



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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SPEAKERS

Douglas Jarvie, Jeff Rodgers, Zev Cook, Richard Dorsett, Jeffrey Boyce, CC Mendoza, Jennie Schoeppe, Jay Warley, Caleb Carbone, Annika Fraga, Sally Perkins, Paula Anderson, Ed Jacobs, Tammy, Rob Huff, Isaiah, Theresa Power-Drutis, Patricia, Rosemary Powers, Zoe Grieder, Colin DeForest, Josh Castle, Gerald Daniels, Norman Brickhouse, Courtney Love, Dana Peterson, Janet Runbeck, Bob Vollbracht

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Rob Huff

Yeah. Well, good morning, everybody. We'll get started here, right around nine. Usually I like to wait until we have about 30 folks in the room but we're almost there. So but we need to need to at least get to nine o'clock before we get started. So couple last minutes to grab some coffee and get prepared for the insanity ahead. Good morning rosemary. It's good to see you on screen that means we can start the meeting in a minute. All right, so welcome, everyone to our first meeting of the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness for 2023. We do have we've reached the appointed hour and we have more than 30 folks in the room. So why don't we go get go ahead and get started this morning. So rosemary, would you like to get us going?

Rosemary Powers

Thank you. Rob, and welcome everyone to the new year of 2023. And to this open table where we gather with respect for each other to act and homelessness, and to advocate for policies to ensure safe and secure housing for all. We gratefully acknowledge that we meet on the traditional lands of the pupil of people who have lived in this area since the beginning of time, and are still here today. We acknowledge the effects of historical trauma and continuing discrimination and call ourselves to act in support of their tribal rights. So it's a new year with the calls to reflection and resolution that these yearly turnings spring and today is January 6, a traditional religious holiday within the Christian tradition called Epiphany, where three wise men some say kings brought gifts to an unsheltered family in Palestine, honoring the presence of the Divine line in an animal food trough. January sixth is also the second anniversary of an insurrection at the US Capitol. Its origin and effects continue to challenge our country's ability to do the daily work of democracy. On January 6 is a day to remember our colleague Maureen Howard, who died yesterday and who was a tireless advocate for the most vulnerable among



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us. We'll have time in the meeting today to share some thoughts about marine but right now, I want to take a minute to connect these disparate ideas, open tables, land acknowledgments, epiphanies, insurrections and departures. The word that keeps coming to me sneaking in as the honest question when I try to write is act a CT, make it happen, do something. And I think about what gets in the way feelings of helplessness hopelessness, despair, er inspired commentary handwringing fear of refusal, embarrassment, being tired, having other priorities and can't do one more thing. So I move on to think, how do we ensure that our table is open? Who is missing? And how do we open the table beyond an invitation to our space? What is the land acknowledgement without action and supportive indigenous rights seeking redress for violence or return of stolen lands? What's the celebration of Epiphany without a commitment to bring necessities to people who are unsheltered and acting in support of the right to shelter? After all, there was a connection there about honoring the divine. And how do we act to make democracy work every day whether responding to an insurrection, attending council meetings to testify, or challenging governmental policies that don't work? Laureen always left me with that insistent and persistent call to act. Whatever the challenge there was something we could do. Her mind swirled with a myriad of options and though she spoke with assurance about the best option and what it would be, she didn't seem overly daunted by the challenge of continuing the conversation in a way that would bring bring resolution closer, and she didn't shy away from insisting that others could, should must act as well. Today, I'm feeling the power and the challenge of Maureen's action philosophy. She would say we can end homelessness, and in the meantime, mitigate its devastating effects, with enough persistence not cutting off those with different views, and continuing to act when we don't think there's much energy left. And I thought may seem a contradictory thought she would also say we should take care of ourselves, resting when needed, and insist that those who staff services for people in need be fairly compensated for their work. So to honor Maureen's presence among us and to begin the work of this new year, the centering word today is act and is right there in our mission, to connect and mobilize people to take action to end homelessness. So welcome to this continuing work. Thank you all for being here. Some of you may be new, and we traditionally use this time to have people just introduce themselves with their name and if they're associated with any group but before we do that, for those new folks and any others who might forget our norms, I just want to request that we all keep ourselves muted when we're not talking that we also take off our video if we're doing things that might be distracting that we use the Zooms hand raise hand feature when we'd like to be recognized to speak and that will use the chat this is more an invitation than a requirement but though we use the chat as a continuing conversation during the meeting, we do save these and the and you could save them yourself but this is a record of ideas that people have of contact information they may have. And just as a reminder, it does go pretty fast sometimes and if you're wanting to get a comment from somebody in the group, you might need to say it a second time because they might have lost the thread by the time you got to it. So those are the main ideas and then our community norms are basic norms for respect and focus on some of the issues I addressed in the brief remarks. So Rob, you'll see puts those in the chat. I haven't looked to see if it's there, but hopefully it will be and if it's new to you take a look at it and use it as a basis for your thinking. So welcome everyone. And if you are new or returning for some some time away, like to just say your name and what group you're associated with. This is a time to raise your hand and be recognized. Norman

Norman Brickhouse

Hi everyone. I apologize. I'm Hello. My camera's not working. I am literally five days on the job. I started with the city of Fife. I am the Community Navigator Program Manager We have Thank you Rob. Thank you. Appreciate it everyone. So happy to be back to the coalition. Tim Anderson ran the program. Previously he still with the city of five providing valuable knowledge, but I'm new with a jobs program program manager and what we do here in the city of Fife we have a tiny home shelter. We get people



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working in our parks and recreation, build those valuable skills and behaviors necessary addressing some of the barriers and then get them in the housing. So our program is about a 12 month program, but it's customized individually because everyone's success is different. So I'm I'm just so happy to be here and I'm again I'm so sad about marine she was a warrior. And at the happy hour last night it was really, really touching. But thank you. I'm glad to be back every

Rosemary Powers

day. Thank you, Norman for being here. Welcome and we look forward to working with you and Annika Yes. Hello

Annika Fraga

everyone. My name is Annika Fraga I am with associated ministries. I am their community outreach specialist and I am new to the position I'm only six days in but I definitely enjoyed meeting some of you at the at the seven seas Happy Hour yesterday. And also hearing about Maureen and her story and the work she's done was very, very inspiring. So yes, happy to be here. Good to meet all of you and I plan on making this a regular thing coming to the Zoom meetings and getting together with you all so welcome. Working with you as well. Right,

Rosemary Powers

I don't see others Do you see anyone else Rob?

Rob Huff

I don't at this time. But I do urge folks if you if you joined late or you don't want to speak up on camera, you can go ahead and put your information to introduce yourself in the chat. As Rosemary said we use the chat as a resource, an ongoing resource posted to our website and use to help find resources for folks in the community. So please use the chat as we go along. And thank you Rosemary very much for your words this morning. It's I know for a bunch of us it's kind of a somber morning. I'm really sad that I missed you joining you all seven seas yesterday. Sounds like you've had a great remembrance of Maureen there. So let's move on with our first item and in the agenda. We will as I mentioned as Rosemary mentioned have some time to talk about Maureen and her impact here later in the agenda. But let's start with this week on the streets. So this is a segment in every week's meeting where we asked folks who are doing direct outreach or who are observing homelessness in their own neighborhoods to share what they're seeing about the shifting needs on the streets and try to connect resources to folks as best as we can. Amidst the chaos that's continuing on the streets here in especially the City of Tacoma where the rolling sweeps have been accelerating throughout the Christmas period and into the new year. Within the campings camping ban zones, the buffer zones that have been set up around 10 temporary shelters in the city of Tacoma. So, if you have something to share about what you're seeing on the streets, just raise your hand, either your physical hand or use the raise hand function, and we'll get started. There so I open the floor to everyone else. And an ICA I think you have your your hand is still up. Is that from just your introduction, or did you want to talk about what you're seeing on the streets?

Annika Fraga

Um, no, actually, I was just gonna put my hand down okay. No problem. Yeah.

Rob Huff

Yeah, Bob.



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Bob Vollbracht

Good morning. And thank you Rob. The last two weeks in the Gig Harbor keeping insular communities we have seen a substantial increase in at least people asking for help. For already this week, to our single mothers with younger children living in their vehicles, two additional men living in vehicles. And in the last the week prior to that it was three new homeless folks asking for supplies and resources. This this is by far the largest single increase we've seen in any any one or two week period.

Rob Huff

Good news. Three of our

Bob Vollbracht

longer term folks are now being housed great success. Thank you, greater lakes and TRM. I think the program is finally sort of gelling and there's great communication going on between everybody so and just just a quick quick note is that three and a half years ago I believe it was that we started this little offshoot coalition over here, and without Maureen and we would not exist. Certainly Garrett was instrumental as well. But Maureen was our advocate. She would call me twice a week. Whether I needed it or not, and I usually did and will will have missed that and will continue to miss that relationship.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Maureen. Thank you, Bob. Jeffrey.

Jeffrey Boyce

Good morning everyone. Here in Tacoma. I have stopped in on a couple of different camps. One particular that got swept was down on Center Street under the Thompson Street Bridge. Where they went, I don't know, one camper. The last one there. Moved up onto the grassy knoll up over there. And so far, they're leaving him alone. One of the things that he and another person who had just left they were concerned with what the city is claiming to be at 10 block radius and felt that they were outside the zone and yet they got swept. So I think we need some better definitions from the city as to where those buffers actually are. I think the campers have a right to know that. So that's my that's what I have to say for this morning. And it was a very somber day for me too. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jeffrey. Other observations about what folks are seeing on the streets this week? Yeah, Richard.

Richard Dorsett

Oh, heck. Like I say it's just Groundhog Day again. Swept sweep under the 25th bridge down. Pew Alabama Avenue. Fairly in Scotts encampment. They're following up on a removal at East M and 25th. So that whole area has been swept, kind of suspecting and hearing hearing word that there may be continued removal of tents near the stability site in the coming week. And that won't be a surprise at all. The mystery continues to be where people go and what I don't understand is how a point in time count is going to work when so many encampments have been disrupted in the last 12 months. And people are finding encampments that are a little more hidden a little bit more removed. Let's see There's also clearance at 11th and Cushman one good piece of news it appears that Rhonda has gotten into a tiny home although I'm not sure which tiny home village she's in. Some confusion out there for me, one man is unable to. He's not going to get housing because he's a sex offender. Were to sex offenders go I'm not sure how that's supposed to work. I think we're going out to an encampment that's growing behind



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the alpha male dealership on south to come away along the railroad tracks and we're gonna go out there this afternoon and then we'll be visiting I believe with Theresa and I will be out at the Union St. Louis. Later this afternoon with some food. The city contractors have been doing a fairly good job of picking up garbage distributing purple bags, and all in all the encampment is been beat. The campers are putting in effort to try and keep that clean. While there's no guarantees. certainly seems that the cleaner and safer and encampment remains the less vulnerable they are to any sudden and surprising sweeps that could go on. Let's see. I'm sure there's others I posted one in the chat, sweep 66 themselves or to come on Marvel Boulevard of the vehicular encampment that is gone now. And I'm sure there's others that are not coming to mind but it just continues out there. And for many there's no place to go. So that's what I know.

Rob Huff

Thank you for the update, Richard and for the observations. Hopefully I know Jeff Rogers is on the call. I'm sure he'll be talking about the Point in Time Count. When we get to that update and hopefully can offer some thoughts about how to effectively try to count folks amidst the chaos of the sweeps. Anyone else with updates from the streets? Yeah, Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

This is less of an update and more of a question as people campers are beginning to camp further and further away from the roads. So that they're harder to sweep, which is a natural consequence of the increased sweeps. I don't know how people are dealing with this who are doing outreach. I know it's posing some problems as we go out trying to find ways to help. So I just want to put it out there in the air. I'm not expecting people to answer right now. But maybe we could have a conversation about this at some point. How are how are we going to change the way we're doing things to deal with the consequences of this really stupid policy?

Rob Huff

Yeah, great question that we should consider Teresa and Edie.

Ed Jacobs

Good morning. I was at the sweep. Yesterday on 25th And there were by my count 10 officers at that sweep. Now from what I know of our hard working Police Department, there are approximately 36 to 40 officers that they can get on the street at any one time in the to cover the City of Tacoma numbers may be off but they're in that area because our our police officers, a lot of them are are leaving and having a hard time getting more but to my recollection, that means a third of the police officers or somewhere around there. We're watching the demolition of people's homes down on on 25th I didn't as I as I went through there. I just realized how many officers were standing there watching this. Maybe they were needed. I didn't see any violence. I didn't see any resistance. There was one man that that was kind of protesting that this was all of his stuff that he owns in the world and it was going to be thrown out but I just it seemed wrong. You know, maybe a few officers or something or but I thought 10 was a bit overkill. One of the the people in that and encampment. I talked to i i asked him how he got to be homeless. And he said Well, part of it was two years ago he is he was an employee of the city of Olympia. And he was in a car accident, was injured and couldn't work anymore. And within a year he had lost his house and now he's living on the street living rough on the street. And that brought to mind the anecdotes that we need. Hopefully next week. We will be having a breakout session where we share the stories from the street. And I challenge every one of you to go talk to somebody that's on the street. Find out their story and bring it to our breakout sessions next week and share their story with us



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so that we can capture those and we can understand a little bit about what they're up against. It's hard to do until you get a view of the enormity of the situation. So I will shut up and thank you very much.

Rob Huff

Thank you and I would never ask you to shut up. But I do. I don't want to thank you for planting the seed for sharing. Folks who are willing to share their stories about how they became homeless during a breakout next week. So thank you for that. And Jay, why don't you close us out on this section of the meeting? What do you have to say this week?

Jay Warley

Something to really consider as pupils are doing the outreaching as the people that are entering be one on one basis with some of these positions. The further they are pushed out of town the further that we are pushed out of environments that are supposed to be safe, be harder time we have with working with others and allowing people to come near us. So the further away from the street they get the further away from dealing with humanity wanting to talk to you wanting to work with you they get the best thing that we can do with every interaction is remind them that they are real people and we see them as such and we care about them. Because ultimately that is what will help them seek help, without compassion without care without looking at these people and saying hey, you're a real person, and I value you. We're not really going to get very far. And so every time that we're out there, it needs to be more than just what do you need. It also needs to be ICU any more relevant and you do matter and I'm fighting for you. Because otherwise people are gonna just run from you. And it's gonna get worse the further this thing goes.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jay. So before we move completely away from the on the streets section of today's meeting, I did want to remind folks that you can use the chat to drop items in there that you either need or have to share for doing outreach. So whether it's things like hand warmers that you might have or that you need to have in the case that we have inclement weather come up again. Please use the chat to share that we can put it into our spreadsheet and Jay I don't know if you have the link candy but it'd be great to drop the link to the Google sheet that you created where we've been tracking kind of needed and share items. So yeah, Tammy, you have your hand up.

Tammy

I do have my handout. I just want to remind the outreach workers that if they come across any veterans let us know because we have right now we have one opening. So you know, remember that the veteran's village is there for the homeless veterans. It's just a reminder to outreach workers that they can send them our way.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Tammy. And Patricia Um,

Patricia

first of all, I want to thank everybody for being here just to support and and try to find a solution for homelessness second, kind of what Jay said, is that like some people are just one step away one paycheck away from being homeless. We did not expect COVID We do not expect the car accident. We do not expect the health changes that we have. Coming off of like Maureen, I'm pretty upset about that. But just to understand that we're just once we're all humans and some of us are one step away from the street with a paycheck and thank you for everybody doing the work that they do. All right.



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Rob Huff

Yeah, thank you, Patricia. All right. So let's let's move on to quick community spotlight and, Alia Do you want to share about the Cricut free for phones program maybe she stepped away Alright, so since we're not hearing anything there, let's go ahead and and move on to our next item in the agenda. And that was that we wanted to carve out some time for folks to share a little bit of remembrances and talk about the impact of Maureen has had and I know some folks were able to do this in person yesterday during the social at seven seas. Not everybody was able to be there. But I thought it would be important to split to carve out some time this morning just to share some marine stories to inspire us as we get into the rest of 2023 and and so I opened the floor if anyone would like to share Yeah, Sally, why don't you get us started?

Sally Perkins

So I just it was a great joy to me to reconnect with Maureen around this work. I had worked with her years and years and years ago and the hilltop King Center and some of the work she did then and with the affordable housing efforts that happened throughout the years and then we kind of lost track of each other and so reconnecting here was was a joy. And I was reminded of her energy and her passion and her absolute consistent persistence. And what a role model she is for what we need to do to prevent ale with what we're trying to accomplish. And so I'm I'm heartbroken that she's no longer in the world that Maureen was unique. There is no replacement. And I I honor her for the work she did right up until she couldn't do it anymore. And I just will miss her every

Rob Huff

day. Thank you, Sally. And Jan.

Janet Runbeck

Yes. And Kenny was one of I think there's about 20 of us that came to services last night and it was really important to gather when there is loss, we need each other we need the fellowship of a breaking bread or chipping a glass in in honor and memory of of those who are have gone before and the story that I told last night was in the process of getting to know Maureen especially at the end, she had time to tell stories of her past. And not only were there incredible things that she did in the city of Tacoma for those of us who live in Tacoma, and for all of our neighbors and that and then went back decades. She worked for the State Department for a time in the early 90s late 80s. She worked for the State Department in South Africa, the country of South Africa at the time of horrific high incidence and high rates of HIV AIDS. The drug had been approved for use to combat and slow down the disease of AIDS. The government of South Africa did not have enough money or enough medicine to give everybody who was who could benefit from the drug. So the government of South Africa decided that no pregnant woman would get the drug and marine, got a hold of Dr. Anthony Fauci who did agree to do a telephone conference between Washington DC and South Africa. And with that one conference was able to change the policy of the government of South Africa and hence save who knows how many lives from the ravages of AIDS. So that kind of a story makes those of us I remember meeting at Salvation Army when we when before COVID We were meeting daily with Salvation Army, and marine always had the policy section of our Friday coalition. And for a lot of folks, myself included policy is sort of an eye glazing segment right? I mean, policy that she made it come alive and then her actions and her competence, made it real and significant for the betterment of everybody. So will the circle be unbroken? Here's to you, Maureen.

Rob Huff



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Thank you for sharing that Jan. That's a great story. Teresa

Theresa Power-Drutis

so there's that old saying about? Well behaved women not making history and I would just go on record as saying Maureen was anything but well behaved. And that is a powerful thing she brought to us. Some of you knew her back when the last chance shelter was a tiny little thing when the tivity house was a little doorframe thing when there was when she was working on getting employment for people who were unhoused sweeping up city areas. She did a lot of things like that. She also stepped on tons of toes. She she had people who would get really riled at her because she was such a straight shooter and she didn't if she had an idea she was going to go forward with it. So I think the part about Maureen's life that inspires me is that sometimes we work really hard. To be likable, and to take care of everyone else, and those are really good aspirations. But it's also important to know when we need to be sort of kick ass in your face people and I think that's the part that that I will take away. I also want to leave you with a few thoughts from Beth Marines daughter, who said, first of all, she talked about how much this work this coalition meant to her mom, and and she said that marine died kind of on her own terms. She She went home the day before yesterday. She didn't want to die in the hospital. She they took her home the day before yesterday. She was she knew that if she didn't have the hospice paperwork, done it would create a lot of complications for her family. I don't know how many of you been through that process, but it's a deal. You want to have your hospice paperwork taken care of. So yesterday, the hospice folks came, did the intake took care of the paperwork and when they left, Maureen died. So it was like, check. I'm out of the hospital check. I'm not alone. My daughter's with me. Check. I've got the hospice stuff taken care of. And so it just struck me how she kind of did things her way. Right. And so, thank you all for the part that you played in bringing this I would say I'm not thanking you for my self. I'm thanking you on behalf of the effect that Marina has had in our community since coming back to this. You were a welcoming place for her to land and to start back into advocacy after years of being a way so let's keep it up.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Teresa, and anyone else who would like to share a little bit about Maureen, another story?

CC Mendoza

I just want to say that I'm really sad today to hear about Maureen. She was such a powerful force. I learned so much from her and she was such a bulldog. When it came to getting things done. And she was not afraid to confront anybody. On behalf of vulnerable people. She didn't care if you were the mayor or the governor. You were just like the rest of us. And she would go after Yeah. I see she really supported me. I've had a lot of losses in my life, the last couple of years and when we met at Salvation Army, she pulled me aside and put her arm around me. She has such a tender side to her and such as strength and I will miss her deeply but she will always be an inspiration for me. And when I think about kicking ass and taking names her face is going to be right there in front of me, leading me on so I just wanted to say she was awesome. There is no replacement for her. And I also admired the love she had for her husband and her family. So that's all I have. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you Cece. Yeah, she's gonna be missed by many of us. And I think one of the greatest things we can do is continue to work and, and step up and start kicking ass and taking names and ourselves on Maureen's behalf since she can't do this any longer. So, any last words before we move on to our next item on the agenda? Well, we obviously are not going to move on from the loss of Maureen that



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quickly, but I do know we have other things on our agenda today and she would want our work to continue but any, anyone want to share some final words?

Colin DeForest

Hey, Rob, real quick. This is Colin DeForest. I really don't feel and I haven't been on this meeting in a while. So I really don't feel like I have the time or I probably shouldn't say much because I really don't have the deserve the time but I think CeCe said it great. I was I found out about marine and I want to hop on terrible loss, but I would just say that yeah, she is. She did great stuff, you know and she was just a force and being on the government side of things. And dealing with marine she made everyone shake, right because she knew you were going to get it directly. And she was going to give it to you. And also you knew that she was going to do it in a way where it was respectful and you could negotiate your way through it. So just an avid advocate, you know, I mean, just just choose will not be filled by one person. So anyways, she will be missed. I just wanted to say that.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Colin. And I presume that was why you had joined us today. It's great to see you on the call again. All right, so please do continue to share remembrances in the chat. It would be a really nice momento to keep keep those stories. So let's move to our next item on the agenda. And ZEV. I know you wanted to talk to us about the home in Tacoma for all tenant rights action conference coming up and and activities tied in and this is perfectly fitting with the kind of advocacy that Maureen has, has done for so many years. So I hand the floor to you. Do you need the ability to share your screen at all or do you just want to talk to us?

Zev Cook

I can just talk to you and I think that's absolutely right, Rob. I did also send out an email yesterday so people can check for that if they want to read the full endorsement letter for the Action Conference. But basically, I you know, have something very exciting to bring to Congress that conversation today. Home and come up for all which is an organization I represent is will be deciding to move forward with a tenant's Bill of Rights ballot initiative in the next year. This represents one of the greatest advancements in tenants rights that will that we have seen in a long time. The city and I just want to start by reading out some of the protections that we're currently considering. So first economic eviction protections if a landlord raises rent over 10%, forcing tenants to leave, they must pay tenant relocation assistance equal to three months rent second require six months notice for all rent increases allow tenants to break leases without penalty within that period if they need other housing. Three ban rent increases where there are outstanding code evictions. Ban evictions of children during the school year and ban evictions during cold weather months when survival is challenging. And cat moving costs and no more than first and last month's rent, Cap late fees and pet deposits ban or cap rental application fees. So I'm here today to ask for the coalition and coalition's members endorsement of our Action Conference. So not the initiative itself, but the conference where we will be bringing the community supporters together to both discuss the campaign and what commitments we want to make and also just vote on whether or not we want to move forward with the initiative itself. Of course we do plan to vote yes on moving forward with this, as we are very prepared to win this initiative. There's currently a number of organizations in the community who have already endorsed this, some of you are on this call today. Thank you for your support. And there's also we've laid a lot of the groundwork to move forward with this. We've been working over the past around six months on setting up a lot of the infrastructure to successfully run a campaign like this like data management and outreach and getting the right people involved. So we have a lot of those things figured out now and we're ready to move forward in addition to around \$35,000 in fundraising that we've done to make this campaign success of course,



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that's only about a third of what we're going to need to be successful on this campaign. And we also have people working on writing up the initiative itself so the final language isn't final but we have no Loney who's specializes in ballot initiatives and has guided other campaigns to success one of the top lawyers in the state on this kind of thing, and Ed Witter, who's with the housing Justice Project and has been doing a lot to advise us along in this process and make sure that this campaign is a success, that some of the language we're actually considering on making some changes, especially to the that first portion of economic protection we're actually thinking of making parts of this initiative a little more aggressive, in terms of in in that respects scaling, the moving assistance that required with the rent increase. So we'll have we expect to have final language for the initiative that we'll be voting on within about a week from today. And I'll make sure all of you have access to that. We think this is the right time to push a campaign like this in Tacoma. As many of you know, there's a big connection between rent burden and rents going up and the homelessness population expanding there's been actually some really interesting research conducted specifically between like percentage increases and rent burden and homelessness, and I'll share that Pierce County is the second most rent and burdened county in the state of Washington. We've also found that in our research throughout the country, rent burden, high rent burden has directly connected to success of similar tenants rights initiatives. So we're actually really confident that this is a very good time to run an initiative like this and come with rent burden, reaching up to 50% of the renting population in Tacoma, and rents just in the last year or two here in Pierce County going up around 22%. So this is the really the right time to step in and make sure that we're putting some you know, slowdowns on the rate of rents going up and that we can stem the flow of our working class community members into homelessness. So with that, I just like to open up the floor to any questions people might have. And, you know, I hope this is something you'll all support. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, sir. And let's open the floor for any questions folks might have about either the conference or the the early thoughts on the initiative. Yeah. Danna.

Dana Peterson

Um, yeah. Is this just for the City of Tacoma, or would this be for all Pierce County?

Zev Cook

Thank you. Yes, it's just for at Tacoma at this time. So we intend to move on to projects that will affect all of Pierce County at some point. This is kind of where we're at, in terms of running a city wide initiative in terms of capacity. In the first four months, the next four months, we intend to have a ground game to collect around 8000 signatures to get the initiative on the November ballot. And we also plan to have a very serious and get out the vote operation going into late this year.

Rob Huff

Thank you, sir. And any other questions? Yeah, Courtney.

Courtney Love

If we endorse this as a coalition, will the coalition have spots at the table to as this conversation goes further?

Zev Cook

Absolutely. I'm so we're having the Action Conference on February 4, which is included in the email I sent out and people can review that and other information there. We're also planning a Action



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Conference. The planning meeting for the Action Conference is on the 17th of this month. So if people from the coalition are interested in being more like deeply engaged with the team, putting this all together, please reach out to me or send me an email. I'll put it in the chat right after I'm done here. And we'll make sure that you get the information for that meeting. And we're actually very happy to expand the coalition of folks that are working on pushing this thing forward.

Rob Huff

Thank you for that question. Courtney and your hand, your hand went up again.

Courtney Love

A follow up question. Do you want to encourage us each to go and get endorsements for this from our own organizations? Since we are other orgs

Zev Cook

Yeah, absolutely. So you know, any organizations that are represented here today who are interested in endorsing or more than encouraged to endorse if they're able to do that, or any other organizations that people here are connected to? I know there's a lot of people here won't be able to publicly endorse this due to various restrictions around, you know, 501 C threes. It's a little murky, because technically, we're only asking people to endorse the Action Conference where we'll be voting on whether or not to move forward with the initiative and not the initiative itself. So I mean, that's for people that figure out for themselves, what their what's appropriate for their organizations. But whether it's an official endorsement or you know, tacit support and people getting involved, we welcome all different kinds of support.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thank you for that clarification. Zev? And also Timothy For for your comment in the chat. All right. Any final questions for ZEV? All right, well, I appreciate you bringing this to us and we will discuss among among ourselves, you know, encourage folks to to attend the conference. And I think this is an exciting development. For folks in Tacoma. So thank you. All Alright, so we haven't had a breakout question for like, three weeks. We haven't had a regular meeting for three weeks. So I believe when we last well, I know that when we last met had our last regular meeting December 16. We didn't have time for a breakout question as I recall. So we don't have another summary for Timothy to give us but we should talk now. So what I thought it would be a good way to start this year is to do to think about what are some hard solid goals that the coalition should set to accomplish in 2023. We've got a brand new year ahead of us. And I think there are many of us who are tired of talking and want to see action. And so we thought it'd be important to spend a few moments moments in small breakout groups and talk about what we think those actions should be. For 2023 So before I go into the instructions for breakouts, I see Courtney has her hand up. What did you have to add Courtney?

Courtney Love

Yeah, sorry. Um, you know, Zef was the first to endorse. So I feel like one we need to move and like, is there anybody who would move such an endorsement? Is there a second and discussion and vote since the Ask was for an endorsement of the meeting?

Rob Huff

So I was not prepared to do a vote today, but I did want to give the opportunity for outlining the the proposal and I thought that we could come back next week and actually take a vote. So so i That's why I was hoping we'd have the opportunity for the presentation. I appreciated that. I've sent the material to



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the group through the email list and then we can take a vote next week after folks have had an opportunity to to Okay, thank you. So yeah, so appreciate that. That call for clarification, Courtney. All right. So those of you who have been with us before I know how these breakouts work. We will spend the next 15 minutes talking in small breakout groups of five or six folks. What I would urge you is if when you get to your breakout room if you could appoint someone to be the note taker for the room and paste your your notes into the chat when we when we return. The more complete your notes are the better summary that Timothy is going to be able to pull together so that we can talk about what we all said next week. So again, our question is what are the concrete things that we want to we should try to accomplish as a coalition this year, and what actions should we be focused on? So I'll send us all away and we'll be back here at about 1007.

<breakout rooms>

Rob Huff

All right. Welcome back everyone. And you know, I think this is one of my favorite parts of every meeting is when people come back from the breakout rooms and all you have you all are on screen. Yes. So I appreciate seeing all your faces. So the reminder is that oh, so just so you know you. There we go. So, reminder, just please share your notes from your breakout room. I know. 15 minutes flies by really quick and I still hope it was a good conversation. But I'm looking forward to seeing what folks ideas are for what we should really focus on this year. This will be the first of a number of conversations about where we should put our energy toward real action in 2023 So I love seeing those notes flow into the chat and let's move on to our regular government updates. And we'll get started first with the updates from the city of Tacoma.

Caleb Carbone

Thanks, Rob. Good morning, everyone. One of the major updates that I do have is our safe parking site with which we are we have sent out a flyer as of this morning of a community meeting we are scheduled for the 18th of January. We're inviting the community at Holy Rosary to learn about a new safe parking site at that location. With Catholic Community Services as being the provider. I see Alan is with us today at this meeting, and is taking a huge a major step in that direction of safe parking in the city of Tacoma, him and the Catholic Community Services and that team and so we're super excited to partner with them with this site. I did see that that I will send out that actual that flyer mailer through the listserv so that you guys can all have those details and hopefully you can join us. It will be an in person meeting. And it will probably be a little bit different than our previous you know meetings when we're doing virtual because it's more of a presentation than a question of answering. So I it will look a little bit different in terms of a format but we're hoping to engage the community in a way that allows them to be heard about some of their concerns and how you know this will help with the homeless, addressing the seriousness of safe parking for folks, especially families and individuals and have a hopefully some good positive outcomes from this community meeting. And then we're hoping to be in operation this month once once we get past that community meeting. On other notes of safe parking, Jeffrey, I saw your message. We are have been working with PDS and their legal counsel to understand what safe parking looks like when it's not permitted as a temporary shelter. So we'll continue to keep working on that and making sure we have all the details and we'll hopefully be able to share those with Jeffrey who can talk about some of the things that we've worked on and agreed upon that would make it safe, safe parking for churches and in Tacoma. And that is the only update that I have currently right now.

Rob Huff



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Okay, thank you. Thank you, Caleb, one question I did have for you since you're on the call is have you had any success in getting the canopies at the 35th and Pacific sight in place yet, or is that still something that's a work in progress

Caleb Carbone

that is still a work in progress? I know Luis is off for a majority of this month and we weren't able to connect I can reach out to Nate to see where they're at with that as kind of a reminder they're made to order and are supposed to be in the process of getting there for 35th and Pacific and so I can definitely follow up with you rob and the coalition on what that timeline looks like.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thank you. Because obviously winter's not waiting so. So a couple of hands are up if you get have a moment. Theresa, let me start with you.

Theresa Power-Drutis

So that's great. News about the safe parking. Thank you for that. And also I just have a question because the the two new campsites there are glitches with them that I think maybe could be helped by having more community involvement. That's just a thought but also the fact that they they aren't permanent. Campsites is troubling to me. There's so expensive to set up. And it seems like a really poor use of our resources to keep setting up new campsites when we have some that run really, really well. And if you could look at making for instance, Forward Operating Base into a permanent campsite, it's got a great location, they're doing a wonderful job. And it seems, if you made it a permanent location, you could bring in the adequate electricity to do the things they need to do they can't even wash their dishes in hot water and there's just some safety things that could be really improved by having more electricity. So I want to pitch that out there that I think when you see something that's working, don't fix it. Just make it better by adding the resources that are needed.

Rob Huff

Just a thought. Thank you, Teresa. I don't know if you wanted to address that at all, Kayla?

Caleb Carbone

Well, when the city does not have a permanent shelter that we fully support, we usually partner with other organizations that already have existing property. The reason why fop hope is specifically temporary is because TPU owns that property and that would have to go through a board situation to acquire that and then there's a lot of other things too once we get into permanent shelter and then we get into different types of permitting and requirements. One of the things that's nice about the emergency declaration as is it gives us a lot more flexibility to set up emergency shelters. While we're hopefully building more permanent housing, and majority of the sites that we do have shelter on are actually slated to become affordable housing. And so often we're just borrowing that land for the time being while we're sheltering folks as an emergency situation, in hopes that we get to more long term housing affordability because of just the property that we have available for us and that is, is actually usable. So it is one of the biggest challenges. I think the one that is probably our best bet is probably the stability site, just by where it's at and what the stability site holds in terms of the city's property but that the all the other property is pretty much spoken for for affordable housing. Or is not under the General Government.

Theresa Power-Drutis



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So it sounds like we could petition TPU to pass the land over for this use, maybe. But the other issue is I don't think anyone in this call believes that we are not going to need campsites as part of the solution to homelessness for the foreseeable future. So if the imaginary idea is that we can turn every campsite into affordable housing and people are just going to not need 10 spaces anymore, I think that's not logical. We are going to need 10 spaces so let's make some really good 10 spaces and let's make them permanent, like Kayo a campground so that we have them as resources, and then keep building the affordable housing. Yes. But the people who are in tents keep getting shifted around and we spend a lot of money setting up new campsites is just not a logical approach. So someplace that's permanent that has tense in addition to the stability site, which is not adequate is not enough.

Rob Huff

Thanks, Teresa. Dr. jarvee

question for Kayla. So I read that Seattle City of Seattle has made some space for our v's and we were talking about that earlier in the meeting about how people get our v's and they realize and then they find out that there's no parking for our RV older than 2013. And then and this all these RVs just end up on the street. But that would be a solution if we could get you know, a safe place for RV parking. And so I'm just wondering if if city of Tacoma has any thoughts in that direction?

Caleb Carbone

Yeah, so with this safe parking site at Holy Rosary, after 90 days, they're going to reevaluate whether they can take our views on that site. So that will be part of the process too as well. It will be a small amount that they may be able to take on but it will give us a little bit of insight at what it takes to maintain a safe parking site with RVs on there and all of those those challenges I think one of the hardest part is where to dump black and green water and majority of the city and even just on personal use, it's hard to find that. I know that there are services that will come and pick it up but it's pretty costly in comparison, so we just have to be able to figure out some of those things as time goes on. But it is definitely a priority for us as a city to be able to help folks who are in RV is to find safe parking

Rob Huff

as well. Thank you and thank you for the question Dr. Jarvey. So we

Zoe Grieder

have to unmute myself what quickly addressing what Theresa was talking about my my big concern with that plan is buildings don't pop up overnight. And when the construction starts on these you know if that funding actually goes through where people are going to go in the interim, and what supports are going to be in place to make sure that's actually going to people on the street at that zero to 10 maybe 20% ami. My My other question for Caleb is specifically sweep related. Do we know when the sweep near the stability site is happening? It was the potential date was a couple of weeks ago. So I would like to know when that's actually happening and what considerations are being made about whether or not it's a good time to do that. Not that it is ever a good time to sweep people

Caleb Carbone

I'm so sorry for that removal I'm not sure I thought that was already under was already in process has been posted. So I will follow up with you when I can touch base with the heel team

Rob Huff



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on them. Thank you, Caleb. All right. Additional questions for Caleb please go ahead and use the chat. Hopefully you're able to hang out Caleb and address questions that come up there. Let's move on to our next government update. And I see I saw Jeff Rogers was in the meeting. Earlier Jeff is still here and have an update from Pierce County Human Services.

Jeff Rodgers

I am here Good morning. We're planning the homeless Point in Time Count training start next week. We have training scheduled for the next two weeks and three weeks from now the PIT count will take place if you would like to volunteer. There's still opportunity. I can paste that website where you can register in the in the chat. And all volunteers must go through the training even if your current 20 years serving in the community doing outreach of volunteers. PIT Count must go through our training for volunteers. So it's coming soon, and we'd love to have you help us by volunteering.

Rob Huff

Thanks, Jeff. In relation to the point in time count, there was some conversation earlier about how to handle the challenge of folks being so shuffled around inside the city of Tacoma. What is there? What planning is being done to ensure that there's the best possible count within the city given the kind of chaos with the sweeps?

Jeff Rodgers

Well, we need for folks to tell us where folks are at that we're going to count we'll be doing the count on Thursday afternoon, Thursday night and then Friday morning. So it's a little longer not just the overnight but the afternoon of Thursday and Friday morning to move to 24 hour period to make sure that we get everybody so I'm compiling and I've been asking folks to provide me locations I drive around the city of odd and I'm documenting locations. I didn't see that over there. So I'm documenting that myself. There. encampments in places I'm like, thinking how do volunteers even get into that site? You know, with some of the sites that are kind to visible from the highway, but accessibility is another question. So please, please, please, and I'm going to be reaching out to a few of you. My plan is to reach out to Jeffrey, Teresa, and Richard three of you for sure you're on my list starting next week to help if you could help identify locations that you're very familiar with to make sure we're not missing locations. We're working with the outreach teams that are funded to do outreach but any of you who do outreach and want to share with us those locations, we can add them to our list. So we know that what we put on the list next week may not be the same in three weeks. But if we have them on our list and we check to make sure we're not gonna miss anybody, and even up to the date of the count if you know of a location and people can contact me with that information. And we'll make sure that we get a team out to any location that's identified. We don't know where all the locations are people do move we know. So if I didn't mention your name, I just know all the work that Teresa, Jeffrey and Richard do. I know others you do a lot of work. But please let me know location so that we can document those and make sure we send people in some people may go to a location it's empty, but maybe something has been swept or something that people have moved from. But we want to make sure that we're checking every location. It's a known location by anybody for the potential of identifying someone to capital.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jeff. Appreciate the the answer. And I will remind folks if you do receive the if you're on the mailing list for the coalition, Jeff's email address is in the agenda for every week's meeting. So that's a good way to reach out to Jeff Courtney. I see your hand up and you're muted right now Courtney you're still muted.



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Courtney Love

Are you talking to me? I cut out for a second.

Rob Huff

Yeah, I saw your hand go up. So I wanted to give you an opportunity to ask your question.

Courtney Love

So as I did it, my internet but I'm asked I was wanting to ask. When I signed up to do the pit there were no overnight hours. Is there an overnight shift?

Jeff Rodgers

There is an overnight shift in anyone that works within our homeless crisis response system that knowledgeable about this crisis are allowed to work the evening we don't offer it to citizens as a whole. And let's say in TELUS they want to do the night count. So as part of your training, we will be identifying folks who will be doing the overnight count. So yes, outreach workers, nonprofit organizations or organizations that do this kind of work. citizen volunteers like Jeffery and Richard who do this kind of work. We're hoping that all of you will help us on the night count. But we're not promoting that to the community as a whole. It's just it'd be something to be discussed with the most of you that we know who do this work on a regular basis about your options when you want to do it and hopefully you'll want to help the night count.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jeff. And Jeffrey and then rosemary and we'll move on to the next item.

Jeffrey Boyce

But yeah, I want to support Jeff in this. I have done the Point in Time Count, four years, five years. And I'll be honest with you, it's sorely needed because funding effects by the count, and we all need the funding. So if you haven't volunteered for the Point in Time Count, please do talk to people you know, about the Point in Time Count, especially neighbors who wouldn't normally go out there and talk to them about the Point in Time Count. Let's get out there. Let's get as many people out there we as we can to count because the funding is affected by this count. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jeffrey, and rosemary.

Rosemary Powers

I was thinking of something a little bit related and it's more that maybe next week Jeffrey one, Jeff got Jeff and Jeffrey. Jeff, when you come I'd like to hear a little bit about what actually this data is used for in terms of funding, since it's seen as often inaccurate in comparison to other ways of measuring who's in the homeless system. And yet I know it's an it's a required count that's governmentally required. I would like to know a bit and for others who don't know this background to how is this data used and what's the value of it seen and in terms of the funding, so not anything long, but just to be clear about it because it's not always clear to me and the other thing I want to just mention is that while it's important to count as many people as possible, I'm really a little bit dubious that people who are trying to hide where they're at because they've been swept so much are going to come forward very easily so it'll be inaccurate in ways that perhaps we would prefer be different and the county I hope knows fairly that that's possible to



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Jeff Rodgers

thanks. We know it's not an exact count. I think anyone that works in this business looks at the numbers that we provide, realize it's an undercount. It's not anywhere near the number that we believe in is when you ask the experts who do data like Garrett and Island, he comes up with a complete different number. If we were to look at our data that we collect at least or our homeless management information system, it tells us a complete different story. But I'll come next week prepared to provide a quick blurb about these counts had been going on for about 25 years. And when they started in the relationship of these numbers compared to other data sets. We've come a long way in the tech world with data but I'll share that next

Rob Huff

week. Thank you, Jeff. That'd be great and Jay, why don't you help close this out on this? This update?

Jay Warley

I think that it is important for people to understand that 1000s of dollars have been lost in previous years because of lack of a correct count. Without numbers. We cannot get the funds through legislature. A lot of what we do in the background depends highly on how many people we serve and how we serve them. So without those pit counts without the data that we've been pushing for with inclement weather, without input from our nonprofits on how they are assisting people in their output. We cannot get the proper funding to help more people and in this crisis. It is imperative that we get numbers and it starts with going out there and counting people and keeping track of the services that we provide. Thank you, Jay.

Rob Huff

All right. So let's shift over to our updates from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. I see Jenny on screen I saw Isaiah in the room as well. So go ahead, Jenny.

Jennie Schoeppe

Hello everyone. I'm so glad to be here with you. Happy New Year. Was it seven seas last night and was really inspired. sad about the passing of Maureen and also inspired by all of you and love to hear the story. So thank you for allowing me to be part of that. Um, on the communicable disease front. We still have a lot of respiratory illness out there. But nationwide trends show that RSV that virus I've been talking about, and influenza or flu are trending downwards. COVID however, showing up ticks in parts of the country, so potentially you know another little bump wave of COVID but locally, our COVID hospitalizations are low and continue on a downward trend. CDC rates are community level is low vaccines are our best defense against COVID and saw some data today that in Pierce County only 24% of those who are eligible for the new ish by Vaillant booster have been boosted have taken that booster so really want to encourage folks to get boosted, encourage others to do so, to stop community spread. I will share some resources so that you can be reminded if you're eligible and you can share that with others. We still have vaccine clinics going for the foreseeable future. I'm not sure when those will go away but they are happening still. I will share our link to our vaccine page where you can find clinics. I'm also going to work with our congregate sites to see if we can use you know resources. We still have to do some regular clinics at least this quarter to make sure we're trying to get folks in our unhoused community and our shelter community boosted we still have isolation quarantine support for those who have COVID and need a safe place to isolate. We're continuing to support to adult family homes until further notice. Still have testing sites and I'll share some resources for testing if you go to our test page you will find the actual physical test site information that you can get test kits at the library's both Pierce County Library Tacoma Public Library, you can email our testing team directly to



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get test kits for your organization. Washington is still doing the CES to the test to get free at home tests by ordering those if you're like me, you may have a some tests at home that are expired. So this is a good time to order more for your family. Let's see what else monkeypox or Mbox cases have been stable that did not turn in depth did not blow up into a huge issue for our community which we are grateful for. My dog is crying in the background. I'm so sorry. Um but I'll share information about an upcoming event that's happening at Urban Grace Church next week. Selma, please. I'll also share some flu information. Our flu levels are high but they are declining, as I said, just like they are nationwide. So that's great news. And that is that's what I have to share today. So I will. I'm here for questions or we can turn it over to Isaiah and he can share some information from environmental health.

Rob Huff

Great, and I see Zoey has her hand up. Did you want to ask a question now? Or is that for after Isaiah speaks?

Zoe Grieder

I had a communicable disease question that I'm just going to just email you about but I figured somebody else might want to know the answer to it seems like there's an RSV break outbreak at the 35th camp. They're selling bulls that are sick with Okay, RSV symptoms, and they're just as folks are out and about if they run into a potential outbreak of something other than COVID so we contact you and you get in touch with folks that go out there or is there a contact person?

Jennie Schoeppe

Absolutely. Um, yeah, you would let me know. And I can touch base with our epi folks. I can reach out to Yeah, I can I can try and get in touch with folks about some prevention, but certainly want to let folks know here. I'm sorry. I'm just reading the chat. Yeah, so let's connect z but just for everyone if you do, you know you want to basically if you run into a situation like that you want to try and encourage folks to seek care and I know that's not always an easy sell for folks. But you can encourage as good a hygiene as possible. No, you know, mask wearing all the things that we think about with COVID with flu is cold, trying to prevent the spread of those things. And I realized when we're talking about encampments, that is really challenging. But yeah, reach out to me if you have questions about those things, but I think encouraging people to seek care and use preventive measures for stopping spread of of things if you're in a position to have those conversations with folks. And then I always want to know if there's if there's a collection of cases somewhere so we can track that. Yeah,

Zoe Grieder

there are seven people sick at that camp and at least one of them has developed pneumonia.

Jennie Schoeppe

Okay. Yeah, I had was not aware of that. I don't know if others here are aware of that. So let's let's talk more offline. Thanks. Yeah. Thank you. Dr. Jarvey. The,

Douglas Jarvie

I have a concern with people saying RSV, RSV, RSV. Is it flu or is it RSV because according to the what I've read RSV is, is affecting small children, immunocompromised and elderly, and it seems like this is more of a flu outbreak. And so I just don't like to use that. I don't like to keep saying I RSV is doing this RSP is doing that it's keeping people out of work and stuff. Like that. So Can Can you just re emphasize the the what we're looking for when we say RSV, or when we say flu?



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Jennie Schoeppe

Yes, I mean, it's tough, right? Um, I think your point is well taken. I don't know Z again. We can talk more offline. I don't know how, how we would be confirming that those folks have RSP. But Dr. Jarvee is absolutely right. It's very, very common in young folks and older folks. Certainly immunocompromised folks are at risk. So that could be but there isn't a way to know if you have RSV or the flu without testing. So very similar, you know, similar symptoms RSV has more cold like symptoms. I can't speak to more like off the top of my head than that. But you you don't know unless you unless you test symptoms, similar impacts and symptoms so I think it is important to I appreciate your reminder to be to be precise. I didn't know there was an outbreak or number of cases there until see just made me aware of that. So we don't actually know and so I think that your point is well taken and Z and I will connect and and make sure that folks here are tracking and are aware of that and we do the best we can to keep things under control. And for me.

Rob Huff

I did see one question in the chat. Maybe you can address it there. Courtney asked about vaccines and its impact on the spread of COVID in the chat, okay, perfect. And Isaiah, what do you have to share with us today?

Isaiah

Yeah, I don't have as much as Jane because Jenny is so amazing. But the Environmental Health Division officially deactivated due to our cold weather incident on December 30. And I have some rough data about that if folks are interested in that. Yeah, so there's a lot of information on here. I won't go through all of it because not all of it is super useful. But in total from I believe the ninth to the 23rd. There were 64 Cold related IDI visits. Most of them were men, and about 40% of them were experiencing homelessness or at least identified as homelessness, experiencing homelessness. Obviously, that might not be an accurate representation, but that's what was tracked in essence. So that means about 26 of them. were experiencing homelessness were the ones that entered IDI visits from that time period. There were seven related to CO poisoning, which I know was a big concern for folks, especially with heating. I know that was a big concern for a lot of shelters and whether like for example, like fofo, there was problems with people not being able to use certain types of heating because of CO poisoning, but there were only seven which is not great, obviously, but that's you know, harm reduction wise at least that's an improvement. So there's a lot more pieces of information here. There were four related to tent fires. And again, 75% of those were mail and then to required hospitalization, and then there were no hospitalizations due to seal poisonings. So only it's only IDI visits, no seal place things. So I know that's some rough data that we have. That was only for a few weeks, so we didn't get the very last week of 2022. So from the 23rd through 30. So we don't have any data, at least not that I have seen. But I might reach out to my APD folks and see if we have any information about that. So I'm not sure if any have folks any questions about that data?

Rob Huff

Yeah, I think there will be some questions about it and it will be critical to get that data for the last week because the the ice storm happened right around the that period.

Isaiah

Right. It was the 22nd or 23rd I believe right, which is right. Yeah, they stopped tracking. Yeah, so the weekend.



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Rob Huff

So I do see a couple of questions. I see your hand Tammy. I see. I think Paula had her hand up first and then we'll get to you. Go ahead, Paul.

Paula Anderson

I just had a question for Isaiah on the counts of the hospitals. Was that all Pierce County or just Tacoma? Okay, and then Okay, the other thing is, is that in East Pierce County since we'd have less resources available unless shelters and all of that type of thing. We'd be very interested to find out how many were attributed to the hospital in our area. Good Sam. So if you could maybe extrapolate that data and send it out I think folks in different areas would be would like to see that.

Isaiah

Yeah, I definitely asked. I mean, I know we have our GIS system or geographic information system and I'm not sure if they inter interlaced that with essence and tracking. Edy visits. i I'll be honest with you, I am not a huge numbers person, I always refer back to the epidemiologist of our team and say, Hey, can you please help me? Like definitely ask and see if we can get that information out to

Rob Huff

you? Great, and then Tammy had a question.

Tammy

More of a comment. I just want to be clear that none of those co2 issues that the IDI word from Fabo.

Isaiah

Yes, yeah. No, I was just saying that as an example. I didn't mean to say that that was your site.

Rob Huff

Yeah, no, wait, we've had none. Yet. Thanks for clarifying to me. All right. And yeah, we do need to pull together a summary of the impact the human impact of the cold spell that that wrapped up at the end of December, and count for any folks who died while homeless during that time from exposure. If if we're able to get that information, so more to come on that effort. Speaking of which, I don't know if we have anybody from the Department of Emergency Management with the county but let's pause for a moment and see if we do before we move on to our final items on the agenda. Alright, I didn't think I saw anybody here so um, so I'm going to very quickly breeze through some advocacy updates and I do invite I don't know if, if Sally still here yet. Sally is still here to add to this, but I did take a look through the Tacoma City Council agenda. There are no items on study session related to housing and homelessness. However, I did want to call out that on Tuesday night, the regular Tuesday meeting is community forum. So there is an opportunity at that meeting to stand in front of city council and share stories from the streets of the impact of the sweeps that are being done so. So that is an opportunity I wanted to call out before I go further. I see your hand up Courtney.

Courtney Love

Yes. I should have asked earlier when the presentation but does Taleb have an update on when the three month review of the camping ban will be?

Rob Huff

Yeah, do you have an update on that Caleb? Anything you can share?



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Caleb Carbone

I do not. Courtney, I can follow up with you on that. Yeah, I'll have to touch base with he'll on that

Rob Huff

one. Thank you. All right. The last item that I'll call out from the city of Tacoma is that the city council's community vitality and safety committee meets on Thursday afternoon at 430. Again, nothing directly related to homelessness on their agenda, but they are going to talk about funding recommendations for nonprofits in the city with general fund dollars. So it's always good to track that. As always, the agendas for the Pierce County Council will post later today. So if there's anything of interest there, it can be shared over email and I did want to take an opportunity to remind folks that the Washington State Legislative session convenes and opens on January 9 on Monday. I will share to the coalition mailing list the invite to the first of what will be a series of weekly meetings on Friday afternoons with the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. The Housing Alliance will be as previously shared our priorities for this legislative session and let's see, I will paste that link in the chat. But wanted to let folks know that those meetings will take place every Friday afternoon from two to three on Zoom and there will be an opportunity from three to 330 to just do some community building after that and address some of the stresses that are definitely going to be present as we go through this long legislative session. Also, I wanted to share a in case folks didn't see it. During the time that we were not doing regular meetings. Governor Inslee put out his budget request to the state legislature. I pasted in the chat link to a blog post for the housing alliances, response and encouragement for the governor to invest more dollars in housing and homelessness in the coming biannual them and I do see your hand Josh so I'll get right to you but one last thing I wanted to mention is this afternoon is the meeting monthly meeting of the pierce the advisory board for the Pierce County comprehensive plan to end homelessness. If you have the capacity to join that meeting is taking place at one o'clock or actually let me look at my calendar. It's taking place at yeah from one to three on Zoom. The link is to the meeting is on the Pierce County comprehensive plan to end homelessness page which I will now put in the chat. And if you have the capacity to join that meeting this afternoon. It should be an interesting conversation. One of the things that will be talked about is the consultants final report that will go to the county council regarding the creation of a unified regional approach to homelessness across Pierce County. And that will be interesting to hear that that that report includes some recommendations at the end of what the consultant thinks would be most effective. And that that report will not go to the to the county council until February, but it's going to be unveiled today at this advisory board meeting. So that's a lot of blah, blah, blah. But hopefully some of those links are useful. And I do want to as the legislative session moves forward to give a lot of opportunities for those who attend these meetings to make their voices heard in Olympia. All that being said, Josh, I see you have your hand up. Thank you,

Josh Castle

Rob. There's a number of things to share this updates on some of our projects, but I'll just keep it short and I can share maybe a longer report next time. But I wanted to share something because it's very relevant to what we were talking about today. That we are in February, we are purchasing a Candlewood suites. It's 93 units and liquid and it's going to be it's going to be excuse me, it's going to be enhanced shelter for singles couples and people with pets. And the plan is to convert it into permanent supportive housing later. It's funded through the states and Right of Way program. A lot of the projects we're setting up right now we're actually funded through that program. And the we have just decided to name Candlewood suites, Maureen Howard place so just wanted to make sure that was known. We are just grateful. I've worked with her for a long time. And so as Sharon Lee and just grateful for all of your work and your advocacy on homelessness and housing. And yeah, we're just it's it's just, it's just the right thing to do. Yeah, and we have a number like through the ROTC program. We



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are right now we're trying to get people because of the cold weather and everything we're trying to get people move right now temporarily into hotel rooms, and then we're going to fill the we have like 15 hotel rooms filled right now through the right away program and then five more expected soon. And then we're going to transition these folks once Maureen Howard place opens. We're going to transition these folks into into that building, and that's going to be in next month. So that's coming up, but I'll share a fuller report next week. I just wanted to make sure that was known.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Josh. All right. So let's see. We are rapidly running out of time for today's meeting, but we do have a couple of items still on our agenda. Jan anything you want to share from the safe sites for all committee?

Janet Runbeck

Safe that's for all pretty much turned into the inclement weather response action team. So I'm gonna give a brief update and Jay is here to one of the success stories of this particular coalition is the fact that we see each other face to face to include all providers from government or at least they're invited to come here to the open table here. So d m Department of Emergency Management for Pierce County, invited to representatives from the this coalition to be at the table during inclement weather at their emergency operations center. So December 19, through the 23rd Jay Worley and I were invited and encouraged to come in for an 8am meeting Zoom meeting with not only Diem but with their hosting of all municipalities and jurisdiction, fire and emergency response teams and anybody else you know the not the politicians didn't come but the the first responders, law enforcement of fire teams, so anybody responding to 911 They saw us as coalition members there. They heard our concerns. We talked to them, we got names and emails, and we we were there for invited there for every day of the 19th to the 23rd for that 8am to 8:30am meeting then at 830. Pierce County Human Services, had a meeting for everybody in the coalition to talk about who is were doing what who needs what. So we were able to do some connection between resources and the actual those of you who are on the street who needs what were by the end of that week, de em came up with about a couple does or doesn't have warm kid hygiene kits with the call hygiene kits which was low temp, sleeping bags plus heat warmers plus signs and symptoms of frostbite and exposure. So it's it is beyond what the EM typically does because there was not declaration of Pierce County responding to inclement weather but it recognized there was bad weather invited us in we were at the table. So even though the response wasn't enough to stop the folks from showing up in Isaias report as far as IDI visits are or loss of limb function or organ function, at least we think we really made an impact and we're trying to support outreach team. So that's that Goodbye. Have a healthy, healthy week.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jan. J.

Jay Warley

The other side of that is that we got a lot more connectivity between our services and ourselves. We're starting to get more people on board from our actual service providers like firemen and police and otherwise. So the amount of work that we put in with Diem and our community is really it's almost staggering in the way that it has proceeded to create the network that we have now. We have over 100 people on our inclement weather thread slash listserv. Hopefully everybody works on getting listserv, please. And that network of people is our core people that work with our community that is more than just our contracted outreach. This is all of our volunteer outreach. And that is a huge success for a group like ours in our community, building a network throughout all of Pierce County for the hardest



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times when we need it the most. And so everyone, thank you so much. for working with us and doing the groundwork in the outreach that we have. And all of the other people that are in budgeting and in grant work that are willing to sit down and discuss what needs to be done so that our next inclement weather cycle is even better and we can prevent more damage done to our community. Thank you so much, everyone.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jay and Jan and everyone who worked on doing outreach during the cold weather and fingers crossed that we don't see a return of the cold weather but we still have a few weeks ahead of us that potential. So any coalition committee updates we need to discuss today? Yeah, I don't think there was anything critical today. So we have a little bit of time for some combined good trouble announcements slash success stories. Anything have any anybody have anything they'd like to share with the 50 of us who are still here? Yeah, Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

I know I've been talking a lot today. So but there was this pause. So I want to talk about 99 stockings. That was a real success this year, and the people are clapping. A lot of them had a lot to do with why it was a success. I just want to thank the coalition in general for the support that you all provided for this and all the many people who did something to make this work, including Christine who allowed us to use her garage to house all the 99 stocking products, which was quite a bit and this year, last year, we put out about 400 stockings and bags for both at the shelters and directly in outreach to people experiencing homelessness in the street. And this year, we put out more than 500 so that is a little bit of a miracle. I keep being amazed there that they go out and we had help from the Boy Scouts this year, which was great. We had more community members than ever engaged in it. And next year, we already have some people interested in helping who weren't helping this year. So To you I say my hat goes off to you and also if you know of an organization or individuals who would like to be part of this it's kind of life giving in the midst of a lot of chaos and a lot of things that don't go really well is something that tends to go pretty smoothly and gives people a smile. So be in touch. I'm going to put my email address in the chat we would particularly love to have a partnership with some organization or church that has a space where these things could be gathered during the year so that we don't have to gather them all so quickly. So keep that in mind. And please be in touch if you have even if you don't want to be identified as the person who recommended at church or something to me, just let me know and I will cold call them. But I would very much like to have such a partnership. So if you or somebody you know is engaged in a group that might consider that

Rob Huff

in touch and thank you. Thank you, Teresa. And I say I see your hand up.

Isaiah

Yeah, I just want to say that I we still have lots of clothing donations. The Health Department's and we have many many, many cold weather injury cards and I'm going to see if a greater lakes wants those today. But even once they take some we will still have a few, I believe at least two to 300 and I can get a better representation of what we have in terms of clothing when I stopped by the office today but I know we have some coats and neck warmers and things like that. So if anyone wants anything I know it's warmed up quite significantly, but we don't know how long that will last. So if you want anything, please let me know and I can connect with you and find a way. Thanks.

Rob Huff



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Thank you. And Jay, I see your hand up.

Jay Warley

I did put the link into the data sheets earlier. Christina has been wonderful and working on making those much more usable. Please do use the need ensure though that way, Isaiah, you can look on there who needs things, and other people can get the information from Isaiah of what he has available. There is updated information throughout all of that. The last page is mostly for DML that is just to keep track of what we have been going through what we have used and everything else. So it's kind of in process all the time changing set there so everything should go into needs and or share at the front. And if you just like a distribution like you just dropped it off at a site, go ahead and in need or share put distributed to and either Elysee or St. Vincent DePaul and abbreviation or new hope. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jay. And thanks for the work that everyone's doing to continue to gather items and try to organize that response effort. So we have come to the end of our time. I appreciate everyone being here today. Still 47 of us who hung in for the full call. I know this is kind of a tough emotional day. So I appreciate everyone I know Maureen would have appreciate our ongoing effort. And I wish all of you a happy and safe weekend and I look forward to seeing everybody again next Friday.