



## Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

Fri, Nov 11, 2022 9:00AM • 1:15:40

### SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, meeting, folks, sweeps, city, encampment, talk, chat, pierce county, concerns, cold weather, hand, week, coalition, jay, question, put, rosemary, area, planning

### SPEAKERS

Christine Lindquist, Richard Dorsett, Alfred Kirk, Jeffrey Boyce, Jay Warley, Sally Perkins, Ed Jacobs, Rob Huff, Zara Sedore-Mallin, Keith Helmka, Joe Perva, Patricia, Rian Booker, Cynthia Stewart, Janne Hutchins, Tim Harris, Courtney Love, Dana Peterson, Jennifer Strickling, Zoe Grieder, Jenny Lorton, Theresa Power-Drutis

This Transcript is created by artificial intelligence – mistakes are numerous. Consult the audio at <https://podcasts.captivate.fm/media/829ec0c1-e413-47bf-9ea5-2c656a15a4ff/2022-11-11-CoalitionToEndHomelessnessProviderMeeting-Audio-converted.mp3> to verify anything that seems crazy.

### Rob Huff

But it's great to see everybody on this Friday morning Happy Veterans Day. And we recognize we may have a few or people today and we are going to have a shorter meeting than usual today because of the holiday. But appreciate that some folks are able to make it and we'll start here in just a minute. All right, why don't we go ahead and get started. Rosemary, would you like to kick us off?

### Rosemary Powers

Thank you, Rob. And welcome everybody. I looking around this group and seeing so many people who are doing so much good work and just want to welcome you to our open table where we bring all our experiences whatever they are together and try to connect and make and commit ourselves every day to working to make community where everyone has access to safe and secure housing. So We gratefully honored acknowledged that we rest on the traditional lands with a pool of people who have lived on this land since the beginning of time and continue to steward this place today. On this federal holiday Veterans Day, we honor the service of many tribal members and protecting the democracy that often has not lived up to its promise for them of guaranteeing equal rights and respect for all. Since this is a federal holiday, we'll be probably missing some of our partners but we decided to meet for a shorter



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

time to keep our attention on the ever challenging weather. The continuing trauma of sweeps the lack of real shelter so many in our community. So just a word about this federal holiday. You might remember that Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day, observed on November 11 1918. The day World War One ended in 1919. President Woodrow Wilson celebrated Armistice Day for the first time in the 1938 Congress made it an official holiday. Federal holiday and following the grassroots campaign in 1954. The Holidays name in the US was changed to veterans day to honor the veterans of all the wars the US has fought so it remains Armistice Day on the European continent after a brief period when this was celebrated on the fourth Monday of October to ensure a long weekend for workers. In 1975. President Gerald Ford turned it back to the original November 1 date to mark the actual anniversary of the war that was idealistically called the war to end all wars which didn't happen. Of course, I mentioned this history to honor the service of those who faced horrible conditions and horrific choices in pursuit of widely shared visions of freedom and democracy. Especially acknowledged those veterans we meet who are living on the streets and in homeless shelters last week Housing Urban Development published data from the most recent Point in Time Count stating that on a single night in January 2022, there were 33,136 veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States down from 37,252 and 2020. Overall this represents a 55% reduction in veterans experiencing homelessness since 2010. We know the point in time count is an undercount, but the successes of ending veterans homelessness are important and should be celebrated. In our area we honor the work of Monique Brown of FOB hope and her team at the veteran's village in the short time that village has been opened, have assisted more than 20 of those who have been residents of the village to secure permanent housing. This is really wonderful. And to center our work today I have a thought about the concept of armistice, your original name for this day armistice. A seizing of hostilities, a truce, negotiated recognition or settlement, a willingness to stop the fighting at least for now, to take a break from angry acts and try to imagine peaceful coexistence. I was thinking about how much we could all use an armistice after this anxiety producing election week. I know the constant political hostilities and the sensory assault of negative advertising have dulled my spirit wore me down, made it harder to be generous and open to the task before us of fighting valiantly in a war against exclusion, seeking the possibilities of peace in safe and secure housing for all so today we can and should celebrate ourselves. Breathe deeply, and carry on together. So welcome all. And there are some of you who are new but I'm just going to be brief to say we really love having you here and we're going to give you a moment to introduce yourself if you wish to. But as we operate here we ask that people use the raise hand function when they're wanting to be recognized that they we keep ourselves on mute when we aren't speaking and that if we're doing other things that can be distracting to turn off our video as well. And we have a list of norms for ourselves as we operate together. And one of the things we use very well in this in this group is the chat as a place to make connections with people. So if you speak and have lots more to say it might be a good idea to put some of your stuff in the chat and that will encourage other people to speak as well. We also encourage you to look at our webpage. If you're new and the About Us Part of the webpage. You'll find out more about how we operate. So with that, I'd like to invite anybody new to say your name and if you're associated with the group, let us know that and then we'll take you have robber I will give you a call. I'll give you a call give you a wait. I guess introduce



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

you to say your stuff so go ahead raise your hand if you'd like to introduce yourself all right, Jennifer, go ahead. You're on mute. Hi, I am my I'm here in the capacity of my church. So I we're just kind of ramping up and starting to, to get going here and try to help out with the community and help out with this problem. So um, yeah, so that's why I'm here and I'm just learning so I'm gonna pick up with wherever you guys are at and my name is Jennifer and reach out to me. I'll put my contact information in the chat and then you guys can reach out to me if you if you need to. Okay, welcome Jennifer. We have it's a really wonderful project. To be working on so thank you yeah okay, well we won't keep on this long. It's just a few if you are new and would like to put your name or information about you in the chat. We do save that it's available for you to save immediately after the event or is posted on our web page. Shortly after we meet send a few days usually so we can get back in touch with you if that's something you'd like. So Rob,

## **Rob Huff**

thank you rosemary. Thank you for centering us on why we're here and on the importance of this day. Let's get started with the segment that we do every week which is talking about creating a space for people to share what they're seeing on the streets. This week. With a focus on of course this week that we have ongoing sweeps happening within the city of Tacoma. If you're aware of sweeps outside of Tacoma, please let us know about that. I'm not not aware but we're not always alerted regarding sweeps that happen in places like five or outside in the county. We're still working on getting proper notification for those things. But we're also in the midst of the cold weather. So we're gonna talk about cold weather specifically a little bit later, but feel free if you have details related to the cold weather response that you want to share either now or just a bit later. So I opened the floor to whoever wants to give updates about what they're seeing on the streets. Go ahead, Teresa.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

So, St. Louis is putting up dancing today on G Street and the sweep has pretty much removed almost all of the tents there are still some people who are staying here. But the anxiety of the people who are still in tents there is palpable and there was a huge issue this morning around I'm not even going to tell you because it's just it's total chaos. But it what I recognized is that there was one I did call 911 Because one of the cameras asked me to who was being harmed. And I thought about all of the workers standing around who no one was calling 911 Even though this woman was asking them to and how much of that attitude affects so many people, they see someone in this condition and they just imagined that it's a mental health thing or I don't know what they imagined but just wanted to put that out there that it's it's a reality that people who are homeless are not necessarily taken seriously.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Teresa. Sara.

## **Zara Sedore-Mallin**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

Yeah, so I just wanted to share some quick updates on 34th and Pacific. I also wanted to mention I have been putting together a resource of Richard's older posts. Those go back a little bit over here. They're extremely helpful because it allows you to see the patterns in where encampments are shifting and forming, as well as to get a really clear sense of where the city has been promising in most cases for over a year. Oh, like we're going to do X, Y and Z. So it's a really useful tool for accountability as well. As for us in trying to do outreach in cold weather to figure out Richard has the most complete list of encampments that I've seen so far. So I'd be happy to share that archive with anyone but at 35th and Pacific, as well. 34th. Most a lot of the folks who have been swept have ended up there so I have personally seen it increase. I would say in October it was at about 70 people now it's at around 90 people. I know that Caleb sent out that email saying that the sanction campground wouldn't be open until the 16th, which is interesting because they're still as far as I know, planning on sweeping on the 15th which I think we all know at this point that the city is in constant violation of Martin V Boise, but we haven't really quite figured out how to hold them accountable to that which is fair because it is like trying to pin down jelly first. Anyways, I would love to see if there was any way to get that sweet delayed but I'm not putting a ton of faith in it. I think the true issue then, and this relates to cold weather outreach as well. Is that so 50 of those folks ideally will be able to go into the sanction campground Once that opens, but that means that between the sweeps on G and the sweeps there I mean, that's probably upwards of 100 people who are going to be what Richard refers to as ones and twos. And I would really love if we could focus in our cold weather outreach on maybe trying to coordinate to come up with a plan to be able to really use our collective. I don't know information resources power to be able to access those folks and then for people in the Spanaway Parkland area. I suspect many of those people will be coming over to here. And so that is also a concern because we have very few social services available and a very large police presence. So I think that that's I'll stop now I see lots of hands on

## **Rob Huff**

thanks, Zara. Good context. Jeffrey.

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

Good morning. Had a good meeting yesterday at the new site 35th. Pacific. Again, phase one is only 50 People in towns. There's a lot of room there and I don't the city and DRM have not said what phase two is, as of yet. Might be tiny homes. Who knows? Yes, the people at 34th and Pacific are concerned and they're very concerned because the the list the magic list has been pretty chaotic. And TRM won't cough it up the police. He'll team will not cough it up. Nobody knows who actually gets the magic ticket to get into the camp. The city has not provided a map for where the other campers can go yet. And they're all concerned about the 10 block radius. It's the 10 block radius as I look at the map puts everybody else into residential neighborhoods. A little bit in the south end, mostly in the mid area and north. And that's the information I will pass on to the campers that 34th and Pacific and any other camp that gets swept between now and whenever. So but you know it's it's not it's not a good situation right now. But thanks for listening.



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Jeffrey, and it was good to see you out. That tour of the new site yesterday along with others. So Patricia, you have your hand up.

## **Patricia**

I just wanted to speak on like how people handle the cold. So particularly, this is one idea that I have the hot hands and the toe hands. If you sleep with those directly on you to keep yourself warm you get burnt. So I've been thinking about like maybe churches or some groups to make like sleeves for them enough to have a more at night but not to burn them. Also like education more towards like fires are are happening utilizing sanitizers and things like that. So how do you mitigate like the warmth factor? I've seen that because it's it's turned cold quite quickly. But those that's all I just wanted to say just about like the hot hands and the things if maybe that can be something. All right, thank you. Thank you, Patricia. This

## **Keith Helmka**

morning, I just say my name I just want to reintroduce myself. My name is Keith Anca. I'm a social worker with Virginia Mason Franciscan health system and in Tacoma that's St. Joseph Medical Center in St. Clair hospital and I just want to reach out to Teresa you know if you're the individual that you were aware of the cuts that we call 911 for got sent to St. Joe's and not to come in general. I will give you my contact information and you could always reach out to me if you think that I can relay messages to our emergency department care management team to intervene. I don't know if it was a behavioral health crisis or a medical crisis. You know, we have access to some medical rest of that nativity house that not everybody else has access to Jen Rumbek Joanne Iverson have my cell phone number. I ask these judiciously but I'll certainly share it with you in a private chat Theresa.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Keith and Zoey

## **Zoe Grieder**

Hey everyone. Um so I responded to Caleb's email and got an email back I'm just gonna go ahead and read that high heel will be on site is planned to begin encampment removal at 34th and Pacific on November 15. Staff will focus on removal of debris towing vehicles, and notification of individuals anticipating entry into 35th. That there will be a brief delay as well as providing storage bins for anyone preparing to move. We do have a list of individuals in the encampment and I've worked closely with TRM staff to ensure a smooth transition from the encampment to the new shelter location. So not happy with that response? Obviously, I plan to be on site on Tuesday to watch what goes down film and stuff. If anybody else would like to do that. Would love to see some other people out there. Um, what else? Yeah, that's that's the really big thing on my mind. Rob, you you mentioned talking about the



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

spreadsheet I'll do that whenever that's appropriate, but just wanted to get that that response from Caleb out there. Thanks.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, thank Thank you, Zoe. And a couple more hands shot up. Id

## **Ed Jacobs**

one of the things that occurs to me is in the past, we've asked Caleb for list of names of people in camp mints, and he said that they don't they don't have the list of names. Well they have to put the lists going into the encampment at 35th or 34th, and Pacific, so they've got to have lists of names. We need these, these lists for tracking purposes. So we can keep track of where people are going and and how they're doing so. Not exactly sure how to approach that other than with a lot of anger. So anybody who has an idea, give me a yell.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks, Ed and J.

## **Jay Warley**

I got a response separate from email from one of the hill team stating that they have 27 people on a list that is from I'm assuming August when in September when they were starting to build that seems to need the thing that we're not seeing is the long term of the situation. These people are making list, but it's six months from the time that we talk to them. And the people being cantonments, when you're on the street lose time. And by the time that we talked to them, nobody's talked to them because they forgot that in August, somebody didn't put them on the list, because they're put on lists every day. So we're not necessarily seeing actions in the right sequence know what people are actually doing. Second of all, we're doing inclement weather. I just came out of that one. There was only four of us in this last meeting. But we did speak about a few things. Cynthia, and communication with Pierce Transit about trying to get us I spoke with Ivan to open up at least free ride shares if they can to shelters on inclement weather days we understand we may not be able to get hot buses and otherwise they just don't have the staff where the best is currently, they just don't. And that is the same with King and that is the same with community transit through Olympia, and that is the same statewide.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks, Jay. And I was curious if there was going to be many people attending the cold weather meeting this morning given a bunch of us who usually attended or actually in this meeting.

## **Ed Jacobs**

Well, I those meetings still going on.



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

## **Rob Huff**

They they added a meeting today and then there's a meeting again on Monday morning. And then Tuesday, and oh, they added Tuesday as well.

## **Jay Warley**

It's not on the calendar but it's been planned for

and then they come back from vacation after Tuesday.

## **Rob Huff**

Right All right. So let's um, so as you can tell this morning's meetings a little bit fluid. We're crossing over topics right now which is great. That I did want to shift to do the the quick need and Share section of today's meeting before we talk about the cold weather response more pointedly. Christine, did you want to say a word about the need and share? Yeah, sure.

## **Christine Lindquist**

I'm happy to Hey, everyone. I'm Christine. Lindquist. I'm a community volunteer. And we are trying to help I'm trying to help track and other people are involved with this to supplies related to cold weather outreach specifically, and so we have a list that we that in a spreadsheet that Zoey developed, and I'll post it in the chat. If you have items that you need for outreach. Please put them in the chat with your contact information or you can put them in the spreadsheet there's a tab specifically that says outreach, supply, need and share. And we'll just try to kind of keep this going. So that we can connect people who are who are doing outreach with the items that they need. So thank you, everyone.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Christine. And this seems like a good opportunity. After J asks her question, to transition over to have Zoe talked about the spreadsheet she's been maintaining. So Jay, what's your question?

## **Jay Warley**

It's actually for Zoe to kind of headway that direction. So okay. So I was wondering is I saw the tabs, is there one or the locations that people are actually visiting so that they can say, Hey, we are going to these sites and that way we can start tracking them on the map too. And if we start using the two tools together that can unify us very quickly.

## **Zoe Grieder**

Yeah, so the first tab on the spreadsheet is for exactly that. No one has been using it yet. But I would love for people to make sure we know who's getting seen and mostly like even if people aren't going to visit the camp if people can write down the camps they know about so that people that are looking to go



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

out but don't know where to go. Can can see that it's you know, been several days and someone went somewhere. Um,

## **Rob Huff**

but one quick questions. Oh, yeah. How widely Do you? Are you wanting to make this spreadsheet available to the broader audience in it full coalition, because I know we I don't believe it's out to everyone at this point.

## **Zoe Grieder**

Um, yeah. So I am happy for this to go out to the coalition. I don't want it to be public right now. It is. Access, open access if you have the link. So I've been kind of sharing that. You know. The other thing I want to mention is that Courtney and lived experience coalition and TMac are have a kind of shared storage space that Courtney has access to. That's in hilltop. We're having all of our supplies that aren't going directly out. Sent there and we're getting, you know, several packages off our wish list every day and lots of stuff at our at our drop off locations. If anybody would like to use that space to you know, if you're done with a run and not going out for a few days, drop your extra stuff off if you need something go check it out. The only thing I don't have is like a running inventory. I'm might try and like make that happen on on Sunday or something but it it changes so quickly. That you know hard to keep track of I don't know if Courtney will be available to like check if you if you call and say is this thing there. But contact me for the address and coordinates number to coordinate a pickup or a drop off. But yeah, really, really hoping we can get this central spot. And really make sure we're sharing our resources. Cuz Yeah, we were getting way more than than we can get out every day.

## **Rob Huff**

Great, well thank you for creating this spreadsheet if you want to drop the link dropped the link in the chat. Yeah. And just so you know, that's, I have not because I knew you wanted to. I wanted to make sure we had an intentional conversation about how the link was being shared. I'm not aware of it being published anywhere at this point. So those of us who are here in the in the meeting have the link. There's a select number of folks who have been at the outreach, the cold weather outreach meetings who had a link to it. But again, just kind of keep it a little bit quiet. But we want it to be a useful resource for folks. Um, Jay, I see your hand up.

## **Jay Warley**

The thing I was gonna say completely blew my mind. Oh, its first Methodist church that Courtney is talking about. It's the center that we've all been speaking about for the LAC for the last six months or so. And so that's the location that's seven to come and that really provides a nice central location for us. Likewise, with link I know that we all worry about safety and otherwise, but the people here want to help and hopefully all of us are willing to keep this to ourselves. And we have to remember that if we don't





# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

start sharing this information, like an app like these things, and cooperating with each other, we can't be successful in the mission we have together.

## **Rob Huff**

Very well said Thank you, Jay. So are there other things that folks wanted to share about the cold weather response? We are going to go into a breakout here shortly. Just so that folks have an opportunity to share what they're doing during the cold weather, but we're not quite there yet. Czar, icy or heavy handed up?

## **Zara Sedore-Mallin**

Yeah. One thing I have been realizing after reading a lot of Richard's posts is that we also need to keep in mind how we can maintain our efforts and keep them sustainable through at least March. I think we've all been part of enough things to know that at the beginning, for the sense of emergency, it's very easy to kind of coordinate resources as well as collect community donations. But realistically, not only do we need to figure out how to keep this going through March, I think it would also be wise in about January once we have a good system figured out to start thinking about how we can plan for summer, because you can kind of see looking back through the data that for roughly the last year and a half every time there is inclement weather, we kind of pressure the city. The city sits on their heels until we're in the middle of the crisis. And then we all have to scramble and do things like we're doing now. To try to come up with as many resources as possible so I think this is really a fantastic time for us to really work out our own intra community coordination, as well as starting to figure out how we can utilize other resources, people who are not at the coalition, how we can kind of expand our network so that we can really be on top of it. I think that a I think that unfortunately we we really need to accept at this point that the bulk of the work is going to be done by us and by new people who are brought in rather than the city. And I I know that we all have so much potential to be able to do that. And I know that we all get so frustrated hearing those same canned responses. You guys said you know, you got three of you got the exact same response from Caleb. Um, so at this point, it kind of feels like we're on a hamster wheel. But I don't think that we have to do that. I think that we have enough power here and enough resources and coordination that we can really start to make that happen. So I just kind of wanted to put that on folks radar that while we obviously have immediate needs that need to be taken care of. It's also good to be planning not only for January through March, but for hot weather, you know with climate change is starting quite a bit earlier. So I think this is a beautiful chance to really iron out that coordination Network.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you Zara. So your hands up

## **Zoe Grieder**

call on Jay. I completely forgot what I was gonna say. Okay,



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

## **Rob Huff**

Jay, go ahead.

## **Jay Warley**

I'm sorry. I feel like I'm talking most this meeting and I will be quiet after this. Um, you know, I think that sometimes we need to work on asking questions. There's been a lot of work that's been done. And sometimes that hamster wheel is retrying the same thing that's been done before, but we didn't talk about what happened. The repercussions of it and the decisions that were made afterwards. And it is something that I've seen that I even participated when I started I was like, Hey, let's do this. I was really gung ho and then you know, about a month later I realized you know, a lot of these people have been working at this for a really long time and I've tried a lot of this. Maybe you need to come at it from a different view. But asking questions and communication is so key to compromise and collaboration, especially with a group of this size. And yes, six months lead time is great, but that was also brought up in a meeting recently, and plans have been initiated just start working in that direction instead of doing emergency response. Emergency intermittent response from the city and the county are relatively new. We've had it for the last what, two, three years Rob? Definitely the last. It's not drastically great, but it is a drastic improvement from the last couple years before that when there was nothing. And so we're in the baby steps of development of community building, and you're part of it, but we have to work together and we have to know what other people did so that we're not stepping on toes or biting each other or wasting time or causing trauma or you know, 1000 other things down to just frustrating ourselves with hearing it from people being irritated and frustrated because we've all tried it and we don't know what else to do. So now's the time for solution making asking questions. And building each other up and working together.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you for that perspective. That's really helpful. Zoey, did you remember what you want?

## **Zoe Grieder**

I'm just, you know, obviously it's my day off. I'm not here on behalf of the Health Department but they they're deactivating their response. Um, I don't know if they're planning on reactivating if there's another severe weather. Like, we all know there will be um, the department internally is going to be collecting clothes and supplies for the entire winter. And so there'll be distributing that through coordinates r and I so that'll be in that storage location pretty regularly. Um, I had something to say in response to what Jay said but I do not remember and I don't want to take up more time. So

## **Rob Huff**

thank you, Zoe. And Jenny, I see your note in the chat about sanitizer that you have available.



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

## **Jenny Lorton**

Yeah, I can just pop in really quick. So I work for a toy company now. But we have some other various items. We stopped working with one of our manufacturers and we have pallets of sanitizer, and it's the little individual packets, so individual packets of Joe and then individual sanitizing wipes. I'll check on the amount of stock and then I'll send an email out to the coalition. But if there's pallets left, is there anyone who has storage space to take that amount of volume for donation like that

## **Courtney Love**

the LEC space, it hold it, depending on how many pallets like

## **Jenny Lorton**

yeah, I don't think we have 50 left, but it could be up to like maybe four or five pallets worse.

## **Courtney Love**

That should work.

## **Jenny Lorton**

Okay, I will check on the stock and I'll send an email out to the coalition. And then anybody can grab back on that and say, Hey, we can take it and then I'm happy to coordinate. Getting that out to folks, and we'll figure out logistics and transportation and whatnot. Because I just think that this group would be the best place to donate that because I know y'all would be able to utilize that for sure.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Jenny. And Jeffrey, why don't you wrap us up for this section.

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

I'd be happy to thank you. You know, I've been hearing from some people well, you may have done this in the past or whatever. You know, what we're seeing here is a new generation coming in and working on this problem. I've been at it for 1012 years through associated ministries. Various people have been at this for a number of years, but so many of you are younger, and haven't and don't be shy. Don't be afraid to come out with ideas and share them with us. We don't know at all. We don't and things are changing, changing on a regular basis. So, for all of you who are a bit younger than me don't be shy. Let us hear your stories. Let us hear your ideas, because they can help us all that we can help so many people who are homeless right now. We can help and we need your ideas. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Jeffrey. So let's move on. The main other thing that I had on our agenda for today is I wanted to have an opportunity for us to have breakout conversations. But let's start that with the review



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

from our last breakout. I know it was shorter than than usual because we had a meeting get get away from us again. But Timothy, would you like to share your summary from last week?

## **Tim Harris**

Yeah, I'd be happy to do that. I dropped it and the chat a little while ago. Do you want to scroll back for it? And yeah, it was a briefer discussion than we generally have. It was like right at the end of the meeting. So we had like, like, five or 10 minutes to talk and get notes. And so just to briefly summarize what we talked about was, you know, we'd been hearing about the dignity, dignity village proposal, and have had some presentations on that. And we were looking for feedback on that. And there was a good deal of feedback which I arranged here. And you know, just to briefly go over it. Again, the importance of listening to people with lived experience and putting together a project like that and you know, the feeling that that that lived experience voice's should have been included in this project earlier on and that that's a priority going forward. A number of concerns about the land itself, particularly being wetlands and complications that may arise from that. A number of concerns that were related to the ongoing nature of the funding for that then particularly operations funding concerns about the viability of that going forward. Also some concerns about it being classified as permanent supportive housing and some thoughts about some things people might not have considered around that. Can some concern about how oversight is going to work and how it's going to scale up as the site develops? Concerns about insufficient outreach to the neighborhood around this site, and also concern about just how long this is going to take. You know, the quote that I wrote down is we can't put all our eggs in a basket that takes five years to build there's a real disconnect. People are feeling between the urgency of the moment, the timeline for getting this project off the ground. And then there was a sort of a big, I don't know sort of a theoretical concern around the frame of homelessness. Not being a housing problem, but a lack of community problem. I think that there's broad agreement with that in general, but it also sort of flips over into something that could be interpreted differently from how it's how it's met. And so there's there's some concern around that. So briefly, those are the things that came up. It sounds like people were being super, super critical of this project, which I don't really read as the case. I think there's broad support for this project. But you know, when you put the concerns in a row that came up during the discussion group, it it seems like we're all kind of freaked out about it, but there's lots of time to figure this out.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Timothy. And thank you, as always for pulling the summary together and sharing it with all of us. So sorry, you had a question before we go into breakouts.

## **Zara Sedore-Mallin**

Yeah, just wanted to add a little note of positivity. I've actually been talking to folks in the Spanaway area, about the project and a lot of people here are surprisingly excited about it. And I've already been able to get some good some community support in terms of folks who would be really interested in like volunteering, they're helping to steward steward the farm space and then in regards to concerns about



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

the wetlands I have been talking to I'm currently in an ecological logical restoration program specifically focused around wetlands. And there's actually a lot of really interesting things that we could do to not only be able to improve that site from an ecological perspective, but that could also potentially translate into jobs for folks at the site. So anybody who's concerned about that, I think it's a super valid concern and I just want you to know that that along with the concerns about lived experience, they are also doing a presentation to the lived experience coalition next Wednesday, I believe so some of those concerns are already being addressed, which is nice, because so many of us just give our concerns to the city and they disappear. So yeah, good stuff.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Zara. So let's shift to the topic of this week's breakout conversation. I wanted to carve out 15 minutes or folks to share in small breakout rooms. What they are planning to do or currently doing for supporting people who are living outdoors right now. This information, please have a note taker in your room so that folks can share the notes when they come back to the to the chat, put them in the chat. The information that you provide will help us build out the spreadsheet that we're doing for outreach that can be used for filling in gaps in what we're seeing happen on the streets right now as it's starting to grow cold for our winter. So, without further ado, I will send everybody off the breakout rooms and we'll be back here at 10 to wrap up the meeting.

## **<Breakout Rooms>**

## **Rob Huff**

Welcome back, everyone, just whoever was a note taker in your room, please paste the notes when you have them pulled together in the chat, so that Timothy can work his magic and create another summary for next week. We've only got a couple more things on the agenda for for this week. Before we move to a planning meeting for those who have the capacity to do that. I briefly wanted to offer some advocacy updates. There's not a whole lot to talk about, but the city of Tacoma during its study session, they have a joint study session this coming Tuesday at noon, that you can find the link on the city website. That is a joint study session with public Tacoma Public Utilities, and the one of the main topics of the conversation is the legislative agenda for the city going into the upcoming legislative session, both in Olympia and I believe they're talking about both state and federal legislative priorities. So obviously those documents show where the city of Tacoma is putting its energy and focus and so it's worthwhile if you have the time to either tune in live or or just kind of listen to the archive after it's posted. I don't believe the City of Tacoma has a Tuesday night meeting next week. I think it's one of their weeks that they have the meeting off, but at least I didn't. I didn't see an agenda posted. I see Sally shaking her head so I'm probably wrong. But I didn't see an agenda

## **Sally Perkins**



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

15 Rock 15 Meeting there's a meeting on the 22nd and there the budget is on both of those agendas. So if you're interested in what how the city is spending its money, which is the other way you can understand their priorities and these next two city council meetings are really crucial. Yep.

## **Rob Huff**

So thank you for that Sally. So those are two opportunities and of course on when it comes to the budget. If it's on the agenda, there's an opportunity to make public comment about it. Public comment is accepted during the Tuesday night meetings, not during the study session. So there is that and I also wanted to remind folks who have an interest especially related to the cold weather response and issues like safe parking. The safe sites for all committee meets every Monday morning at noon. Well, I guess it's not morning, Mondays at noon. On zoom, the link is on the PC homeless.org website. So if you have an interest in attending that meeting, join us on Monday. And the only other thing on our agenda for today is I wanted to carve out some time for folks to make folks to make announcements, so anything that would be good for the 41 folks in the room to hear. Please feel free to unmute yourself and share your announcement with the group. Hi. Hi Jan.

## **Janne Hutchins**

Sorry, I forgot to raise my hand Jan with masa and somebody gifted us with a lot of coffeemakers and several mini fridges. And if you're interested, please email me. It's Jan J A N N E at [lossawad.org](mailto:lossawad.org). And I've tried to put that in the comments. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, thank you, Jen. Anyone else with announcements we'd like to share Yeah, Teresa.

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

So I put in the chat. And I put that a little flyer in the chat. This is a kind of introductory thing about homelessness that we've done with a number of churches and faith groups but also with community members. And for some reason. It didn't get up on the associated ministry's website when it was supposed to. So it's next Tuesday. And it may not be a huge group of people who join us but that makes it a great opportunity. If you would like to have a more smaller conversation about this it's a training that rosemary and I do together. And we are inviting other folks to join to talk about some of the issues that are if you're just if you're especially anybody in this group who's relatively new to this, it's a good place to get a little grounding on it so that you can join in a more robust way the rest of the conversation. So everyone is welcome is not necessarily not really bent toward any sort of faith based agenda. It's just that associated Ministries is hosting our registration thanks.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Teresa. And Patricia.



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

## **Jennifer Strickling**

This is

## **Patricia**

in regards to Veterans Day today so that there's a Veterans Day celebrations specific for veterans active duty military and their families. Museum of Glass between like three and five, but there's also like, they're gonna have like a color guard ceremony, hot shop heroes certificates. There's different programming so I'm just in celebration of that day. So I just wanted to share that Thank

## **Rob Huff**

you. Thank you, Patricia and Zoey.

## **Zoe Grieder**

I just saw a few things in the chat about families and want to remind folks to be very careful with information about where families are at if CPS get called, gets called on folks, they frequently wills lose custody of their children which does no good for anyone that happened around the People's Park sweep where Elizabeth Polly personally called the cops and called CPS on on a mother that she had a child visiting. She ended up losing custody. So yeah, please be extremely careful with who you tell about knowing where families are.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Zoe. And Patricia again,

## **Patricia**

I just sorted so he brought up safety and security. I was bringing this up in the small group with the level of weapons, homemade weapons and the danger and drugs out there. I don't have to explain this to a lot of people is extremely, extremely high and it changing on a dime. And I just want people to be careful when good intentions and good heartedness. Don't have safety practices with it. So try to always have like three people to watch your back if somebody has to go to the bathroom or talking to somebody. There's been in my own outreach a couple circumstances a guy was completely completely calm, you know, talking and next thing you know he pulled out a like an IPA canon. just chucked it, you know what I mean? And so it's just changing. And I just wanted to remind people for their own safety and security. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Patricia. And Carrie.



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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

Hi Teresa asked me to speak this into the room. Just a reminder for everyone. That next month DSHS has posted due to the government's emergency orders, expiring food benefits, we'll be having some significant cuts. The average person that they were receiving full benefits was receiving an extra \$95 a month. And so they've applied for something federally, but aren't sure if it will be approved yet. Maybe somebody here has more information on that. But there's a strong possibility that a lot of people will be having significant benefit cuts next month.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Carrie. And Courtney, when you can close this out.

## **Courtney Love**

Thanks, Tom. I know that you've been talk about how like this is just the first cold weather and it'll also likely get worse. But I also want to point out we had 85 degree weather and then the next week we had 55 degree weather and so people have a fall to prep for winter. And I think that might be hitting people a little bit harder. Like there's one encampment I go to and some of the people are still on like T shirts because they haven't gotten the necessary supplies for cold weather. We did not have a real September October we had three August's so this cold snap is the first of many and not the worst. But my ex husband who is the groundskeeper. He doesn't hate the hottest day of the summer. He hates the first hot day of spring, is that transition time that's the worst day for him is the first hot day and this is the first cold. So keep that in mind. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, thank you, Courtney. All right. So I want to thank everybody for attending today on what for many people is a holiday. I wish everybody a safe weekend a good Veterans Day if you're able to take the time off after this. And as always, we will continue to hold this room open and in about five minutes. Those who have that capacity, can do some planning for upcoming coalition meetings. But if you can't stay for that I definitely understand. So I wish everybody a good weekend. We'll see you all next Friday. Thanks everyone.