



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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Friday Coalition Meeting

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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SPEAKERS

Janne Hutchins, Jay Worley, Adam Reichenberger, Joanne Iverson, Nikki, Sally Perkins, Richard Dorsett, Janet Runbeck, Ed Jacobs, Rian Booker, Bob Vollbracht, Rob Huff, Theresa Power-Drutis

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Rob Huff

All right, everyone. So I'm not sure how many folks I'm expecting to be on this morning's call. I'm sending some I'm seeing some people trying to join previous meetings of the coalition. Previous links so I'm sending emails to people to see if I can get them into the room. But thank you, everyone, for being here for this abbreviated version of our Friday regular Friday meeting. A number of you are already in the cold weather call that just wrapped up a few minutes ago. But we wanted to still have the space this morning to be able to touch base about what folks are seeing on the streets and share kind of anything for the good of the order. I'm expecting this will be a relatively short meeting. If I stopped blathering on that is and so let's go ahead and get started. But I did want to let people know there's really not going to be you know, we're not having our normal format. We're not doing a big introduction. I will. I will ask if there's anybody new on today's call who would like to introduce themselves either on screen or in the chat if you'd like to do that alright, so let's just get right into this week on the streets. And so folks just want to wave their hands are used to the raise hand function. Be happy to call on folks so that they can share what they're what they've been seeing and what the needs are. Jan, we'll start with you.

Janne Hutchins

Hi, thanks. I picked up some hand warmers at Costco and I was on my way home and came across an older man at a bus stop and asked him if he wanted handwarmers the long and short of it is he says I don't have the ability to open them. So I said okay, fine. I'll open it for you. I couldn't open it to save my wife. Finally found a pen, the long list. What I'm going to do is I'm going to keep a pair of manicure scissors or something in my car, but it occurs to me I don't I haven't heard about that problem before but I think if you have half frozen hands trying to open those babies, okay, so you you've been there done that apparently because you're shaking your head yes.



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Rob Huff

No, I'm just imagining it can be a challenge. With cold hands.

Janne Hutchins

Well, my hands were warm and i i have the challenge. So um, but as I said, I'm gonna bring something with me that can get through that cellophane to help people just want to share that thanks.

Rob Huff

Yeah, that's that's a good good point. That I admit I have not connected the dots on others with this week on the streets items Richard, I saw your shared in the chat Do you want to just come on, on mic and

Richard Dorsett

Oh, sure. I made the request initially to Kevin Ruby. And I followed up with Councilman Hines who asked the question of staff and I don't know if that prompted it or if Kevin's request alone was sufficient but what I know that the the encampment is the city contractor the garbage credit contractors are coming out a couple of times a week, picking up the garbage at the entrance to the encampment but it was stacking up in piles and I just thought you know a big garbage can. So they're kind of keeping the encampment mostly clean and taking advantage of this garbage can which is already full. So now it's an issue of are they servicing it? I hope so. It isn't sorry, city garbage can. So that's all it took. was a call to Kevin and a little bit of follow up. Seemed to be what it took. Richard, how

Rob Huff

many folks are you estimating are at that site on the union loop?

Richard Dorsett

Oh gosh. So union will couple things. couple of dozen people at least. I talked to one of my regular contacts. He's getting ready to bail to another site. A couple of stolen cars have come in to the property. So this is when things get disruptive. It's still kind of working as a quasi community. But if you start getting car thefts coming in and people bringing in other kinds of behavior, then the good actors start looking for Plan B and they're scoping out other places to go. So I don't know how disruptive that's going to be there. But I'd say you know, 25 people there probably right now. There's one moment I don't know if they've got anybody from Vallejo or how to do the work thing but one woman a domestic violence person who is a victim who has had some brain damage as a result of the violence. very personable is interested in work. She's only been out in the streets for two to three months. But I don't quite know how to make all those contacts. Anyway, something I'm working on there. Anyway, we started getting to know a lot of those people. This is where we've taken food now three or four times. And so there's good and bad I mean, there's there's number of good people we're getting to know. But what I'm hearing too is some bad actors now because it's an obvious encampment are starting to mix in with the other people so I don't know if that's how that's gonna go. So we're just kind of watching watching that. Let's see we've taken in firewood there's an outdoor stove and so firewood is a good thing that means they're not scavenging from you know, pallets. And other pieces of debris that is out there. And yeah, so that's that's our regular visit spot right now. We go there most every day.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thanks, Richard. Since I see you on screen Ed Do you Have you ever had any updates at all about people having any deaths or any of that thing like that from the cold so far?



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Ed Jacobs

Yes, there was. One man that died from exposure. Actually, during the memorial, I was handed a note with his his name on it, which was read but yeah, there was one that we know of.

Rob Huff

And I'm trying to remember from the last year we I know we had one person die from exposure last year at least one that happened that we caught caught pretty news about pretty early but do you remember was that pretty immediate that we heard about it? Or was it like the next week?

Ed Jacobs

No, it was. I heard about that through a backdoor. Yeah. We found out about it. Last year, there were five people that died from different types of exposure to people died during the heat. And there there were one or two others that died in life like a van or a vehicle and isn't technically from exposure because they were inside but the van or the vehicle didn't have any heat. in it. Yeah. Or ran out of gas or something. So

Rob Huff

thank you for that sobering news, Ed. And, and I'll second Christine's comment in the chat that was a nice column about about you in a memorial in the News Tribune here a couple of days ago as to Well, thank you for the service.

Ed Jacobs

Yeah. Thank you. You know, it's it's always an and Ryan's on here. And and Richard, you know, the, the tents were are absolutely wonderful. I have pictures that are being edited. Now of the tents and as soon as those are edited and finalized, I'll send them out to everybody. That was really moving. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Yeah, I agree. Second,

Richard Dorsett

fault. Just another comment on that. It was suggested to me and I'm going to try and reach out to David or Jennifer at Spaceworks today that the tents might fit in one of those. They use some of the open storefront windows for art exhibitions, and whether that might be a homework those tips could be set up on a longer term display somewhere around downtown. So I'm going to give that a try. But if anybody's got an idea or a place that we could assemble and put those things up that they could remain up for maybe a month or something that might get some ongoing visibility. Otherwise, they're just going to end up in a couple of boxes. And so just trying to get as much educational value out of the memorial names as as possible. And if anybody's got any ideas connect with me directly, and we'll see if we can follow up on that.

Ed Jacobs

How about the county city building?

Richard Dorsett

There's no specifics base that I know of there for that kind of installation. I like the idea of the storefront because the way I've seen those is they've got lit you know, there's lights that are showcasing whatever



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it is. And if we could get a storefront we could put all 367 of those there and just leave them there for four or five weeks. That would be kind of cool. And then eventually I can you know take them put them back in a box. But if anybody has any locations where they could take advantage of those, let's go ahead and use them. Ryan put the work into making them and it seems like let's let's use them through as much as we can.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thank you Richard and I did want to share but before I get to J I did notice some of the other numbers from other counties that celebrated the commemorated the homeless Memorial Day on Wednesday. King County commemorated 268 individuals who had died while homeless, Spokane County commemorated 144 individuals. So I didn't see numbers for other counties yet but didn't notice those two. J your hands up.

Jay Worley

RICHARD, I would suggest that you go to talk to Spaceworks which is the program that you're discussing. I'm putting their website in the email for you. They're the ones that hold those spaces and buildings in downtown for our exhibition. And I don't see why they wouldn't let you usually reserved for our education thesis for anybody who's in college, but I don't doubt that you could probably partner with a Wiley College Student willing to master those signs and some work together.

Rob Huff

Yeah. All right, so other folks with items for this week on the streets other observations or needs that you've observed

Jay Worley

and just kind of hop on there and add to that, over in piala Bay had some shootings at the Valley site. And so people have been having a harder time wanting to get over there, but they have delivered some things. And I would believe that there's just going to be an escalation of frustration with how cold it is and not having anywhere to go and just the feeling of isolation from the situation. So thank you, everybody, for everything that you do do for these people.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thank you for that perspective j and the other thing is that even though we are expecting to see temperatures go above freezing around noon today and and shift to grain and even high temperatures moving up into the 50s in the coming couple of days. It's gonna be wet and miserable. And so we're kind of transitioning from dangerous cold to still wet rain that's still provides the opportunity for hypothermia. So we may not have the daily check in meetings happening because temperatures have gone back above freezing. But there's certainly going to be ongoing needs for folks and probably a greater need for tarps and things like that so anyone else who wants to share anything, this is a good opportunity. There's 33 folks here. Yeah, Nikki Yeah, I'm

Nikki

from Forward Operating Base hoe, the veteran's village I work with Tammy. We're still having troubles with homeless that are staying like a block away and running tarps across to fences and power lines to cover their stuff. We've called in last week, and the heel team was supposed to be coming out. We were told but we still haven't seen anything. And the community is writing us because we're to blame. Yeah.



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Rob Huff

Well, the challenge is, I don't know. The heel team doesn't usually work on Friday. They're usually doing paperwork. So yeah, I don't know when that's gonna be remedied. But definitely notice, sorry to hear that it's impacting the community.

Jay Worley

Nikki, I would email Caleb directly saying that there is conflict Tammy community.

Nikki

Yeah, Tammy has Tammy has already contacted them and that too. He's the one that made the contact with the heal team.

Jay Worley

Yeah, he's been charged with him. But I'm just I would reiterate with another email and document that you have not been seen, because that documentation is important. So that it can be tracked and that you guys have we repeatedly contacted them and did not get interference.

Bob Vollbracht

All right. We can do that. Thank you, Bob. Thank you, Rob. I just got an update. from Chapel Hill. They've confirmed that the building in Gig Harbor is closed. But people can go to door D and ring the bell. Frustrating and there is no bus service to Chapel Hill. So we'll try to get out on the street and a car and see if we've got anybody that visibly needs needs to get shelter. But our emergency shelter program here has still some some to be desired.

Rob Huff

Yeah, and this is why when the snow gets bad or ice becomes an issue. Yeah, the shelter's not too useful folks can't get there.

Ed Jacobs

Yeah. I just want to make a point. As far as the work that's being done as far as coordination, I received a email through West Pierce Fire and Rescue where I work and it was a email listing all of the sites, the warming sites and the shelters and, and actually it didn't list the shelters. It listed places where you could go to find out about the shelters. And I'm reading through this because I'm interested in you know, the different locations. Almost everything referred back to the coalition. Yeah, this is how important the work that the coordination and the communications how important that is. That went out to approximately 100 and 61st responders. So if you think that it's not happening, it actually is. So thank you for that work.

Rob Huff

Hi, Ryan, I see your note. And thank you for that, Ed. Yeah, I know that a lot of folks are relying on the coalition website and anyone who's I want to I don't think there are many providers on the call at the moment. But I did want to let folks know that a number of the shelter sites have been picking up their game and sending me emails with updates about what's available every day so that I can manually change that on the website. As soon as Garrett returns from his travels, I think he and I are gonna figure out a more sustainable way to make sure that all the sites have the ability to update the page on their own. I know that they already had that but due to staff turnover and other things folks just kind of lost the ability. It sounds like to update the page. So during the cold weather, I've just been doing it daily. for them. So if you for instance, the folks at fop hope let me know this morning that there were no



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no spaces available. So that was updated. Same with the folks from TRM. So any anyone else who's hosting a site and has that information and wants to wants me to make those updates I can do that pretty quick. Anyone else with something that we would like to share with the group we're up to 35 people here now.

Joanne Iverson

Rob, this is Joanne Iverson. Hi, Joanne. Hi. I don't know if it's appropriate or if this would be offensive, but I would really love to pray before we leave the meeting. Just for everyone who's on the call. Everyone who's out there who's not on the call. Every individual out there who's struggling and just can't get doesn't think they can go through another minute of the suffering that they're going through. I just asked on the eve of Christmas that we just continue to ask our Savior to to be there for them somehow through a person through an event through circumstance and that that we not lose hope. It's really easy when discouraging when this weather comes in. Things are closed and there's not transportation but I just pray Lord, you know, over them all that somehow there will be hope that there'll be a passerby, there'll be someone who sees them and cares for them, whatever it may, whatever they may need. I just thank you for this forum to be able to do that. Because it's just I don't know about you. But I've been doing this for a few years. You guys have been doing a lot longer than me and it can be very discouraging. When you think about what these guys are battling out there, and I just know there's a Savior who knows every one of them. So thank you for the time to be able to do that.

Rob Huff

I appreciate the sentiment and definitely we will close today's meeting with kind of a silent silent moment just so folks can offer their own thoughts and support for sure. Anyone else who would like to share something during this morning's meeting? Thank you for that request Nikki in the chat Yeah, Jay.

Jay Worley

So when it comes to nominations, I just put the address in word come rescue mission, but that's for 30 better tax. Typically, if you're trying to donate things because right now TRM is working with to come up trying to get that site up and going so it's better to drop off things at the donation site if they are not like food items that are perishable, and even those could probably go to like Holy Rosary or one of those other sites instead, currently because it's just easier. Second, everybody needs blanket donations that we have for our stability sites right now. At least he has none. And we don't have a lot for New Hope she's going to be getting some soon though. And we don't have a lot at St. Vincent DePaul either. So blankets would be great. We do have hypothermia kits but they are minimal. Hypothermia kits are a sleeping bag for hand warmers, a mylar blanket, we can add to that kind of thing and start looking at that as our heaviest winter prerogative for inclement weather. events as kids that we'd like to create in the future. Ad body baby wipes and a few other things in you've got a fantastic kit. So some things to think about for all of us for this next year. Thank you, Jay.

Rob Huff

All right. So I don't want to belabor the amount of time we spend on the meeting this morning. But I do there's still space if folks want to come on, turn their mic on and share or offer an update. Please do.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Yeah, go ahead, Teresa. So I've been off screen because I've been doing these things shuffling nine nine stocking items out the door. I just wanted to say to to everyone that what I'm doing with what remains because I have some extra hand warmers and gloves and socks and candy canes. And even some Christmas candy. So I'm putting together some little like lunch bag sort of things that have these



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items in them. And if anyone would like some of those to distribute as you go out, give me a call and I'll tell you where people are already distributing or you can tell me where you want to go. And if someone else isn't going there, I'd be delighted to do my ELF magic and have some ready for you by tomorrow or Sunday, whichever day you're going out

Rob Huff

thanks. Yeah, thank you for doing that. Teresa. All right, so no one has anything else to share. I think we can probably wrap up this morning's meeting just so folks are aware and Ryan I'll get to you in a second. We are planning to do a similar Check in next Friday. So hopefully if folks are around and have the interest and ability, we can share what we're seeing happening on the streets next week. For folks who attend other coalition meetings. There will be the meeting on Monday of the SE sites for all folks at noon. And there also will be the coalition steering committee meeting next Wednesday from three to four. So if there's anything that we're good at it's meetings. So Ryan, let's get to you.

Rian Booker

Just if you have any clients that have income, we've got five beds left here \$200 A week. They need to be sober and free of services, but it's warm and we got a good community here

Rob Huff

Thank you Ryan. All right, going once, going twice. Let's have a moment of silence as promised and then everyone have a safe and good time with your however you celebrate these holidays, and we'll see you on the other side.