is not a Christian. She doesn't have faith in God. How can there be a god is is there when when people experienced homelessness is or also a lack of faith and then would a possible barrier of engaging with a co worker or case manager them having a faith based employer would that be a problem in doing your study?



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

## **Carolyn Weisz**

I don't know if you can hear me but I'm going to chime in Jan with this one because it's a great question that reflects that diversity of people experiencing homelessness, so there won't be a one size fits all. But as you probably all know, all of the religious based organizations serve everybody. And I don't think religion is part of the scripting of the coordinated entry process. But the point you bring up is probably important for again, further research but also remembering that religion can be some thing people don't identify with or a barrier. And the to one wants to step was the primary method that these families used as a first point of contact and and then they were called back often are given a referral so that I mean that is one way to honestly sort of take religion out of. Sorry, Carolyn, you're but you make a good

## **Mike Crow**

yeah, no. Oh, that as well. That, yeah, that we wanted, of course, recognize that people were coming from different places. And you want to be mindful about generalizing. Too much from one particular case. But you know, for many people that the their relationship with the church or so on is also an entry point to quite an entry. So we can't generalize from that experience to to people who don't come into the system that way. Teresa,

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

so I actually think it is significant that was such a small sample, you found that more people who went to through the Ministerial Alliance had a positive experience than those who went through other places. I think that is interesting that you were able to even draw some conclusions from the study, even though as you say, it's a small sample, but that's still interesting. I wondered about when you talked about the negative impacts because you had 10 responses to that. That indicates to me that there were six people who didn't have negative information to put in there. And but some of those, it was more than 10 responses. So my other guess is that some of those people who had one kind of negative experience also had another kind of negative experience. So I'm wondering how many people actually talked about it mainly in positive terms and how many people mainly talked about it negative terms.

## **Mike Crow**

Carolyn, you want to take a stab at that?

## **Carolyn Weisz**

Sure. We had questions about challenges and difficulties, and about positive experiences. So nearly everyone had something to say that was both positive and negative. So it's sort of hard to tell but the balance of people was and in the written report, which we can make available to the coalition has some of the data about satisfaction and it was also all over the board. So people weren't right in the middle. There were some more satisfied and some less satisfied for sure. And again, it's such a small sample. I don't think sort of overall satisfaction with the system. Or any particular agency is really going to be generalizable. I mean, I would be really hesitant to use that as a goal but to say there's a huge diversity



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

of sort of positive and negative things. And then the qualitative seems more important about what was it that people experienced as positive. I'll also say I'm not sure if Mike mentioned this, that the majority of that interviewees were still homeless at the time they were being interviewed, many of whom who went through Coordinated Entry entry many, many months before, so the things they were happy or unhappy about are important for them. To continue engaging with the system given that housing was still something they hadn't successfully

## **Mike Crow**

accessed. Jay you underpin

## **Jay Warley**

um, two things. One, I understand that your sample size is mightily small but I'm in that experience. Did you also look at how many times a person had been homeless have a reoccurred? Are they back in a system? How long have they been in the system before they got there? And was their dissatisfaction equal to the amount of time that they had been there? I am previously homeless. And so for me, a lot of times the system over time would change, but certain aspects of it would not. And one of the things that I had a problem with was religion. I am pagan, and it blocked me from a lot of services, but the current system is different than when I was homeless, and we're not seeing as much of that. But it is still a concurring thing for people that been previously homeless that religion was a problem for a while and a lot of us do stay away from religious based services because of that. So that may be something you guys might want to look at a little bit more as that you're not going to have it there because they're not going there.

## **Carolyn Weisz**

Yet. Thank you for that. What I can tell you, I'm looking at my notes here that nine of the 16 had been homeless three or more times we didn't ask for or get detailed information about how long people have been homeless or how many times but just listening to the transcripts, you know, that's the vast majority and I feel like people did have multiple touch points and times you know, interacting with the system and sometimes it was confusing in terms of when they were talking about positives and negatives. You know, there were times things were very frustrating or off putting and other times they weren't more positive. I think that's the reality, right? You just there's just a lot of different experiences somebody can have trying to navigate through lots of different people and agencies. And the theme about religion. I think that's just so important. I mean, I think we should all listen to that and think about it is true that most of the big providers are supported, funded, I don't know through religious organizations, but the accessibility issue and the welcoming issue, and how to make that not a barrier is something I'm hearing you point to and I think that's really important. People didn't mention religion. In a positive or negative way. It's interesting in the course of those interviews, and again, we focus mostly on the coordinated entry process. I know I've heard it did some other research once people are in transitional housing program, or other religious based housing setting, I think religion can be much more of an influential factor, you know, again, sort of off putting or or a good fit or a bad fit because



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

people are living in, you know, 24 hours in that situation. But with Coordinated Entry, people didn't mention that as the in our in our sample.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Well, this is great to have something so fresh off the credit of off the press be presented here. And thank you both for your time and for answering our questions. And please, anyone who has any remaining questions please put them in the chat. I'm hoping I know Carolyn is on the road. And so special shout out to you for joining us, despite the fact that you have somewhere else to be. And I don't know, Mike, can you hang around for a few minutes in case there are questions that go in there?

## **Mike Crow**

Yeah, I'll do what I can to respond. I also put a copy of the report into the into the chat as well. So you can you can download that if you'd like to see the study findings.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Thank you for that. It's wonderful to have you and we hope to keep hearing about the good work that goes on around research in an area that's so important to the people who come here. These meetings. So nice got,

## **Mike Crow**

yeah, no, no, because a couple of ones. Were on the workgroup, too, and also want to thank them for being part of this project.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Well go right ahead. Who are

## **Mike Crow**

the ones here so I just want to say shout out to Alan for for his hard work on this project. And who else uh uh, Valerie. Valerie is also was really was was important as we were getting started so just want to acknowledge them and their efforts on this as well.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Well, thank you. So, we are going to kind of tag on to what we just heard with the next part of this meeting, and this is our breakout group time. So Tim is ready with his pen, I think. And we were going to do this last week and we kind of decided based on the presentations this week coming and the fact that we had a short bit of time there to move it to this week. So we did a little prep around this. If you weren't here last week, it doesn't matter. You're going to be able to join in this conversation just fine. But we're talking about coordinated entry. So Garrett, are you ready to put us into rooms when we're ready? Are you able to do that? Okay, thank you. So typically, we go into rooms of about five. And



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

we're going to the question that is being asked here is it's it's in the agenda too, but it's basically what are your ideas for how our community could make Coordinated Entry work better. So it's a chance for us to talk in small groups about an issue that some of you are going to have a lot of information about some less. For those who are new to the whole idea of Coordinated Entry. Please note that Garrett put a link in the chat for learning about it but don't go there. Now just come and listen to other people who are talking about it. So there is a lot of there's often a lot of emotion around coordinate industry and how well it works or doesn't work and I liked the way Rob posed this question because it really is a community effort. It's not about any single organization. I also want to point out that on the last slide, I think it was in the recommendations. The bottom thing that was noted there was the need for more housing. So we all recognize that we can have a really good process for pointing people at services if we actually have services for them to engage in. So keeping that in mind and keeping that in mind that what we want are some good suggestions, your thoughts about what could we you're in talking about what we can do to make it better you're probably going to talk a bit about what's not working so well, from your perspective. Any questions about what we're talking about? All right. I hope you have a good conversation.

## <Breakout Sessions>

### **Theresa Power-Drutis**

So are we all back in the room?

### **Gerrit Nyland**

We are all back in the room.

### **Theresa Power-Drutis**

So I first I want to start out by saying my apology. Apologize to Timothy because I did not do the thing. That Rob normally does, which is say, please have someone in your room, take notes and put them in the chat. So if you did that, because you've done this so many times. Thank you and congratulations. If you didn't, please do put your comments in the chat and if I need to do penance by trying to help collect them, Timothy I will do that. But there it is, please do put some notes in there because this was the whole purpose of this was to get oh, there's somebody doing it already. Got a great team. I also want to welcome you back and hope you had a productive conversation. Garrett said something that has stayed with me and talking about coordinated entry when people get upset about it. That people got an airport it coordinate entry is an airport and people were expecting the plane and I think if you think about that for a minute, it seems incredibly true to me that you can and also the point about you can have a wonderful station for people to wait in. That is doing everything I'm supposed to do. But if you don't have any destinations, it's not actually going to look like it's working very well. So that is a little bit of a frame. And we are not going to talk about what you said today but we will Timothy kindly has



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

agreed to collect all these and he will do a feedback session for us next week about what got put in there today. So thank you for that. And CeCe I don't know. If you are are you here

## **CC Mendoza**

I am Here

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Are you game for doing the government update our person and rest.

## **CC Mendoza**

Sure it's time for us to have government updates. It's to understand what current efforts are underway. And we're going to start with City of Tacoma is Caleb here Caleb Are you here? Okay, so let's go to

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

actually I see Caleb in the list. Oh I'm going to ask him to unmute. I don't know. Well, why don't you carry on and we'll ask him to come back

## **CC Mendoza**

on their next step is Jeff Rogers and I see Jeff. Morning, Jeff.

## **Jeff Rodgers**

Good morning. I do have a couple of dates. To provide today. The first one being that we're in the process of finalizing a request for proposals or RFP. We're going to be releasing some funding for our inclement weather program. So you can look forward to that coming soon. Another thing that we're working on is that we had a Notice of Funding Opportunity that was released for looking for a third party capacity building organization to provide support to our current and interested applicants for our funding. Here for our homeless funding at Pierce County. Targeting buy in for organizations to help them develop the capacity to qualify for our programs and those we currently fund to help them increase and expand on on their successes with the funding they received. from us. So that process and that RFP has closed. So we're reviewing applications now and hopefully we'll be making an announcement soon of who that agency will be that will be working with some of our providers or potential providers. Excuse me. And lastly, we had another funding process. And it was known it is known as our C E system enhancement NOFA or Notice of Funding Availability, where we were seeking agencies to help us expand system navigation, open cultural hubs. Which we currently have one cultural hub program we fund and so those award announcements have been made. They haven't been posted yet, but once they're posted, we will let you know. But they're funding CEE activities different organization system navigation, and cultural hub work is the three targeted areas that we're focusing on doing contracts with that are targeted to start July 1. And is my update.



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

## **CC Mendoza**

Thank you, Jeff. So Caleb did you want to say anything? I see you're on the screen. Okay, Caleb's on mute. All right, let's move over to Valerie. warnie. Hi Stacy.

## **Jenny Lorton**

Missed you've been a while. So Valerie with Pierce County Human Services Rental Assistance Program. So as of today from March 13 2020. We've spent \$153 million on rental assistance that includes very minor utility assistance as well. We have about 40 million to go with 35 of that is already in our account, but we have 5 million coming from the state and we do plan to be out of funding the fourth quarter of this year at the latest so we are encouraging folks, if you know low income households who are past due on their rent, and we're impacted by COVID to please apply in the portal and get on that list because we will be giving a notice here in the next couple of weeks or months about a closing of new applications. So just a heads up. We are still working toward the design of the permanent program a Notice of Funding Availability will come out as soon as the state finalizes their requirements. And that will be a much smaller program. We will not have \$153 million in that. But we will have a permanent program moving forward for rental assistance. So more to come on those things. But get your folks to apply if they have been impacted by COVID. And we'll get you linked up with the right landlords if need be.

## **CC Mendoza**

Wonderful. Thank you, Valerie. Okay, Jenny from the Pierce County Health Department. What do you have for us, Jenny? Hi, good

## **Courtney Love**

morning. Everybody. It's nice to be here as always. So in the world of COVID. We are seeing case rates drop for the second week in a row which is good. They're continuing to plateau. And our hospitalization rate has gone up. So that's not great and we are in the high community level as defined by the CDC. The most important thing I can say about that is that the CDC at that level of community spread or existence of COVID. They do recommend masking in indoor public spaces. So I know many of us have been taken our masks off. And really we should be a little bit more careful in large public gatherings indoors in terms of mask wearing. Um, we are sorry, my dog is laying on my lap and she's like dreaming so she's making silly noises. I'm sorry for that. Um, shelter outbreaks. We have only had one outbreak recently. So that is good news. And we've been seeing fewer COVID outbreaks in businesses and care facilities this week, which is the first decrease in a while so that's looking good. Excuse me. Um, I'm going to share resources of course on how we can all help to stop outbreaks. I'll share some quarantine and isolate the quarantine and isolation tool from the CDC as a reminder for folks. I will share our data page. Our testing team is still working with shelters to get testing kits. And they shelters are able to request mobile test support if they need it. And if you are with an organization who would like and would like test kits you can also get those from us. We have a good inventory right now. So I will share the email that you can you can you can send us an email or you can fill out a form



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

to request test kits. I do have some important updates to share about isolation and quarantine processes. So as of today, we will no longer have isolation and quarantine phone line service replacement coverage on Saturdays. So the process for folks remains the same. If you are with an organization, if you need you know someone is suspected or COVID positive and needs a safe place to isolate or quarantine. There's a number to call and I will share that and then if it's on a Saturday you will need to leave a voicemail and someone will get back to you immediately the next day on Sunday. This is a change for us. The good news is that since cases are plateauing our bed capacity is high I'm seeing fewer outbreaks, we're hoping this isn't too much of a problem. We've seen a very low call volume on weekends. We recognize that the need may still arise and we're continuing to work on a more sustainable cost effective plan for isolation quarantine going into the future. So any questions on that please let me know. Um, monkeypox viruses, viruses still a problem the cases in the US have doubled. We still only have two cases here in Washington State and King County. And so that is something to keep your eye out for and I will share some CDC resources there. congenital syphilis is a huge concern. If you work with people who are pregnant, please reach out to me so I can connect you with our STD team for free resources. Marcus Taylor, who's a community health worker here the department has been partnering with outreach teams with MRC, and we've been going out to encampments to talk to folks directly about syphilis. If you would like to connect with Marcus for some additional support for your organization, I can help you to do that. And then finally, I'm gonna share our adult immunizations page. Just want to remind folks that there's a program called the adult vaccine program that provides free vaccines hepatitis teed up, measles, mumps, rubella, shingles, flu, all those adult vaccines for folks who are uninsured or underinsured and 19 years old, or older. And we have lists of participating pharmacies and clinics where you can send folks to get those free vaccines. So I'll share that information I know I said that was the last thing but I also wonder if folks saw the New York Times article about Houston that came out a couple days ago. I shared it with Theresa, they can also share the link. For folks it was really interesting and talking about their homeless response system and their housing first model. Really great article. So check that out. And then I just want to say I have been sending sort of a weekly digest of all the information that I share this call by close of business on Fridays. So check the coalition I assume everyone here is on that on that list, but if you ever need anything from me, you can feel free to email me directly. Any questions?

## **CC Mendoza**

Or Jenny? Yes, ma'am. Valerie out of question. Gallery

## **Jenny Lorton**

has I was just yeah I was just curious, Jenny if you think the decrease in the positive test results is because we're all testing at home since the state and the Feds were so awesome. It keeps sending me tests. Oh, no.

## **Courtney Love**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

It's like good problem to have. Yeah, the um yes. So the talking about case rates and is always a little problematic. And so I should I should always sort of offer a caveat to that, because you're absolutely right. Our data folks sort of warn about that they say that hospitalizations are sort of a better indication and more accurate indication because case numbers are greatly impacted by the fact that we're testing at home and not reporting those testing results and stuff. So So yeah, we should we should, the data we have or the data we have, but keep looking at cases as always, imperfect, imperfect way so that's why we still want to just do what we can to stay safe, get vaccinated and all of those things, but yeah, thanks for bringing that up. It's a it's a good question, and I should mention it as an asterix when I share those data.

## **Jenny Lorton**

As someone who has tested their children five times this week. I figured it might might be important.

## **Courtney Love**

Definitely factor into those. Yeah. Thanks, Valerie.

## **CC Mendoza**

Thank you, Jenny. Any other questions for Jenny?

## **Rosemary Powers**

I saw one from Donald I don't know if you could see his hand.

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

I can. Oh, go ahead Donald. Question for me, Donald. So see

## **Jenny Lorton**

one from Patricia. About reporting.

## **Reverend Pitchford**

So it's a lot of things that I heard and I shouldn't be able to go to the email, the homeless coalition's email and to get all this information that's been set up this time as far as the housing helping with assistant to rental housing for the young man, which I used to get from Catholic services and so many other services. But I need that information. So can I go to the email, Homeless Coalition emails

## **Courtney Love**

that's a great question. I don't have what I was referring to, from the information I shared is that I will share the information that you just heard from me, I will share that out to the to the coalition email. So if you're on that list, if you got the email about today's meeting and you're on that list, you will receive the information from me because I'm I know I talk really fast and I say a lot of things and they share a lot of



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

links, but I will put it in a summary email as far as what's on the coalition website. Maybe someone else can can speak to that. Or Valerie could send you information about the rental assistance.

## **Jenny Lorton**

Yeah, for rental assistance. I'll put up the website in the chat box for you. Yeah, I'm in a meeting. I'll just turn it down. Okay, so I got a bunch of agenda you're not muted.

## **Patricia**

I also wanted to make a comment had my hand

## **CC Mendoza**

up. Go ahead, Patricia.

## **Patricia**

Hi, Jenny. I also wanted to say with the rise in COVID rates if you if you take your the cell phone tasks, but continue to have symptoms that align with COVID Try to get a PCR test. So thank you.

## **Courtney Love**

Yeah, no, that's a great, that's a great point. Um, best best practice, I think is still like if you take a home test, and you have, you know, to follow up, that's not always feasible for everyone. But if you do need a PCR lab test, our website does have a lot of resources on where you can where you can find that so I'll make sure to share that as well with folks. And Patricia I will I have to look it up every time but the question about where to send results. I think there's a doh link and I will look that up before the end of the meeting and share it.

## **Patricia**

And there's always the COVID like hotline for any any like calls or questions. Thank you.

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Thank you.

## **CC Mendoza**

All right. I understand that is available now. Would you like to give us some updates please? Caleb okay.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Maybe you can just raise his hand when he gets back in the room. He said. I thought he was saying he was ready, but there we go. All



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

## **CC Mendoza**

right. No problem. Is Jody on is Jody. From the management team.

## **Reverend Pitchford**

I don't see anybody from emergency management on

okay. It's usually it's usually

## **Reverend Pitchford**

usually I've been to della but he's not.

## **CC Mendoza**

Okay, then we're gonna move on. The next

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

your voice is muted CC.

## **CC Mendoza**

Oh, I'm sorry. I have to get close to my mouth. So next, we'd like to update on safe sites. For All. Janet, do you want to handle that?

## **Janet Runbeck**

I sure do. Thank you. Safe sites for all. Okay. I have two nursing students here today. Brittany and Leanne. I'm talking to you this is an example of how housing and housing insecurity is a real social determinant of health. Okay, so listen up. Our committee which is open to everybody is meeting on Mondays at noon. On zoom, go ahead and register to attend. So the more the merrier. Right now we have three major issues on our agenda. The first one the reason why we started is the safe parking network. For folks who enter homelessness, often the way they enter homelessness is by living in their vehicle, and we do have hundreds of knocked out well, at least hundreds of people in Pierce County living in their vehicles. Our safe parking network is a success to the point that I am pleased to announce because Paula is muted and Paula cannot say this, but she's listening. The county Pierce County Human Services signed the contract. David appalling. Yes, there is a God of well, you know, for some of us for and others I don't know, but there's Paulette Yes. signed the contract is a two year contract over \$400,000. We've got management in place. We've got churches who are interested. We've got we've got a plan and we're going ahead to provide even more safe parking sites for folks because you know what, homelessness is not over and the economy is getting worse and so anticipating a higher rate of increase into homelessness. We just need to be prepared. So thank goodness for Paula and the team. And that's that's one thing that we talked about. And we're



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

celebrating success today for that. The second thing that we talked about is how to address jurisdictions as they do sweeps. So many of us who do outreach work on the streets realize that that encampments, people who live in the streets have been quote, swept on quote, we shouldn't use the word sweep, it implies dirt and dust. But as jurisdictions send out teams to remove and countless folks have to go somewhere, right, where do they go? So the the point is that should we as a coalition, have a stronger response to jurisdictions as they do these sweeps on our website on the main page, there's a letter that we drafted and endorsed as a coalition. Going back to October. That October letter is sent out every time there's an announcement of a street by the City of Tacoma by Ed Jacobs at Jacobs and Rob Huff are currently drafting and editing stronger language to the city of Tacoma in particular, that we we are realizing we need to realize that these actions by your local jurisdictions do not work. They do not work. So until the coalition comes up with with stronger language, you can use the letter the letter that we have on our website, go back to October, and then or Please all of you as individuals can send your own letters and your M make your own comments to jurisdictions as they make these sweets. Sweeps occur for the benefit of the neighbors. We get it. The neighbors are complaining, we understand that but it doesn't solve the matter. So that's on the action that we take on that our big issue that we're dealing with right now. Happens to do with the fact that we have weather. The surprise news is we have weather and guess what sometimes weather gets really really, really bad. So the now I'm sorry that Caleb was not able to be here we I spoke with Matthew Jorgensen last Friday at that wonderful open house that Monique put on wet by the fob, new campsite on 82nd and Pacific Avenue. And Matthew said that he has direction by the City of Tacoma to buy a pallet of water until there's at least eight pallets of water a stability site for our next severe heat dome. That will happen we don't know when we know what's going to happen. The problem is and we have Thank you, City of Tacoma. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. The problem is that not everybody who is experiencing homelessness lives within the city of Tacoma. So there are perhaps some imploring, please going out to the County Human Services. And on Tuesday we heard from at the county city council meeting and I am so pleased that Councilmember Ryan Mello is with us today. I don't know if he's still here, but he did show up earlier. And I know that Jeff Rogers is here and i There are things going on but I would like to call on Sally Perkins. First to give her assessment of what happened what was presented to the Pierce County Council on Tuesday. Take it away, Sally.

## **Sally Perkins**

Okay, so this was at a study session of the Pierce County Council and John Barbi from the County Human Services group list reporting. And he said essentially, we've learned that we haven't been really prepared that we need to do triaging that people need to be available on weekends and after five o'clock so some of the things we've been saying have now been incorporated into the counties thinking they are going to release a NOFA for one agency to to have essentially tailored services for weather emergencies so that I think that nofit is not out already is gonna be out soon. And they're updating all of their provider contracts to make sure that people know they're authorized to pay their people to work nights and weekends. if an emergency happens at a time that is not during working hours. They are working on a Policies and Procedures Manual. I'm not sure if it's for them or for us or for other



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

providers, like a desk manual. They're working on that now. And they're planning to have a community plan that will be done by the end of August. So the good things are all of those things are being addressed. The not as good thing and county people my apologies if you see this differently. The not as good things is it this report was made on the 14th of June. We're already in the summer weather emergency timeframe. And we have just been flat out lucky that we have not gotten the heat that the rest of the country has gotten. But torrential rain is another problem year round in the Northwest. And then we also know that we're likely to have smoke impacts from fires. So still concerned about it. My concern was this is awful late and having a community plan that's not available till August. That means that's not going to address the summer at all. It will hopefully address the winter weather emergencies which are different. County council members asset Windchill and relative humidity be added as factors to be considered as contributing to a weather emergency wind chill for coal, relative humidity for heat, and also ice and heavy rain. Those things impact people who are living outside and the last thing I will say is that this whole thing needs to be thought about as a series of microclimates. If you're a gardener, you know what I'm talking about. A set of 10 Serve shelters that are in a group of trees are not going to be impacted by heat the same way a set of shelters near concrete are going to be impacted by heat. So every single situation is going to have some unique features. And what's still missing from the planning I think is who goes that last half a mile or six blocks or whatever to actually get the supplies to the people who are living unsheltered. So, there's still work to be done. I considered it to be progress, but there's still a lot of questions that remain in terms of what will actually happen when our first weather emergency for the summer hits. So that's my take if other people were on the meeting, please chime in. I may have missed things or I might be interpreting in ways that you wouldn't. Thank you.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Patricia, you have a comment because I've got a little bit more to add. So go ahead and Patricia and ask your question.

## **Patricia**

It was more of a comment about the use of language that they're covering yet. John, generally more and more removals and sweeps due to the individuals. Thank you.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Okay, thank you. Thank you, Patricia. I appreciate that. And I also know that Jay Warli from lived experience attended that Tuesday meeting which which is great, you know some of those meetings can just be so monotonous. But but when we find out what government is and is not doing then they are critical that we show up. On Monday. We're also going to talk about a Richard Dorsett has found some language some other jurisdictions that have suggestions on triggers and thresholds responses. So he's gonna bring bring those things to our Monday meeting. So I encourage anybody and everybody who cares about the weather you will cares about what to do about folks who may not have all the resources that those of us in our room have to join us Monday at noon. And also we're going to be putting out things like what does heat exhaustion look like? What does heat stroke look like? What do you do? So



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

as you're walking around, and you'll see somebody who might be vulnerable to those kinds of symptoms. Do you know what to do as as Joe or Jane public? Okay, anything else? I'll just back off here

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Well, we're a little behind on our schedule. So I don't know. Are you there, Cece?

## **CC Mendoza**

Yes. So next on our schedule is the any coalition committee updates.

## **Rosemary Powers**

I don't have anything to offer today. We had meetings yesterday, but we're in the process of coming up with some things to share with the whole group. So looking forward to those maybe at the next meeting.

## **CC Mendoza**

All right. Thank you, Rosemary. Okay. Agenda item is announced. If people

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

are working, you see I'm sorry. Whenever you turn your head, we can't hear you.

## **CC Mendoza**

I'm sorry. I next is any good trouble announcements. Thank you for your grace, everybody. I'll do better. Any good travel announcements. I see.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

There's Rosemary's got her hand.

## **CC Mendoza**

Okay, Rosemary.

## **Rosemary Powers**

No have if this is good trouble or just good celebration that I put three events in the chat that are happening on Sunday, relative to Juneteenth. So if you're looking for something to do, either online or in person, or something and queue all up something that the Washington State Museum and something that Reston waterfront park. So those are things that you can find the information about in the chat.

## **CC Mendoza**

Great, thank you. I did want to mention that today is the last day for people to register for the MDC, educational opportunity 2022 Summer Bridge Program. And what it includes is college and university



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

doors treato shirts and swag bundle everybody likes swag, college pertinent information, lunch, education, educational information and tips and access to virtual job shadows. So that's a really good program. I put the flyer in the chat earlier. So if you're interested in that connect with us.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

So we've got Courtney and Edie both have their hands up.

## **CC Mendoza**

All right, Courtney. Thank you

## **Courtney Love**

for those something come from Maureen Howard regarding i 135 in Seattle for social housing. And the Washington State lived experience worked on developing that. So I feel confident in promoting it myself. Although it was before I was deeply involved. In the organization. And the last update I got from the Isaac 135 team was still needing somewhat of an overwhelming number of signatures. But that included a buffer for rejected signatures that I think is rather generous. So but the signatures have to be collected and turned in on the 20th on the 20th of this month, like two days. So if anybody can spend the weekend collecting signatures in Seattle for i 135. It is very important and well worth your time spent and I encourage anybody who can to do so. Thank you.

## **CC Mendoza**

Thank you. And

## **Ed Jacobs**

good morning. On the 26th the week from Sunday we'll have a homeless memorial service, the details of which are being finalized today, which means I miss my deadline to have them ready for this meeting. But I will be sending them out on the coalition listserv for everyone. Thank you.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

We usually also put that in the calendar on the website. Usually Yes. Okay, so maybe we can make sure to do that so people can find it there. Yeah.

## **CC Mendoza**

Okay, Theresa, I'm gonna hand it back over to you, my friend.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

All right. Well, this is where Rob usually looks at all of us and hopes that somebody is going to respond to these things. So gear up. We have two things. We have the reflection on today's meeting, which is if anybody has something you want to say about the meeting, something that went well, something that



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

you'd like to maybe see in the future or anything like that. You can either raise your hand and we'll call on you or you can put it in the chat. We're happy to get feedback anyway it comes. And at the same time we have anybody who wants to share a success story, because those are good for us. Oh, Jenny, go ahead. You had reflection on today's meeting or success story? No, I

## **Jenny Lorton**

actually just wanted to make an announcement. Because I know some of you here know, but some of you may not. I am leaving inside passages. My last day will be June 28. So I will be here with y'all next Friday. And that will be my last coalition meeting for a little while. I am going to work for a company called toy Smith. I'm going to be their HR director and part of their executive leadership team. But in that role, it's a children's toy distribution company. So it's going to be a very fun environment, but they are very dedicated to the community so I shouldn't be able to pop in every so often and say hello. As part of my role. They also give time off for community volunteering and things like that. So I should definitely be able to pop it in every so often and say hello to everybody. So I just wanted to let you all know next Friday will be my last day with you. Feel free to reach out to me directly ask any questions. I'm open until my last day with the organization so

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

we will miss you have been wonderful here and I'm assuming that you got a wonderful person to replace you or you wouldn't have left.

## **Jenny Lorton**

And that is in process. The founder, one of the founders of the organization, Heather is working on that as I speak right now. So more to come on that and I'm sure there'll be a community announcement that goes out when that all happens.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Well, we won't give you your send off today because you're going to be here on Friday, but congratulations.

## **Jenny Lorton**

Thank you. So much. I appreciate all of you.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Anyone else? Any of those items, you're can announce things you can tell us a good story. We have a couple minutes and if no one does any of those things. We will Oh go ahead Shannon. I didn't see your hand Sorry.

## **Shannon Ice**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

Sorry. I couldn't raise it my I'm on a phone. Okay. But I'm just really quickly I missed you guys. I haven't been able to be on here in about six weeks because I was in trainings and then I was sick with COVID for few weeks. And I passed my peer support training. So I just wanted to say that I missed you guys and I'm all better now.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Well congratulations on the training and welcome back and we look forward to seeing more of you, Shannon. You know anyone else on the phone who can't raise your hand? You just have to shout out as Shannon did I appreciate that. All right, well, it looks like we may actually be able to end just a few minutes early, which is good. We always try to do that. So anyone who can join us for the planning meeting with happens we'll make it right at 11am Come on back and we'll chat. Thank you all and thank you Cece.

## **CC Mendoza**

Thank you