



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

## Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

Fri, 7/22 9:01AM • 1:59:00

### SUMMARY KEYWORDS

tacoma, updates, folks, shelter, meeting, share, good, week, costs, coalition, county, planning, site, pierce county, encampments, city, build, community, housing, staff

### SPEAKERS

Jeff Rodgers, Elizabeth Powell, Lee Williams, Richard Dorsett, Alfred Kirk, Mary Poupart, Jennie Schoeppe, Jay Warley, Gerrit Nyland, Rebekah Cantrell, Sally Perkins, Paula Anderson, Laurie Davenport, Zev Cook, Rob Huff, Theresa Power-Drutis, Reanna Bettencourt, Patricia, Rosemary Powers, Adam Reichenberger, Ty Moore, Courtney Love, Janet Runbeck, Timothy Harris, Bob Vollbracht

This Transcript is created by artificial intelligence – mistakes are numerous. Consult the audio at <https://podcasts.captivate.fm/media/45d8336e-ee01-4af0-a311-3de52b42327b/2022-07-15-CoalitionToEndHomelessnessProviderMeeting-Audio-converted.mp3> to verify anything that seems crazy.

### Rob Huff

It's gonna get a little warm. Yeah. Well, good morning, everyone. I know we just hit nine o'clock but I'm waiting until we get around 30 folks in the room before we get started with today's meeting of the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness. It's good to see everyone this morning and look forward to some good conversation we'll get started here in a minute all right, so now that Jan's here I think we can probably start the meeting. So we are over 30 folks in the room. So let's go ahead and get started with this week's meeting of the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness. Rosemary, would you like to kick us off?

### Rosemary Powers

Thank you, Rob, and welcome everyone today. I welcome all of us to our open table where we make connections with one another, as we respond in multiple ways to the crisis of homelessness in our communities. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe who have lived on and stewarded these lands since the beginning of time and continue to do so today.



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

Beyond this awareness, we call ourselves to uplift the voices, experiences and histories of the indigenous people of this land and beyond. Today, we'll be learning about advocacy for homes in Tacoma for all will consider the costs of various shelter housing options, we'll be reminded of last week's conversation about support for people in vehicle homes. We'll discuss responses to next week's heat wave, and we'll talk together about how best to deal with the continuing reality of encampment sweeps throughout the city of Tacoma and Pierce County and considering our potential actions, I think we can hold two seemingly contradictory assumptions. First, that each of us at all the different levels of power and decision making are responding to this continuing crisis and homelessness according to our best lights. And second, that each of us at all levels can demand much more of ourselves, other residents of our communities and our elected officials. We can stand up taller with unrelenting demands. We can continue to remind anyone in earshot that the humanitarian crisis will not be mitigated. With humane approaches to removing people from one unsanctioned area to another when there are insufficient options to meet the need for shelter. It's the value of connection I want to point out today. What will I learn today that can lead me to take new action today? And who will I ask to join me or who will I join? In the early 1960s, a young African American poet Lucille Clifton wrote of a brief image filled connection with Miss Rosie, who mirrored the experience of many of our unhoused neighbors today. I offer Clifton's poem to honor these neighbors struggling each day against nearly impossible odds. And also to center us on our connection with them. Miss Rosie. When I watch you wrapped up like garbage, sitting surrounded by the smell of two old potato peels, or when I watch you in your old man's shoes, with the little toe cut out, sitting, waiting for your mind. Like last week's grocery I say when I watch you, you wet brown bag of a woman who used to be the best looking gal in Georgia used to be called the Georgia rose. I stand up through your destruction. I stand up I invite all of us today to stand up. If we stand or take a position if we sit, I invite all of us to stand up just a little taller as we dare to do what hasn't yet been tried. So welcome to our meeting today. And just so those of you are new know how we carry on here. We are on zoom so we ask everyone to stay muted when you're not speaking. And to keep your video off. If you're doing other activities that might be distracting. We ask that you use the hand raise hand function to get attention that you'd like to speak. And if you don't have access to that if you're on phone and want to speak of just do something then that that lets some of us know that you would like to speak and we'll make sure that Rob gets that message. Also, we do have a number of community norms that we developed early in our time together. And so Rob usually puts those in the chat so you can check those out there. And we ask that everyone pay attention to the fact that we want to lead with racial equity lens. We look around and see who's here and celebrate the diversity we have but acknowledged that we have a lot of work to do as a group of people from various backgrounds to ensure that the disparities around racial inequities are dealt with in our group and in the community. We want to be aware of the power dynamics among ourselves. Some of us have hanging hung around a lot and so we talk a lot. Some of us don't get to talk very much because there are now right now almost 50 of us here. So pay attention to that so to speak up when you if you haven't spoken and have something to add, make our connection real help others learn from the experiences they may not have had. And if you talk a lot Thai today to sort of step back a bit. So I think with that, I'd like to welcome anybody who's new one of our traditions here and it's not terribly fair to you if you're new but



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

you'll get a chance to meet some other people in our small group discussion a little bit later. But if you're here for the first time or returning after being away a while, this is a good time to just announce that you have joined us. Let us know your name and any group that you may be part of. You can also put this information in the chat to help with connections later. And that reminds me that I should just also say, we do use the chat for networking purposes during this meeting. We save the chat so it's available to you if people put email addresses or other contact information there. And it's not disrespectful to use that time to talk with others in the group through any private conversation or general conversation. So with that, if there's anyone new that just raise your hand and we'll be recognized for you to say who you are and what your what your group is if you have one. Yes, Lee. I think you're on mute still.

## **Lee Williams**

Sorry. Good morning. I'm Lee Williams. And I'm a faculty member at base Technical College but I'm also Department of Corrections reentry navigator representing Bates Technical College Clover Park Technical College. Pierce College pure and Green River College is where I generally will work with my reentry formerly incarcerated students to reenter the college environment.

## **Rosemary Powers**

welcome very much Lee. Look really look forward to having you with us and I personally would like to connect with you. So if you can put your contact information in the chat that'd be great. already. And then thank you, Mary and Elizabeth.

## **Mary Poupart**

Hi, my name is Mary Cooper. I am a coordinator down at the tiny homes project at the Pol tribe just recently started here and I'm looking to move up to that outreach referral coordinator. So this is i I chimed in here to try to get some some feedback and some resources and see how how all of you work so that I'm very new to this program and very new to the Homeless Coalition. So

## **Rosemary Powers**

well, you're very welcome here, Mary, and we'd love to learn from your experience as well. Thank you for great,

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

Mary. Welcome, welcome. It's great to see.

## **Rosemary Powers**

All right. That's great, Lizabeth.

## **Elizabeth Powell**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

Good morning. I'm Elizabeth Powell. I work for Tacoma pro bono as a staff attorney in what we're calling the help unit, which stands for housing, homelessness, eviction and legal prevention. So we have a little bit broader mandate than the attorneys that are just doing the right to counsel which is to appear on behalf of persons who are income limited, who are facing eviction. So with a little bit broader mandate. I have the ability sometimes to help with people in different situations, who are being excluded for reasons that don't actually start with the landlord going to court. So I am this week dealing with a number of different people, probably four who are abruptly homeless in Pierce County, and I'm just stunned at the lack of resources for them. So that's why I'm here. I want to learn

## **Rosemary Powers**

well, welcome very much, Elizabeth. We look forward to hearing about that program and contacting you about resources to Yes, Rebecca.

## **Rebekah Cantrell**

Hi guys. I've been here a couple meetings now but I've had a few issues and sick kids. So I just wanted to say hi, I'm with ideal options. We're a medicated assisted treatment program. We help with methamphetamine use opiate use disorder and alcohol use disorder. So my job as a peer is to actually be with the people. So I get to go a lot of the times to the encampments, I get to meet with a lot of people from different organizations to really try to build that relationship. And friendships so that when I'm out there, and somebody's ready for treatment, I can create that wraparound service. So that's kind of why I'm here. I'm here to learn too. I'm fairly new. I have lived experience three years clean and sober. But yeah, that's what I'm doing here.

## **Rosemary Powers**

That's great. Rebecca, welcome back and welcome to us for the newest stuff that you bring in. We'll look forward to hearing about the program too as you go along.

## **Rebekah Cantrell**

Awesome, thank you

## **Rosemary Powers**

all right, if there are others who are new and or would like to introduce yourself in the chat, we'll be delighted to have your contact information. And thank you to all of those who introduced yourselves today. We're really delighted to have you join us and congratulations on the clean and sober life that you're you're described Rebecca that's really great. So thank you very much.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Rosemary for getting us started. And let's move on to the next standing item that we cover every week. And this that is the this week on the streets segment. The purpose of this segment of the



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

meeting is to create space for folks to share what they're seeing changing on the streets, across the county. updates related to where folks are moving and what needs exist. And so this is a free and open session, folks can raise their hand and I'll call on you or wave your hand or just get our attention somehow we'd love to hear what you have to share with the group. Well, go ahead and Richard.

## **Richard Dorsett**

I'll post a I did a post earlier in the week sort of a update on several encampments. But thank you to everybody that was at the seventh in Tacoma sweep this week, especially the lived experience coalition. That was really ideal both on the first and second days as far as interacting with people. I was able to have a lot of conversations with people being swept and anyway the presence of people there to witness a sweep was valuable. The Milwaukee sweep is pretty much concluded. There's a couple of stragglers but they have put NIMBY box on about half to three quarters of mile along Milwaukee. They've authorized up to \$300,000 to buy these concrete blocks. A number of campers have shifted maybe a half a mile to another street in the tide flats so it's not really an effective moving of people out of the port environs. And then I'd say roughly half of the people under the 11th Street Bridge are gone. It people are working on their vehicles preparing to move and so that continues to be underway. And I suspect that probably not all of the sevens in Tacoma sweep will be completed today. But it's making progress there. People are leaving, some are still packing up getting their their space their spaces cleaned up. And some are just looking for new spaces. So people are scattered about town. And that is continuing on its way so I'll put it I'll put my update in the post too. So a number of other just general on encampments. 15th in Yakima has grown, others are continuing to grow as the sweeps continue and people are moved out displaced. And so as they look for new places, it's increasing the size of the encampments, and therefore changing the on the ground culture that's in place when that happens. So a lot of that going on and then watching the weather report next week and I'm sure we'll get to discussion of water sometime in this meeting. So thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, thank you, Richard. And you're right. I would expect that we'll talk a little bit later in the meeting especially. I don't see Jeff Rogers on the call at the moment but I believe he'll be here later on. We'll do some updates about the hot weather response. I will say that if you look at the PC homeless.org website, we've been able the little highlighted section to talk about the upcoming hot weather. And that includes a link to a page with basic information that I'm that I will maintain throughout the week next week. Unless the county decides to do something else for us to point to that shows where water is available. As well as cooling centers. As the temperatures look like they will get into the 90s and above maybe even approaching 100 Next week in the middle of the week. So thank you for that update Richard anyone else with observations and changes on the streets this week? Teresa, you will have you seen an inflow of folks from seventh and Tacoma into your neighborhoods since that seems to be a landing place for a lot of folks.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

It's actually kind of hard to tell because there's not I mean, they're everywhere. People are wedging their tents in between cars and it's been happening for a while. So it's like I will be going out again next week all during the week to deliver water so I will no more than but I did want to say the lived experience crew that showed up on seven than Tacoma were really pretty amazing and makes me want to strengthen our partnership with them. They they went out amongst the campers and we're I don't know it's hard to describe how it is and it was great to see Timothy there and Jan and lots of other folks. Anyway, it does. I want to thank Richard for being such a squeaky wheel and everyone else for showing up.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Teresa. Courtney, you have your hand up.

## **Courtney Love**

Yes, thank you first thank you for the kind words regarding the LAC the lived experience coalition from both of you and or all of you that have said it and we'd also we've been also checking down under the Marie Morgan bridge and continuing to help the people who are still under there but still getting drive bys by police officers. And also Laurel from NCS says that the next week will be 13th and G. G Street, but she doesn't know when it'll be posted. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, thanks for that insight, Courtney. I don't think that's a surprise. As the reminder, I said the City of Tacoma reaches out to the coalition by emailing and calling me when a when a new encampment sweep is going to happen. So if the notification of that comes I'll let the coalition know through our mailing list as soon as soon as it happens. My hope would be with the sheer number of people who are on G Street that that won't be like a 72 hour or one week. Notice because there's a lot of folks who need help that need to model need to find somewhere else to go. Jason J your hands up.

## **Jay Warley**

A lot of the people that we talked to that I spoke to on a few occurrences, were talking about breaking off and going to different directions instead of homemade camps. They were not looking to create or to go to something that's already established because they're awful. So a lot of them were breaking off to new sites that aren't there yet, or old sites that are clear right now.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, thanks for that. And I think that that is consistent with what I've seen as I've been out around the city and what Richards as observed as well. So any other final observations or thoughts for what folks are seeing on the streets if you do have other information to share, just a reminder, please do use the chat as a resource. As a reminder, we do post the both the transcripts and the chat from these meetings on the PC homeless.org website. So that's a resource that we want to maintain for the



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

community here. And so the chat is that community resource so please share. So let's move to our community spotlight for today and it's gonna be a little bit longer community spotlight than usual. I want to thank Thai more for rejoining us we couldn't squeeze the conversation into last week's meeting but I'm glad you're here this week to talk about home in Tacoma for all so Ty, I hand the floor over to you.

## **Ty Moore**

Really appreciate it, Rob and all of you all for taking a few minutes out of your meeting to to discuss the work we're doing and hopefully, you know, open further space for collaboration. So home and Tacoma, for all emerged out of a project of Tacoma DSA democratic socialists of America originally though now it's sort of developed its own independent life but we were looking to we were advocating in favor of the home and Tacoma process of the the redistricting. I mean, the shifting of the zoning laws to make it easier for more homes to be built in the city. But we also did that with a recognition that just you know, letting the private market rip, just opening up new zoning options by itself was not going to be sufficient to ensure increased affordability to fight displacement or to ensure you know, sustainable green development to meet the climate crisis in our city. And so we developed in dialogue with folks in the planning commission, and dialogue with people in other cities who've dealt with similar rezoning processes developed a platform of demands on Tacoma City Council, and saying if you're going to pass Holman Tacoma for all you know, it should include the following I'm going to sit put in the link petition around those mountains and, you know, home in a coma for all home in Tacoma, phase one passed last December, as I'm sure everybody's aware, and we're currently in the process of phase two, the planning commission. We originally developed this date trying to influence the Planning Commission's process this spring of community input in April culminated in a vote in early June, where they are basically saying this, these are the policies that the contractors and the city staff should be studying to include in phase two and and you know, things are also of course, left out. And so we want to influence that process. So we develop this platform in order to do that. And they have as part of their 10 points that they're looking at in phase two, they have a bucket of issues around affordability around anti displacement and around sustainability among the other 10. And so our demands were developed around that. Now of course, we recognize, you know, we tried to we wanted to push the envelope. If you look at the package overall, I'm not going to get into all the details. You know, they they're based all on things other cities have done or but they're pushing the envelope and I think it would require, you know, I don't think the city is just going to do it based on lobbying efforts alone, it would require kind of a rethink of the role of local government in a significant way. And I think a real grassroots movement and that's the other side of what we tried to do. through April, we had petitioning teams starting April petition teams out all across the city farmers markets, walkable neighborhoods, etc. collecting signatures around this platform. And to date we've got that kind of slowed down after the planning commission process ended in early May, but we've picked it up again. And you know, to date we have well over 2000 signatures, about 500 online but mostly paper signatures and are developing a trend to develop out of that grassroots base and email lists etc. We had our kickoff meeting in April with 120 people. I think some of you all were there. We had a trainee activist organizing training all day in early June that brought about 40. And, and right now, what we've decided to do is to sort of split into



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

four committees to work on different projects. One is continuing to be a lobbying and lobbying committee that is working closely with city council members, planning commission members to try and push some of these policies through a lot of some of them are being considered and looked at the second is a tenant Organizing Committee, and that's, I think, quite developed in quite an exciting direction we just came out of this week, the UFC W local 367 represents 8000 grocery store workers has agreed to partner with us they just gave \$6,000 So we could hire a part time staff person to work with their members. So we're going to launch a website that's dedicated toward union members but also anybody who wants to sit who's facing excessive rent hikes eviction or slumlord conditions and wants to organize to fight back. They're gonna survey their members. Make sure their shop stewards and all the Tacoma area grocery stores know that their members can approach us if they're facing eviction or rent hikes, and work with a volunteer or volunteer team to do intakes. Some people will just need legal assistance we hope to work with Tacoma pro bono. Others will need other simple forms of assistance, but some will be in a position to organize fellow tenants to fight back against the rent hikes to fight back against slumlord conditions to fight back against unjust evictions. So we're hoping to expand that to other unions and community groups to similarly survey their membership. If anybody here sits on a membership list with people who maybe face a lot of renters and would like to work with us on that. We would love it. And finally, we have a community outreach committee that is continuing to do petitioning volunteer recruitment etc. Our hope in our analysis is that none of the we're not going to see large scale policy solutions by lobbying and sort of moral persuasion alone. It's going to take building political power. It's going to take building a powerful grassroots movement. So we see the tenant organizing work as feeding into the policy and lobbying work to try and build the scale of movement that's going to be necessary. Certainly, we don't have any illusions that our project by itself is going to be sufficient. We want to work in coalition with all of you with many others, to make sure that we have a city that is affordable for the people who live and work here to make sure we have programs to face folks out of homelessness, and to make sure we have a way to build enough affordable housing that we know the private market by itself is not going to do. So I encourage people to look over the platform sign the petition, if you haven't already, and I know Zeb is going to share some of the social media handles that we've launched. We're good. We're kind of we're going to launch a website very soon. And a fundraising drive to be able to sustain ongoing part time staff positions to be able to develop this work. So any support you all would be interested in offering would be excellent or any collaboration you want to explore.

## **Rob Huff**

Great, thanks, Ty. Um, so do you have a moment to take any questions from folks?

## **Ty Moore**

Absolutely, yeah.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah. Jan, I see your hand up.



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

## **Janet Runbeck**

Oh, this week, there was an article in the Tacoma News Tribune about a hilltop church, specifically with Shiloh Baptist. Which is the first time I've heard local attention to the impact of gentrification on our homeless population or just squeezing people out of homes. Do you? Are you working with an there's a second term that was mentioned? Are you working on that level with property owners that might be faith based that might be able to offer more affordable solutions?

## **Ty Moore**

I wanna make sure I heard your question right. You are we were you're asking not about are we working with faith community you're asking specifically are we working with, like developers

## **Janet Runbeck**

who are or anything to include the faith based on solutions? That seemed to be a pretty creative and public way of addressing the issue? Are you associated at all at all with the gentrification and the and the fact that they're faith based owners of property in challenged areas?

## **Ty Moore**

We have some folks involved in different faith communities and have talked about the need to do a lot more outreach in the faith community to try and, you know, build support for the platform and build connections. But I got forwarded that article, I haven't had a chance to read it yet. So we're not directly connected to that. We do. One of the main policy issues that we are exploring and urging the city to explore his building a social housing developer, which I don't know if that's exactly in your question, but you know, it's been it's a model that's used internationally quite extensively. You know, Vienna is sort of this example where they developed it many, many years ago. 60% of Vienna's rental housing stock is public, but it's not like warehouses for the poor. It's like, you know, mixed income communities, that people then creates a tremendous amount of stability, etc. Anyway, that so we're we've we're in dialogue with Tacoma Housing Authority, and some of the nonprofit developers, I'm not sure exactly what different folks in the faith community are doing around that. But to explore, you know, could we bring in something similar with that maybe looking at Land Trust models? So tangentially that might be around your question.

## **Rob Huff**

Great. Yeah. Thanks, Ty, and anyone else with questions for Ty? So Ty, could you put your contact information in the chat that would be fantastic if folks want to reach out and then feel free to come back and attend at any point if you feel like this group could be helpful in some way to move your work forward. And Zeff. I see you have your hand up.

## **Zev Cook**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

Yeah. So I just wanted to add something really quickly. Because this home is common for all is a coalition project and includes, you know, certain people and also the lived experience coalition is also working with us on it. Yeah, I just want to say that we we're here you know, weekly talking about like trying to open new shelter space, and all that sort of things. And you know, the fact is that rent went up on average in Pierce County last year 22%. And if rent goes up, even 10% on average for the next few years, we're not going to be able to open shelter space. fast enough for all the people who are going to be coming newly homeless. So we I mean, it there needs to be a point where we, you know, stand up and say like, this is a problem with how the city is run. We need to stop you know, how quickly rent is going up?

## **Rob Huff**

You Yeah, thanks, F and J. S here, hand up.

## **Jay Warley**

I talked to a lot of people in the community and as I talk to these people, gas station workers, clerks at stores, people that work are essential jobs. The most common comment in the last month and a half has been Jay I don't know what I'm going to do. If they raised my rent. If I have even 100 more dollars, I will be homeless. If they add 100 more dollars, I will be homeless and those are essential workers that are getting a very good hourly wage right now. We are really hitting a crisis point and it needs to stop.

## **Ty Moore**

Jana, you want to move on about? I'll just underline that point. But the alliance with the United Food and Commercial Workers is exciting to me because I think, you know, these are union workers who just actually won one of their biggest wage gains in their history and their recent contract negotiations just a couple months ago, and yet their members are their shop stewards and their grocery stores I've seen our members are being forced out into the city. Some are being living out of their cars as they're going to work some are couch crashing on one another's couches. You know, these are union workers who cannot afford to live in our city who are being priced out by the, you know, 20% annual rent hikes that we're seeing right now. And so I think when you are getting we're getting to a point where, you know, I think this is not just an issue that's easy to other eyes and push out to like, well, it's just the poor folks who don't normally have much influence and cultural cachet. But I think we're getting to a point where this is impacting a very, very large swath of working people in this city. And I think there's a basis to build a powerful movement linked with Labour linked with other community faith organizations to push for more fundamental change at the city level.

## **Rob Huff**

Well, thank you very much for the for the update, tie. And, again, please reach out to me if you'd like to request additional time in the agenda going forward, and we look forward to hearing from you at that time. Appreciate it. All right. So let's shift to our first dive into the topic of the costs of different types of



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

shelter. So let me put into context why we have this on the agenda this week, at the end of last week's meeting. Those who are able to attend the planning meeting were were asking, thinking that it would be good to put it into context, the relative costs of different types of shelter, and that set off a light bulb in my head that carrot would be the perfect person to talk about the information that is embedded in the comprehensive planned shelter for all section that's at the end of the Comprehensive Plan, or the shelter plan, which does include some of those calculations. So without any more rambling from me, Garrett, why don't you take the floor?

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Well, crap, Rob, I think I put the wrong presentation together. I thought we're just gonna talk about general costs around homelessness, including shelter stuff. So you can have have some general costs of other homeless things, or an ad hoc dive into shelter costs.

## **Rob Huff**

So what we were thinking about was really, and what you put together I'm sure it's, it would be great. So let's go down that road. And if there's additional questions, and we we know where to get a hold of you to dive into the

## **Gerrit Nyland**

as I'll fly through my stuff, and then I'll get to some shelter stuff. Have Awesome. All right, sorry.

## **Rob Huff**

No, it's all good. Okay.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

All right, intervention costs. It's all about them, showing that it's all about the money in some ways, as we think about how to size our homeless system. And so I'm going to just kind of go through in my mind, everyone that is advocating for homeless systems would benefit from having back your pocket, how much does it cost to do X, Y, or Z? Cost matter? Because it helps us to understand cost benefit ratios, and it helps us to plan for unmet need, right? We can't build a system if we don't know how much it costs. And even though talking together, it's a good thing. Bringing money in to run the programs that we as a community have decided we need is important. There's a big danger though, in talking just about money, and this is a picture of her lovely car. And if you're looking for a car, lotuses spree gear girl design I mean, beautiful, amazing, right? And if you want a super car, it's cheap. But ownership experience is subpar. And, and so, as we think about things, things that look really good, right or seem like they're really inexpensive. Sometimes it's worth digging into more in the same scope, things that seem really expensive may be necessary. And so again, we're going to talk about cost, but try to understand that there's a lot of programs that need to be more expensive, or can be operated less expensively, you know, we just we make decisions about things based on not just cost but lots of other



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

factors. So keep that in mind. We're gonna talk about two kinds of money all the time. We're going to talk about capital and we're going to talk about operations capital is how much it costs to build facility or buy vehicles. Right operations is my lump sum for everything case management time, overhead costs, what it costs to pay your accountant to do the Billings, right, all that kind of stuff sits into operations. And we typically have two different funding streams for those things. And strangely at the county, we have pretty much never funded those two things together for our homeless program, which to me is worrisome as a way of kind of thinking about and doing business. Right, because it makes it hard to start new programs. So yeah, I'm gonna fly through these interventions. We all know diversion, I hope, right? It's a one time payment to help somebody exit homelessness. This is the only program we consider couchsurfing a success. So diversion it's like Anything's better than being on the streets or in the shelter system. And so not anything right but, but this helps you get into permanent housing. It helps you relocate, it helps you stay with your aunt or something like that. That's about 14 \$1,500 for an intervention. I should have updated that slide. Right, but so we have rent assistance costs associated with it. So typically, we assist a family with direct financial assistance of about \$750 to move in, sometimes much more, sometimes much less. And then we also have case management time, and that's sort of the overhead of doing all the work around that is that case management costs. So diversion is pretty inexpensive, and it helps people that probably would get out of homelessness on their own get out faster. Our second big intervention is rapid rehousing. This is a national model. Basically, it says let's get someone in a house or an apartment that they could afford in the future and will cover rent until they're able to sustain it themselves. We typically pay about \$6,500 in rent assistance over the period of time so this isn't a one payment. This is over a set of months. This is all really useful for when we think about shelters and shelter cost by the way, right? This requires housing available on the open market. So if there are not houses to rent for somebody, this is not a functional intervention for them. And we have about \$3,500 of case management and again, that's kind of all of the other operations other than the rent assistance. And typically a case manager will have around 1517 households at one time on their caseload. So it's about a \$10,000 intervention, right? Again, put that in your back your head right diversion 1500 intervention, Rapid Rehousing is about \$10,000. And again, that's a one time for the household, and 60% of the time households are successful, most don't become homeless again. So it's a pretty good investment compared to something like housing. And housing voucher costs aren't something I'm super good with. So if somebody with a Housing Authority was like, Garrett, actually, that's a little higher. Now. I would believe you that a housing voucher basically covers your rent, and there's an expectation of a third of your income going in right so third of your income and the housing voucher covers the rest. And this is really good. There are a lot of households that do not need case management to stay housed. They just need housing subsidies, right because our housing is more expensive than their come right. And the chances of them increasing their income, right thinking about people on SSI SSDI you know, folks that that are starting their career, right? They do not have the ability to increase income dramatically. So and this depends an awful lot on where you're renting, but 12 to \$24,000 intervention a year and I honestly don't know what the averages are depends on the household size, largely. Our third tool is basically the same as a housing voucher except that it comes with case management, right? So not only does somebody need this



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

intervention, right to stay housed, they also need case management long term. Right. And the capital you can use market rate housing right So Sharon care house has a lot of this. Veterans Administration does a lot of this where they rent an apartment, they have a deal with a landlord, and they have a voucher. And they're not buying or building a project. They're just renting an apartment just like next to my house. And but you can also build right so your capital costs can be zero or your capital costs can be \$400,000 a unit right we're definitely getting in that range 300 to \$400,000 for a permanent supportive housing unit to build and, and general market right one apart one bedroom apartments are 250 250,000 a year to build, right and then you've got rent assistance that you need coming in. Right. That's your voucher. Oftentimes we have a separate stream that is a housing voucher through a housing authority. And then we offer case management and that can differ from very low costs, programs to others that are very expensive for a year. A lot depends on the needs, right? You need something different in family housing that has long term clients than you do and a permanent supportive housing unit for young adults that basically needs to create a family environment and provide a lot more supports and more people come through because people don't often need long term permanent supportive housing as young adults, they just need it for a few years. Anyway, back your pocket, I always put us around 20,020 \$2,000 a year, permanent supportive housing intervention, and that brings us to shelter. Shelter can be wildly different in how much it costs. i Let's see. So per unit if we do tiny house village, right, so tiny house village per unit, looking at about \$12,000 a unit. And that's about \$5,000 to construct a tiny house or a little less if you're putting a tent up but then you have a lot of other costs around toilets and sanitation facilities, you know, clothes washers, showers, a tent for people to prepare food office space for staff to meet with clients, right so all of that infrastructure, so a 65 unit 65 unit a tiny house village is probably going to come in around \$800,000 To construct that's based on somewhat stability site costs and current projects that Lehigh has been doing in Pierce County and other projects around the country. Right so so but you need a lot of money to run a shelter and and that's where things get kind of expensive. So this is per bed, right? So you're looking at running per bed for a year, and we don't typically have shelter guests that last a whole year. Currently like our tiny house villages, or shelter guests are staying 220 days, right? So a little bit over six months. And a lot of those have negative outcomes, right? They're moving out to homelessness again, but a lot of them are having positive outcomes, right. So, but that's around \$22,000 now so bed night is what we typically talk about cost around shelters, and so bed nights. So you're looking at a tiny house village, you're looking around 55 or \$60 per bed night. And you're gonna find something lower when you do a less expensive facility. And that kind of has like different needs I guess. So like or scale I guess scale really is it right? So you look at nativity house and running 167 people, their overnight staff because in dramatically bigger than the overnight staff at a 65 unit, Tiny House village so scale oftentimes get you a lower cost, right so nativity house for the rescue mission. They're running 35 Maybe \$40 At the most per bed night so they run less expensive because of their scale. And also, most of these we typically expect no rent ever been paid. On our shelters typically we expect them to be something we find capital funding for him. And what you put in a site right affects the cost. So my tiny house village cost about a million and a half to run any year. If I'm running about 65 Folks, and that has so that \$55 buys program generalist, right so they provide site security check people in check people out, right? Take care of



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

problems, case management, right? And we want a less than 20 to one ratio, right? So you want to at most 20 clients per case manager. And we also want to have on site Case Manager or on site behavioral health, right so our goal would be to have people that want to engage in behavioral health, at least, you know, are no more than 20 clients per behavioral health staff. So whether that's peer peers or whether it's, you know, MHP mental health professional would be desirable. That's expensive, right? That's 100,000 a year plus probably 120 a year to bring a mental health professional on site. Right? So you just you kind of add those costs. And so you can you can have a super inexpensive site that doesn't have an awful lot of services, are you going to have much more expensive and I'm just going to say there's oftentimes a myth of bringing other folks into a site to provide services and that's largely a myth. You know, people you know, if you want services on site, you basically need to be paying for them or contracting for someone to bring them on site. It's not completely true, but but in the way of thinking about it, that's a I think that's a good way to think so, my wrap up here, hopefully, I'm anchored this shelter stuff enough, right? This, it's, it's all different ways of thinking about it. So again, diversion, right? It's 1500 compared to La \$20,000 for a shelter intervention for a year. So if you did six months of that raised me talking 10,000, right, so I could put someone in a shelter for \$10,000. Or I could put them in an apartment for \$10,000 and hopefully have a path to them being independent. Our limitation is it's too expensive, right and there aren't enough units right now for that to be as effective as it is in places like Houston, or, or in New Orleans that have a lot more housing stock available or Cleveland, right. And so that's when we often compare approaches in different communities that needs to be within the context of what's actually possible. So I'm advocating more money on shelter, even though financially it doesn't look as effective. Right, and it's not as good for our people. But the reality is, we don't have the housing for that to be successful. And ignore that. And the other thing is just like, you know, the Lotus was lovely at the beginning. We needed a lot of different types of shelter, right? So we need we need different models, and some will be more expensive medical, respite shelter will be more expensive because we'll have medical care on site. And we'll have other things it will be less expensive because that set of clients doesn't need some of you right, so this is a picture with all different types of cars and transportation. Right and that is just sort of this idea of what our shelter system needs to look diverse because we have lots of different folks and lots of different needs. I'll do a better chart next time with what you actually asked for.

## **Rob Huff**

No, no, that's good. And I would expect we'll have some questions from folks. I really like your mention of the continuum of continuum of options for shelter, the need for a diversity of options because I understand the juxta you can from this presentation you can see the temptation to want to create more congregate shelter because it's less expensive to maintain and run over time. But the challenge we have of course is sometimes many people don't want to access congregate shelter so then we don't end up actually addressing the issue on the streets

## **Gerrit Nyland**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

and I'm gonna jump in so there's no question about safe parking. And so one way you can build a model is not having 24/7 staffing and basically safe parking functions that way you could even say safe parking or tiny house village with less than five households. Right? Right. That's small. You probably don't you know, and you're vetting and you probably don't need on site. So you're going to drop your cost dramatically right to to the tune of 7000 a year or something like that provide you can you can dramatically from 20,000, right, or even less, and so, right that's super effective. And again, a lot depends on whether you're bringing, you know, something like a \$200,000 shower trailer and toilet setup in right or you're using an existing bathroom within a church or a facility right so there's some other elements to that that can make it less expensive, but but most of safe parking in our system. Cost savings has to deal with very small projects that don't require 24/7 supervision, which is what people in encampments ask for, by the way, right? We don't want security because we want it we want security because that's been something routinely identified by people living in encampments. As a high priority for them.

## **Rob Huff**

Yep. Let's see folks with questions. I am seeing content in the chat. Other folks who have questions that they'd like to ask live rather than a chat

## **Gerrit Nyland**

there was a comment about Lehigh ZModeler tiny homes versus micro I just use it as a it's a blanket term for non congregate living situation and as a temporary right so not a permanent option. I like them permanent to they tend to be 200,000 a unit is what we're seeing permanent, Tiny House micro homes. Right but that it's just sort of a catch all for a non congregate space and honestly the space that we construct doesn't matter. I think it's a high priority to be non congregate for sleeping. But whether that's, you know, rooms in a building or tiny house units or micro homes, you know, from a cost perspective, right other than the capital to construct, they're fairly similar to operate.

## **Rob Huff**

J see your hand up.

## **Jay Warley**

So, if you cut the cost of night, staff, could you put in, let's say, theoretically, a program that's volunteer to step into stipend to step into a program that helps you get employment and use those hours for a reference period so that they have a reference to add to resume per se and a background to help them get employment. Could they do something like that instead, and that would they drop their cost, that they're raising their chance of employment at the same time?

## **Gerrit Nyland**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

Yeah, absolutely. I mean, honestly, from a funding perspective, we'll fund anything that an agency thinks is gonna work well, specifically if it has Workforce Development baked into it, and lower cost of operation, right. Like we were. We would prefer those things certainly, right. I mean, you want something sustainable, and it's going to be, you know, ethical for the people there and all of that, but, you know, honestly, there's, there's an element to how we operate as a funder, which is a little hands off on things. So we try not to dictate means and methods as a government funder, but absolutely those would be ridiculously competitive as funding becomes available.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks for that question. Jay. And, Sally.

## **Sally Perkins**

Can you note on your presentation, the options that rely on an available supply of housing in the broader community? I think you said rapid rehousing and probably housing vouchers are two of those. And if those options rely on that available housing and we don't have any available housing, then those options are not very robust at the present time. And I think people need to understand that if what I'm saying is true.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

It's interesting because what you're saying is true. However, we also as a homeless system, exit about 2002 people into permanent housing every year through the open market, right, so diversion and rapid rehousing continue to be successful. We just think there's, they're less successful because of that saturation point. So it works. That but it's limited, right? Like we you know, but if you give me \$30 million, say, for instance, I don't want to buy 100 unit apartment building, right? I can do an awful lot more with \$30 million in terms of working the private market in a way like that's what I feel a little bit it's like so so investing direct money into buying units is a lot of money that we need to develop that flow in. So I'm not saying we don't do that, but what do we do now? is an interesting question. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

And let's see Alfred, do you have your hand up and then Courtney?

## **Alfred Kirk**

Oh, okay. Um, we, okay. One thing that I've noticed and mainly also due to personal experience, is that we basically they they basically have a more or less eliminated an entire class of housing. Which is like say your residential hotels and things like that, you know, which are low, low barrier to entry and and that and things like that. And you know, the cities have said, you know, that you know, they're nuisances and all that.

## **Gerrit Nyland**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

Yeah, I think that's, it's interesting how all those have gone away. And I tried to there's a big chapter in a book I read that talks an awful lot about, about just, you know, it wasn't no one intentionally, kind of made all of those go away. But it's, it's been, you know, kind of, actually within the terrible book called San Francisco. Which is not worth reading and yet I'm glad to have read it. But they had a really interesting coverage of the disappearance of SR the single room occupancies in San Francisco. Yeah, not didn't use of data in that book like a little twisted however, like also good. I don't know.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks for that perspective, Alfred. And Courtney, why don't you wrap us up?

Thanks. Um, I would I hear you, Garrett, when you say you think he could do more in the private market with \$30 million. But the long term impact is you can't control the rents so I would like more data. I would like to see more data crunching on like expropriation and into social housing units. And maybe even calculating how much of what a vacancy tax could do to mitigate some of the costs. So I am more interested in public ownership than private market. Work. So I'd like to see more on that. Thank you.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

Yeah, I agree. Like the money we need to have going into affordable housing. Right. The scope of it is important to talk in terms of right like we need a plan to bring 100 million a year 500 million a year into Pierce County into right. Public ownership, right. And that's a long term process of getting that revenue stream right even identifying that we actually buying in that we needed. And so I guess I just have this shorter term hope, being able to serve more in our community while we do that at the same time, and maybe it's it. Yeah, it's hard to know which side it's hard to know. The right thing to do. So I appreciate these conversations

## **Rob Huff**

that that describes so much of what we're working toward working for so it is hard to know what the right thing is to do. Patricia, you have your hand up.

## **Patricia**

Yeah, I don't want to take too much time but I think it needs to be like a plural situation. I think it needs that the private marker. The private market tends to make houses quicker and more available than getting caught up in the government but like to have like a government way to keep that rent stabilized is also quite important. I don't know. But yeah, it's a bigger conversation. But thank you for letting me share.

## **Rob Huff**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

Thanks, Patricia. So, Garrett, thank you for the presentation. For folks who are I saw Jenny said she was having a hard time downloading it when it was dropped in the chat. I presume, could you put this on the coalition's website, Garrett, when you get a chance

## **Gerrit Nyland**

here and actually I'm going to send it out to the listserv right now. Okay, perfect. Yeah, man. I'll get it up for meeting that's

## **Rob Huff**

perfect. All right. And yeah, I just this background information is good to have and always good to hear on every now and then to see how the numbers have been updated. And I did post the link to the comprehensive plan to end homelessness. There is information about the costs of different types of shelter in the appendices. to that as well. So that may be some good additional information if you really want to geek out on it. zap your hands up.

## **Zev Cook**

Yeah, I just wanted to mention really quickly that there are like estimated 15 million vacant homes in the US while people are like on the street homeless. So if anything, it seems the private market is extremely good at keeping the housing stock as limited as possible.

## **Rob Huff**

When when housing is a commodity, there's a there's a value in holding on to it. Whether it's Yeah, yeah. Capitalism is fun. So let's shift gears. Why don't we take a few moments to have Timothy, review the the what we learned from last week's breakout conversation and then we will have some government updates and come back to this week's breakout conversation. So Timothy, you want me to share that document?

## **Timothy Harris**

Yes, please. All right. And I just dropped it into the chat as well so that people can download it if you prefer that. So last week, we talked about what can we do to better serve people living in beautiful homes and King County. As always, there was a ton of great thinking that revealed itself and 10 minutes that we had to talk about it. And I'll just, you know, sort of run through the ideas quickly. Some of it was you know, relatively generic stuff that we're used to seeing needs to be more funding ensuring safety. of vehicle dwellers things like that. Safe parking sites, que away type places and the county helping churches to use their facilities to host safe parking, things like that that have been discussed quite a bit. There was an idea that came up in a number of groups simultaneously, which was kind of interesting, which was about creating some sort of a project that brings together people who have skills to help repair trailers, or not trailers, you know, Arby's and such because that's a continuous needs. So there was an idea of, you know, kind of formalizing something to address that. related thing that was



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

more focused on the kind of cosmetic presentation of Arby's and maybe getting arts funding around that long shot, but an interesting idea, nonetheless, something that people talked about during the call last time was just a reminder that people living in our bays often need the same types of support that people living in tents are don't overlook I Arby's when we're handing out water and things like that. There was a kind of a constellation of ideas around helping people prepare for homelessness for vehicle living. Assembling tips for people who are living in their vehicles trying to get that information together in a more coordinated way. Some ideas for best practices, training outreach workers, on connecting with vehicle living communities, researching models of manage safe parking lots for Arby's, there was a mention of a Santa Barbara safe parking Procedures Manual. I found a link for that that I put down and the resources it's a little expensive. It's 150 bucks to order it. So if anyone has it and wants to share it, you might want to pop that in the chat. There were some other additional comments that arose that didn't really fit in the main category. Some of it was about just you know, the contracts around outreach. And it also reflected some of the discussion that was on the call last week about funding up front so that nonprofits don't have to carry the expenses some much. Having people with lived experience and forming those contracts to make them more on point. There was a comment about you know, kind of the Coordinated Entry triage problem and how it leaves people in the middle without the services that they need. There was the ever popular private property expropriation, as suggestion and a call for applying landlord mitigation kind of techniques to vehicle living and seeing if there were any things there that we could draw from. And then there's just a list of links that people mentioned that I assembled at the end of the document. So that's pretty much pretty much what was said.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you again, Timothy. That's great information you make our the time we spend together in those 10 minutes more valuable with pulling this together. So thank you so much. All right. So as I mentioned, we will go to government updates now and then come back to do our breakout for this week. So let's take a look at those government updates. Caleb from the city of Tacoma, this is his day off however, he did email me today with updated information regarding the upcoming hot weather and what's going to be available across the city of Tacoma. In the next week, that information is included on the hot weather page that I'm updating and again, you can link to that from the PC homeless.org site. So that's what I have from the city of Tacoma this week. Jeff Rogers from Pierce County is actually in a meeting with the department or with the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management right now. So let me paste into the chat what he sent me earlier in the meeting he did pop in briefly. His update was that they're planning right now for the inclement weather next week. They are have scheduled morning briefings with street outreach teams and emergency shelter providers on Monday through Thursday to address the issue. And meeting invites have been sent if you didn't receive that meeting, invite and you would like to attend that meeting. Just email Jeff at the address listed below. So that's an update from Pierce County. Not sure if I don't see Valerie on the call anything that comes to mind, Laurie that we should update about the the rental assistance.

## **Laurie Davenport**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

Yeah, the portal closes on August 1. So everybody needs to know that it's still available until then for people to apply. It's still and it has to be covered related. Landlords also have to participate but you can still apply. And you can you can update like you can get into the portal to update information. Let's see and they all will they'll continue to process the applications they received up to the point where they close the portal and then they'll work on the new applications that came in since then. So so it's still happening. You can still contact them via email. I believe it's HS route set. Whatever the Pierce County thing else so. So that's that was happening that's important there. And I think Valerie's run over this before the county is working on a new permanent rental assistance program that will have some built in kind of conditions that hopefully will make it successful. And reduce fraud, which is kind of a big concern right now. So that's mostly what I know about rental assistance.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah. Thanks, Laurie. Yeah. Yeah, and I do know Valerie emailed to the mailing list here a week or so ago about the portal closing. So that's a good reminder. Jenny from Tacoma, Pierce County Health Department, what do you have to share with us this week?

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Good morning, everyone. Casual Friday for me today in my hoodie and glasses. So forgive me, I just couldn't do it this morning. I hope everyone is doing well. Um, I know folks are really thinking about heat right now rightfully so. But just in terms of our ongoing COVID situation. Community transmission level is steady but at a higher rate than then it's been with this new set of variants of variants that we have out in the community. Very good idea to be wearing masks in crowded spaces. And you know, fortunately, our hospitalizations and deaths remain low. We do unfortunately have shelter outbreaks right now. So we're working on getting vaccine clinics up and running again. vaccine is really the best protection. I think a lot of people are hearing about vaccinated community members or friends getting sick recently. So that's that's that's a true thing that we're all sort of seeing I think, but it's important to remember that vaccination actually means that you're much much less likely to become seriously ill and end up in the hospital. So that's that's how vaccines work. They don't you know, keep us from getting any sort of virus but they keep us from getting very sick. So really, really key. There's a new vaccine coming out soon called Novak's which you may have heard of it is not an M RNA vaccine. So for folks who have concerns about the mRNA technology, this is maybe an alternative. We have our test to treat program which offers free medical consultation and treatment medication, treatment medications for folks who test positive who are at high risk, so I will when I share all my links I'll share that with you all um I have been delivering masks a little bit. To to some shelters on Monday. I'd love to make sure that cooling centers have masks so I've reached out to the context I do have if you're on the call, and you are from Chicago Public Library or Pierce County Library System, I don't have contacts there. So if anybody does let me know. And I've been emailing with Jeff and Ivan and now that I know they're in a meeting together as we would expect, I know why they're not getting back to me right away. So anyhow, I would really love to make sure that those folks have masks since there's going to be people coming inside to stay cool. So we'll be working on that. I have some other updates to share in the chat



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

regarding our isolation and quarantine capacity. I've talked about that in recent meetings. So hopefully, you've gotten my my meeting updates in my emails. And I'm also going to share something about monkey pox, which we've still got very low numbers here in Pierce County, but is a concern for us. And walk folks on this call to be aware and if you're working in in congregate settings to be aware of how that is spread, and I'll share a nice CDC one pager that you can read share with your staff to raise awareness and also to post Are there questions or concerns for me

## **Rob Huff**

not seeing any

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

measles vaccine. Interesting. Yeah. You may have seen in the news this morning that there was a case of polio in the young adults in New York. So that is the hits just keep coming. Get vaccinated folks.

## **Rob Huff**

As I understand it, that was an unvaccinated individual.

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Vaccinated kiddo who? Yep, um, yes. So if there aren't Questions or comments from me, I'm, I'm also invited Rihanna Betancourt from, from the health department. She's an environmental health. And hopefully she is here to talk a little bit about our department's efforts at coordination and materials development around heat and what's going on with that, so I'll turn it over to Rihanna. A lot of you will remember Rihanna, she used to attend these meetings quite a bit. So Thanks, Brianna.

## **Reanna Bettencourt**

Thank you. Thank you for sharing the space with me, Jenny. Hi. Oh, it's been a while since I've been here. We have some heat stuff to share with the acknowledgement that I know that it is not enough for the unhoused population. But we feel better this year than we did last year. About where we're internally with this work. So I'm gonna paste a few things in the chat. Our keep cool web page. We just were allowed to not allowed to but we just got a new infographic made heat exhaustion versus heat stroke. It's will be available to download in the top eight languages. It can be downloaded and printed. And handed out at community events or during outreach. And also our new our newest blog just came out just a few minutes ago. The translations might not be in the webpage yet. They're being worked on at this very moment. So that's that I have some few sort of high level updates, more maybe shared by my supervisor during the during the emergency briefing meetings this next week, but it looks like the Harris County cooling center page is going to be live today and I just looked at it and they've got some updates on there yet now but not cooling centers yet, but those will be there. Transit is waiting for emergency management to finalize theirs. They will then update their messaging around free rides and whatever else they may offer. Are it environmental health team received some funding a few months



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

ago from the Department of Health to do a draft heat action plan. And that funding has allowed us to focus more on this work. We want to do a lot of this stuff and just haven't had the capacity to do it. And so it's allowed us to do quite a bit in the last couple of months and also our own internal heat response plan. So sort of developing, you know, what, what actions are we doing internally during a heat watch? What are we doing during a warning and so we're in the process of developing those at this point. But I hate response plan is being worked on. To determine when we would activate to a off normal or low maybe to prompt others around the county to maybe try and do it a little bit sooner. Because we recognize that the day of is not it just doesn't work well. Oh, short term we want to lower threshold than the house. So they have a 90 degrees for three days before they'll activate. We want to do it sooner. So we're looking at that. We're looking at what King County Public Health has done. We're also looking at the Northwest or the National Weather Service sort of guidance. We haven't made decisions yet. We know it's going to be lower though. Probably 85. Long term, of course would be a heat action plan for you know where we would make recommendations about what we think based on eHealth information. What we think this, you know specific government entity might do differently or sooner and things like that. So we would make a lot of recommendations around health information. And then also, we're in the process of developing environmental assessments for long term care facilities and shelters to help assess preparedness for air quality and heat events. And so that's really exciting to me. They will be in electronic format but also can be printed. At some point were abstain. Obtaining a a staff person that can be in our environmental health program that is sort of like a journey but in environmental health and like specific to our like if we have a smoke event or something, that person would be a direct liaison. So those are my updates. One more, we are advocating for government organizations to move quicker and sooner. That's it.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Rihanna. Thank you very much. I do see Paula you have your hand up but related to a question for these folks.

## **Paula Anderson**

Yes. Just real quick. I was going to ask Rihanna, if you know if the health department has any funding for advertising for when we have these heat events to partner with Pierce Transit because we all know that they're going to offer free rides. But again, unless we're posting something in the shelters, the bus shelters on the buses themselves if they're not running that ticker tape, you know, electronic thing across the back or have some sort of thing on Pierce transit buses, that alerts people that there are free rides for the week of whatever it is or for the next three days. You're you're missing a lot of people people we can't always get as service providers the information out to everybody that's on the street, and literally with the group, you know, attempts reaching close to 100 next week, potentially, that could be a life saving thing to get on a bus with air conditioning and take them to a cooling center. So I'm just I'm just wondering how we can all partner together to get that. You know, get that word out. That's just that's my comment.



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

## **Reanna Bettencourt**

Yeah, that's no, that's great information. Paula, thank you for bringing that up. I mean, they do like a news release on their web page and then some social media stuff, but that's not you know, that's not enough. So, I will take us back to our heat action plan, lead and we can have the conversations with Pierce Transit and see what can happen around that but thank you for bringing that up.

## **Paula Anderson**

Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Great, thank you for all the great updates and it's good to see you again Rana. All right, so let's shift over to have our breakout conversation for today. So the topic that we wanted to consider today are ties in directly to what we're seeing on the streets with all these sweeps especially within the city of Tacoma. There's been a lot of frustration on the parts not only of those who are being displaced all the time and facing the repeated trauma but but on the on the part of those of us who are in this meeting, and folks who are advocating for those who are being displaced. So we thought it'd be healthy to have a networking conversation for a few minutes this morning about what are some other ways different ways that coalition members can respond to the ongoing sweeps I'm sure there will be some entertaining, some constructive, some entertaining ideas of what folks can do. So let me open the rooms here. I'm gonna put everybody just like usual into breakout rooms of five or six folks, and why don't we spend because we're of course behind on our agenda again. Why don't we spend 10 minutes so we'll go until about 1033 ish. Considering this conversation and please someone take notes, paste them in the chat when you get back here. And away we go.

<breakout rooms>

## **Rob Huff**

Welcome back, everybody. Folks are gradually making their way back into the room. Here.

## **Patricia**

We needed more time, Rob.

## **Rob Huff**

That's always the case. You know, it. Two hours just get shorter every week. I don't know how that happens. So hopefully that was a good conversation even though it wasn't the 15 minutes I originally had planned. So I do think we did about 12 minutes. As a reminder, if you did take notes during the session, please paste them into the chat so that Timothy can do his magic with them next time. And let's see I'm glancing real quick at the chat. levada. I'm sorry that the time was short. And please do reach out to me with the direct message regarding your other concern there. So let's shift to the final items of our meeting. We've got about 26 minutes left in today's meeting. And I just want to do some



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

brief advocacy updates. First, I wanted to do a thank you to Sally for flagging what's on the agenda for the City of Tacoma has community vitality and safety committee this next week. That meeting is on Thursday at 4:30pm. The agenda is not actually posted on the city's website yet that I saw. But Sally had the info from by other means that they're going to talk about possible changes to tenant protections, and Tacoma. So that's something that we're very interested in as a coalition. If you have the time to attend, that could be a good thing. To do. This next week's Tacoma City Council study session doesn't include any updates related to homelessness. However, during the regular meeting on Tuesday night, there is a recognition I don't have details about what's included in the recognition didn't have time to track that down, but a recognition related to youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. They're also for those who are paying attention to the process to select a new person to serve on the city council. The selection of finalists for that appointment will take place at the end of Tuesday night's meeting as well. So those things are there. Otherwise, anything Sally that I missed or that you would add for advocacy this week

## **Sally Perkins**

haven't had a chance to check the county stuff yet so Nope.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, yeah, that's that's always the my standing. My standing saying here is that the county updates their agendas for next week. On Friday afternoon. So the timing is pretty poor for giving those updates here, but if there is anything critical, we can send it to the mailing list. So that's quick updates for advocacy. Let's shift over and Jan would you like to do updates for safe sites for all committee?

## **Janet Runbeck**

Workers concentrating on the weather at this point? I am pleased to announce that nourish foodbanks has offered several pallets of water several pallets more and they have offered because in the big logistic picture. It's not just getting the donation it's how to get that individual donation to the end user. Nourish has also donated warehouse space and a truck and driver. So I had kind of hoped that with 2021 Having two major weather events where this coalition was the essential bridge between services and donated goods getting to the population that needed them that the county would have included us in planning for what's going to happen next week. Apparently they're having a meeting now and we've not been invited to the table. That being said, we do know that we have built up our resources. Everybody in this room has some connection to folks who live unsheltered. We need to know who the outreach folks are who want to know where to get water and any other supplies that might be donated. Rob is basically our communication guy. He is keeping the website updated with sites. The sites are possible as each site has some restrictions possibly for instance stability site has lots of water that has been provided by the City of Tacoma, but it's only for folks within the city of Tacoma. The beauty of stability site however, is that it's open 24/7 Because there's somebody at the gate. The other sites that are available don't have 24/7 connection. For instance, St Vincent DePaul has water they're not available. On a Sunday and new hope in pure pass water. They're not necessarily open on weekends,



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

Lehigh on on Hosmer and Lehigh on proctor. They're open and the water that's been donated to them is not restricted. So my suggestion is that you go to the website to find out where these places are. And anybody volunteer or professional has access to this water it has been donated. So Elysee lived experience coalition, you've got folks that go out. We heard from Zig Zag knows folks in the previously known group of Food Not Bombs or whatever I mean, anybody casual or professional. Last year we even had fire department folks who had to come to us because nobody else had anything available. So um yes, a brotherhood rice has been a critical, a critical part of both the weather response and response in general to poverty and bless our hearts. So

## **Rob Huff**

so I just had a quick direct message from Jeff Rogers, that he has been able to join the call and he can do a little more update about what the county has planned. He's of course coming here straight from the the DM meeting that he was just attending, so Let's carve out some space for him to do that update if that works.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Absolutely. So I will put my phone number in the chat. But Rob is going to keep the website current as to locations. As I say some locations have restrictions as far as ours or population. And and I want to have a big message for everybody. If you go out to see folks who are living homeless. You are not just bringing bottled water which may prevent a 911 call. You are actually doing a welfare check. It has been shown that when people are shown respect and just the human touch of connection, they do better. Okay, so you've got a bottled water and a smile and a hang in there. Message. Okay, I defer to Jeff

## **Jeff Rodgers**

Hello Sorry, I'm on my cell phone. My computer volume isn't working people can't hear me I hear can hear you if they can't hear me. Yes, good morning. earlier but I've been for the last hour and a half in various meetings planning for inclement weather next week in the counties response. What I can share is that plans are moving forward with opening cooling centers. Number is to be determined and locations will be determined but some locations been found out where Parkland five Gig Harbor area they're not set in stone will determine where they're going to be. The plan is that folks can access public on Pierce Transit and have a free bus ride if they just were to share with the bus driver that they're going to a cooling center. In that cooling center is in the past they're going they will allow people to get on the bus free. have access to those cooling centers. They're planning to be open from like noon till 8pm which covers the warmest time of the day. Mostly get down into the 60s in the evening, which is a lot cooler. And so the plan is that they'll open at noon 8pm We are having daily briefings next week. We've invited those who have requested to be a part of them, but specifically our outreach providers and our emergency shelter providers to come together and question about what they're doing what they're not able to do, who could pitch in here pitch in there and coordinating this work. What can shelters do? That type of a thing. For that we're trying to coordinate together in this work. We're aware



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

of what the city of Tacoma is doing. I'll leave it for them to share what they're doing. We're aware of what the coalition is doing. We'll leave it to the coalition to share what they're doing with their water distribution and things. There was a quick question just popped up about how will folks know that they can access the bus? Well, the hope is that outreach workers are out in the community, you know, distributing water providing information and are starting as soon as they can to share with people that these sites will be open. They'll only be open currently Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Those are the three severe weather days that are projected currently, possibility depending how the weather may shift or whatever and be hotter on Friday or whenever that it could be expanded. But currently plans are for next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. That's the 26th 27th and 28th based on the current weather forecast. So we're relying on folks who have contact with unsheltered to share that word with folks. And we should have identified by Monday, all of the locations and start setting those up so that they're open by noon on Tuesday. Ideally, what I heard was they're looking to maybe use some school facilities in different areas of the county there's good partnership between our D EM, which will be activated. The M is activated for this inclement weather cycle we have and we'll be open and we will have staff from our homeless team at the DTM working with D M staff in addressing this weather situation. Our meetings that we're doing each day starting Monday as a first planning one is at 8am If you don't have an invite already, and you want to be engaged, you can send me an email. I believe Rob may have already shared my email with you. I sent him a message earlier this morning and in between some meetings to let him know where I was at. Please email me and I can make sure that you get added to the email list to be a part of that discussion with our outreach teams and emergency shelter teams and those teams that do outreach work that we don't contract with but are out there in the community doing outreach work. We'd love to have you involved as well. I'm the contact currently by Boston is out of town next week in Washington DC. So if you have any questions or concerns regarding inclement weather, you can email me those as well. And I'll coordinate and work with the appropriate people here at Pierce County to address any emails or concerns that come our way. Sorry, was there confusion regarding the 90 it is 9am that I say 8am Sorry. I'm involved in more meetings come Monday and summer with the EM or summer with our outreach and street worker. So the street outreach, and the emergency shelter work is at 9am Invite adhere to the invite which is 9am. Not 8am. Sorry. Too many things going on and just a lot of conversation over the last two hours basically here this morning. I'm going to take questions at any questions anyone may have real quickly.

## **Rob Huff**

Let's see. I don't see anybody's hand going up yet. Oh, there's Jim.

## **Jeff Rodgers**

Okay.

## **Janet Runbeck**

I know the dreaded Jan I am so sorry. We love



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

## **Jeff Rodgers**

and we love you. We appreciate you.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Oh to be a fly on the wall. Is anybody from the coalition invited to the EOC for during during the day em activation?

## **Jeff Rodgers**

I will ask that question. I will let you know.

## **Rob Huff**

One question that I had Jeff. So I've been maintaining a page linked from the top of the coalition's website with with hot weather resources essentially. I'm happy to continue to do that. But if the county is going to create something I'm glad to switch over to pointing to that from our website as well. So as we get into it on Monday, let me know and I can make that flip that switch.

## **Jeff Rodgers**

We will be providing we can provide a link to our website, our communication staff in our department as well. As our communication staff out of our communication division under our executives office. We're involved in our meeting this morning and they're creating a countywide response to pushing it out through social media and all their different networks and things they do and posting it on our website. I can make sure that you get that link Rob if you want to be able to share that

## **Rob Huff**

perfect. Yeah, perfect. Let's see Jenny has her hand up.

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Hey, Jeff, um, I've been I sent you an email but just wanted to say that I'm trying to I'd like to make sure that the cooling centers have have masks. And yeah, I'm reaching out and getting a hold of some folks and getting confirmation that they do but just keep me in the loop and I'm hoping that Ivan can plug in there from the

## **Jeff Rodgers**

Ivan is one of the staff we're working with the CPM. So I'll go shoot a message and remind myself about that. Absolutely. And coordinate something and maybe get some masks. I don't know what their status is of having availability of masks themselves, but we could make sure that I have surplus

## **Jennie Schoeppe**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

too and I'm happy to deliver but um, yeah, just see your email I've I've connected with the two of you there. So you want to reply to that. That's cool. Just wanted to put a bug in your ear about that. Thanks. Thanks.

## **Rob Huff**

Jan, is your hands still up from before or something new?

## **Janet Runbeck**

Something new on Niagara just donated some water that nourish is going to store. So Jeff as you're doing these planning sessions. What's your folks go to different websites to find about out about what's going on. So when we as a coalition donate water or have these networks set up. It's it is open to everybody and we want to get the word out. But we don't want to be in competition with government systems that have have are posting things. So what is the best way that that we can share the information of water being available and all those things because right now we're going to be up to like six pallets of water at the parish warehouse so I mean, you don't even know that from from the county because this all happened within the last 24 hours. Yeah, what

## **Jeff Rodgers**

what we do have any updates could be preached would be appreciated. We've been notified of the locations of your water being in Kubala, 86 and Hosmer in the proctor district. If and we're going to put that on our website so that staff know that's available for them to access. So if you have updates and want to share them with me, I could make sure that they get into our county website because as the county we're trying to share everything we know to help everyone along the way and this just isn't as a department for us. Dealing with unsheltered homeless it's also dealing with low income folk and seniors and disabled folk who are housed and don't have air conditioning and trying to address things from that avenue as part of our department as well. So, yeah, we're making it broader. So we'd love to have any information you want us to share. We're willing to share.

## **Rob Huff**

And Teresa your hands up.

## **Jeff Rodgers**

And Jeff Rogers never said I never say anything. I don't mean and when I say I appreciate you I truly appreciate you. I don't say that to a lot of people but I definitely will say that to you, Teresa.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

So first I appreciate you and the work you're doing on this deaf. And I'm wondering how is it going with hearing from municipalities about what they're doing is I mean, the county is sort of coordinating this whole response to the heat. And I'm wondering is Tacoma communicating really well with you as to



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

Allah or other municipalities telling you what they're doing so that you can have all of that compiled in one place? Or do we still need to have a page on our site that has links to several different versions? Well,

## **Jeff Rodgers**

because our DM is activating this is actively activating the DM cycle, and that there are D E M representation in different jurisdictions across the county. So they'll be reaching out to those jurisdictions and understanding what they're doing. And I have a briefing on Monday morning with the em again regarding all of this in coordinating with all of the smaller jurisdictions because smaller jurisdictions don't all have the same threshold. But what I've tried to convince our D E M is well, great that they don't have the same threshold but based on the weather forecast I've seen next week, I'm pretty sure that the forecast all of the jurisdictions, this will impact them by their threshold. I'm seeing temperatures between 90 and 100 degrees in what I'm seeing next week, and yet only has 85 degree temperature, but I think based on what's forecast is going to impact every jurisdiction so we'll know more on Monday, and we'll be planning all day Monday to be able to respond on Tuesday. And in the past, many jurisdictions have worked and we can share this information within their jurisdiction to provide something within their jurisdiction that's additional and above and beyond anything that Pierce County may be doing. We've we've had communication with Tacoma because they're very proactive. And they have lower thresholds for with this weather, degree or temperature. So we are aware of what they are doing. We're slowly reaching out to to em to those other D E M partners, to figure out what all those other jurisdictions will will be doing. And we'll share information.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I hope going forward there'll be some way of tying the release of funding for certain things to cities actually making information available for our citizens of Pierce County and so that there can be one place that people can go and not have it all in bits and pieces. It also will help us to know where the gaps are. Because right now, we don't have really any idea. When you talk about the small municipalities doing something or other. If we know they're doing it, we can release the concern about it. But if we don't, you're gonna get duplication and that's just not reasonable when we are a whole county that should be working together.

## **Jeff Rodgers**

I understand. But it's a process. And we've never planned an intimate weather this far in advance to be honest with you. Yeah, so starting as early as we did earlier, this week is a first for us. So we're improving we're doing better. But we have to give those jurisdictions the opportunity to respond. And that coordination is done from a Department of Emergency Management perspective, from D M. D M. So, you're fortunate to have staff and human services dedicated to this unsheltered homeless work, staff from city of Tacoma. They're dedicated to this unsheltered work. But when we did with all the other jurisdictions, its coordination between DMS, unfortunately, because they're not as engaged and involved in the homeless work as the city of Tacoma and Pierce County.



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

I appreciate that you're working on that.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, that was definitely good. I want to acknowledge that we're in a much better place going into next week than we were a year ago. So we definitely appreciate that. Any final things you want to add Jeff, before we Oh, one more work to wrap up our meeting.

## **Jeff Rodgers**

Last year during the inclement weather in the summer, there were some water purveyors or water districts have whatever word you want to use. That opened up their speakers at their facilities for people to come in fill water jugs and that kind of thing. Our d m is reaching out to some of those water purveyors throughout the county to see if they would make those resources available. And yes, homeless people could go their outreach teams could go there. Anybody that needs water could go there. And we kind of focus on that so that seniors and disabled folk or lower income folks who don't have access to water could potentially get access to water through those Water District's water purveyors and have that resource. No guarantee yet but many of them have been reached out to we just haven't heard back a response.

## **Rob Huff**

Great, well, I'm assuming we'll hear that update and those daily check in calls start next week. So

## **Jeff Rodgers**

yeah, and I'm taking two things away real quickly. I'm taking the question about the coalition had to do em, Bob, I think to RPC websites to you if I've missed something else, it's needed from me. Those are the two takeaways I have unless there's something else.

## **Rob Huff**

Nope, I think that's it. Oh, Jan's got her hand up.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Jeff. Also take back the note that when you're looking for public water systems of spigots that would be available to our students and the public. St. Vincent DePaul is willing to set aside a reusable water bottles.

## **Jeff Rodgers**

I did see that message Yes. Yes. Yes, I will share that as well.



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

## **Rob Huff**

Great. So Jeff, I'm glad you're able to jump on the call. This is really important content for next week's heat emergency that we have approaching. We've burned up our time on to for today's meeting. So So very briefly, does anybody have any announcements for the good or the order that we'd like to share before we wrap up, Jan,

## **Janet Runbeck**

an example of how this coalition works well, Monday, Wednesday, there was a sweep. Several of us the call went out throughout the coalition to show up at the sweep by the way, Timothy Harris Hill is a lot taller in person than he is on Zoom. That being the case, went to the sweep. There were options by the City of Tacoma, that the police were there but the heel team was there. And there were options given to folks we know that they're not desirable options necessarily, or even realistic. But the heal team did get some people to agree to go to different shelter options. We know that not everybody would necessarily trust the police that he'll team asked. Me to take an individual woman down to the stability side because the site had been procured in advance with planning. And I was able to take a woman from seven to Tacoma via the heel teams interaction, respectful interaction with her down to the stability site, where for sure she had a better, safer environment. So I just want to say it takes all of us with that itty bitty piece that you think you do. It's not itty bitty. It takes all of us to do the networking.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks for sharing that in and that is a perfect way to wrap up today's meeting, count our blessings and our successes and talk about those here every week. So I want to thank everybody for being here. I see Xev you have your hand up before we wrap up?

## **Zev Cook**

Yeah, sorry. I just put it in the chat earlier but in case people were interested, we have a community meeting to discuss the home into come up for all campaign on Monday at 7pm at the 330 Tacoma building. You can also find that information on our website.

## **Rob Huff**

Fantastic social media. All right. And on that note, I wish everybody a safe weekend and enjoy your preparations for the coming heat blast. And for those who have an interest in and ability to hang in here for the planning for next week's meeting. We'll do that here in about five minutes. Otherwise, everybody else have a good weekend?