



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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Any additional questions or comments we can share with the partners on the proposed Pierce County Village?

Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 11.04.22

Concerns that were shared

- Very important to keep listening to the input of lived experience, BPOC community.
- County needs to maintain ownership of the property and lived experience needs to be embedded in the development of the plan and are already late to the table for it.
- “Can you really put a septic system in wetlands and get a good result? It will be a very tough site to utilize septic in this space.” Worried about cost of operation when everything is built.
- uncertainty about the wetlands conditions and the funding needed to accommodate those challenges.
- Operative and service provider costs could be a barrier.
- Concerned about source of operational ongoing funding. Not confident that there will be enough philanthropic support over time.
- Children don’t stay children and can age out, and might not have a place to say when they reach a certain age.
- Three years from now folks will need renewal for permanent supportive housing. Where will that funding come from? Service providers may be put in a position of causing unintended harm not having places for folks to go. Permanent isn’t always permanent.
- We are not copying the Austin model verbatim (private bathrooms, kitchenettes, etc). We should not expect verbatim results.
- Concern about how oversight going to work and how will it scale as the site develops.
- Concerns raised by some Spanaway residents regarding environmental issues and not enough conversation with them before choosing site, no bus service, the local impact of a low barrier site
- “Can’t put all our eggs in a basket that takes 5 years to build”
- Where is all the detailed evaluation data? While the Austin project is exciting, want to see details on effectiveness.
- Issues with frame of homelessness “not a housing” problem but a “lack of community” problem. Much to unpack there and reason for skepticism.