



## Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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### SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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### SPEAKERS

Douglas Jarvie, Jeff Rodgers, Zev Cook, Sally Perkins, Representative Derek Kilmer, Jeffrey Boyce, Jennie Schoeppe, Gerrit Nyland, Caleb Carbone, Tammy, Rob Huff, Isaiah, Theresa Power-Drutis, Kenneth King, Richard Dorsett, Rosemary Powers, Maureen Howard, Lavada Kent-Napier, Rian Booker, Cynthia Stewart, Clinton Brink, Tim Harris, Norman Brickhouse, Valeri Almony, Courtney Love, Janet Runbeck, Patricia, Zoe Grieder, Bob Vollbracht

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[CoalitionToEndHomelessnessProviderMeeting-Audio-conv.mp3](https://podcasts.captivate.fm/media/af9e597d-6f26-4c5d-8c91-506ba1d51b25/2023-01-13-CoalitionToEndHomelessnessProviderMeeting-Audio-conv.mp3) to verify anything that seems crazy.

### Rob Huff

we have a jam packed agenda this morning, as you may have noticed, so let's go ahead and get started. promptly. Welcome everyone. I hope you've had a chance to get your coffee. settle in for a couple hours of networking and learning together at this week's meeting of the coalition. Rosemary would you like to get us kicked off?

### Rosemary Powers

Thank you Rob, and I hope my video and cam and audio is all right. Today. It seems a little wonky to me. But welcome everybody to our Open Table. Especially anybody joining us for the first time. We come together every week to tell stories about the realities of homelessness in our community and to center ourselves on the future. We are reimagining where everyone has access to safe and secure housing. We come together on the traditional lands of the pure love Tribe of Indians who have lived on and stewarded these spaces since the beginning of time and continue to do so today. We acknowledge the dramatic history of conquest genocide. And stolen lands and the continuing effects of a dominant story that treated the original peoples as unworthy of respect. Today, I've been thinking a lot



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about the power of stories, both small daily memories and of the grand narratives that shape our imaginations, and they get reflected in public policy. This coming Monday we pause to honor the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, a master storyteller. There'll be many celebrations in his honor, and most will include reference to his 1963 speech with his dream that his children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. And we're a little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. Fewer events will remind those attending of other parts of that speech or other speeches with stories and metaphors that describe the central role of racist oppression that stands in the way of a future of any Brotherhood or sisterhood. Who of us remembers that King began that speech with a stinging rebuke of this country for failing to honor the promise of its founding story, citing the declaration of independence as a quote promissory note to all Americans to the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, he offered this critique. He said it's obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her students as citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring the sacred obligation America has given the Negro people a bad check. Check which has come back marked insufficient funds. He then spurs his listeners on by stating his refusal to believe that the Bank of justice is bankrupt or that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity. And those gathered with him have come to cash this check. King cited the urgency of the moment and noted the failure of gradualism to bring any measure of justice, and that was 60 years ago. And today, too many places. Teachers are being prohibited from telling a fuller story that includes our racist past and continuing racist present the story of an innocent goodwill in America cannot be sustained when other stories of violence stolen labor and discriminatory public policy compete for offering a truer narrative of our past and present. The story of the promise of racial justice continues to challenge all of us to act and not only honor a leader who did this competition for whose story shall be told and who is therefore deserving of respect, opportunity and resources is clearly visible and how the stories of homelessness shape our imaginations and public policy. We'll have an opportunity during our meeting today to share some stories of interactions and situations warehoused and unhoused neighbors share our public space. Reflecting on what we learned from these interactions can shape the stories we tell more broadly. We know the negative power of dominant stories about homelessness to continue to place all the responsibility on individual failings rather than public policies and discrimination. Stories shape policies and I know they do. We need to develop counter stories, counter narratives that see promise and resiliency amid the trauma and that help us learn what kinds of public actions can best promote housing justice. I just learned about a resource titled The housing justice narrative toolkit and I'll put a link in the chat for that. The toolkit says every story you share reinforces certain narratives whether you intended or not. By repeating the right narrative, you can create a new tipping point in public consciousness and create the conditions for you to advance your agenda and broaden your base. So I invite you to explore this resource and bring your ideas about how it might help us tell better and fuller stories. And I invite you to join Martin Luther King Jr. In his refusal to believe that the Bank of justice is bankrupt, or that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity. Welcome today again to this work. And so welcome to all of you. And just so that we are aware of the way we work here together. We ask that people use the raised hand function whenever



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you'd like to be recognized, and that you keep yourself muted when you're not speaking as well as if you're doing other things. It might be distracting to stop your video as well. We do use the chat function as a way to communicate with each other and have conversations during the meeting. It's not seen as disrespectful. It does get pretty fast paced, so please do pay attention to if someone's contacting you in the chat. You might need to check back and see if they have because it goes pretty fast. So try that. And in general we want are in terms of community norms. They're the norms that Ron Rob has posted in the chat of ways of being respectful to one another and not taking up too much space. Since we have 56 or 57. Folks here, we want to be sure that everyone has a chance to speak. So with that I invite any of you who are new today or coming back from a long time away, to raise your hand and be recognized and just say your name and if you're associated with a group. What that group is, it's not a time for discussing your program. But if you do have a program and would like us to know about it, we'd be very happy to schedule you within our program for another week. So Sarah, you can begin.

I'm Sarah, I currently look at workforce previously I was working for Salvation Army. It's where you guys

## **Rob Huff**

welcome Sarah and rosemary you're muted. And anyone else who would like to introduce themselves all right, I'm not seeing anyone. And if you are new,

## **Rosemary Powers**

if you are new today or coming back from wild go and let us know you're here. Just use the chat. Put your contact information in there if you're looking for specific kinds of resources or connections to people and we'll hopefully make the connections. So back to you, Rob.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, and it's great to see so many familiar and new faces on the screen this morning. So welcome, everyone. Let's get started with our regular item we do every Friday and that is talking about what people are seeing on the streets this week. It's been wet and miserable for folks, so it's not been comfortable. I am thankful that it has not been horribly cold and knock on wood. We won't return to the cold. But I did want to put into context looking at the 10 day forecast. There are no temperatures below at or below freezing in the current 10 day forecast for the area. So that's good news. But that does not mean that people don't have needs especially when we're seeing so much rain and wind for folks to deal with. And we're dealing with ongoing sweeps that the city of Tacoma has been doing and displacing people and breaking up communities. So if you have some insight and are aware of needs that folks the 63 folks in this room can help meet. This is an opportunity to share and I open the floor to everyone go ahead, Sally.

## **Sally Perkins**



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So there are now five people sleeping on the sidewalk under the awning at the old pawn shop at 11. Than MLK in the hilltop. There was one than there were two now there's five. I think the reason that particular location is being chosen is one the awnings, so they're a little bit out of the weather but also because the pawnshop has closed. So there's nobody there actively shooing them away at the present time. So that may continue to grow until somebody decides it's a problem. And then there was a police car at the drug market at 10th. And I a couple of days ago but that didn't seem to have any impact this morning. Everything was moving. The market was continuing to function as it has been so that's really disappointing.

## **Rob Huff**

That is disappointing. Thanks for that update. And I think we're gonna see a lot of people moving to spaces like the pawn shop until they're told that they have to leave or or they have the heel team come along to tell them they're within a buffer zone for the camping ban. Any other folks with observations of what they've been seeing on the streets this week? Yeah, Bob.

## **Bob Vollbracht**

Good morning. Um, not so much on our streets because we don't have a lot of people living on the streets here. For years, there's been a small cottage industry on the K p where private landowners will open up their land to homeless people or people living in RVs or cars, or a nominal amount of money per month. give them access to water and maybe power. This last month we've seen a significant increase in that cottage industries efforts to book more space on their property and we're getting calls from three calls this week from people living in RVs cars and tents who now feel isolated and trapped at these locations. Cars have broken down they're out of money. They are with it. Not within range of walking to a food bank. So we've set up some transportation and are going to discuss this next week. As we get ready for PCIT it's it's it's a real issue and bad enough they're they're struggling so mightily with just trying to live but feeling trapped on somebody's property creates a level of anxiety that we haven't seen for a while so well you won't give me an update. It's it's just just something new and different. We need to learn to deal with out here.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks, Bob, and appreciate you providing the context for what you're seeing on the peninsula's right now. Tammy Your hand was up

## **Tammy**

yes, my hand was up. Sorry. I can't find the little yellow here and

## **Rob Huff**

you're good.



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## **Tammy**

I'm sorry. Right. I just got word from one of our vets that just came in recently from a homeless camp out on 1/52 Pacific. He said that there are 10 to 12 camps with eight to 10 people out there. And the homeless folks are being targeted. They're having people come into their tents and beat them up and those kinds of things. So I don't know if there's an outreach team that can get out to see them or not. There's also six veterans out there so my team will be headed out there to work with the vets but I didn't know if there was another team that might be able to get out there and help the other homeless

## **Rob Huff**

thanks, Tammy. Any anyone on the call with a quick response for Tammy? And if not, you can also respond in the chat. And Tammy actually, if you could put that in the chat. Briefly that would be helpful just so that we can keep that conversation going. Absolutely. Thank you. Yeah, Tammy, there is one follow up question in the chat from Kenneth about if there's any identification of groups that are taking part in that kind of harassment if you've heard that from the folks you're working with.

## **Tammy**

All I know about that is they're about five people. They're chasing them down to the parking lots, tackling and beating them up taking their stuff and they are not homeless. They appear to be residents that have grouped together to try to get rid of the homeless folks out there and that is 1/52 to 158 and back into Spanaway Lake and behind Sprecker Park. To be more specific

## **Rob Huff**

thank you for that information, Tammy disturbing it as it is. Let's see anyone else with updates to what they're seeing on the streets. Richard, anything you'd like to share? I saw you updated a little bit about the wrapping up of this sweep around Palo Alto. Avenue.

## **Richard Dorsett**

No, just more of the same. Lots of people in new and surprising places tucked away. There's a encampment growing on the railroad tracks off the stuff to come away. Just all over the place Theresa and I have been giving delivering food to the Union loop and Kent Matt will be going out again this afternoon. And have a couple of I think we'll be out a couple days next week as well. Some good interactions occurring. curious thing about food is that people stand around and eat and you get a chance to talk with him and visit and find out what's going on. So we'll continue that effort as best we can.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks, Richard. And thanks. Thanks everyone for what they're doing to try to help folks who are currently living along our streets across the county. So let's shift gears if you have additional information you would like to share please use the chat to do so. And I do see some ongoing



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conversation happening in the chat. So that is great. Let's move to our a brief mention of the need and share page. I don't didn't see if Jay is on the call. But a quick reminder that we are keeping a spreadsheet of items that folks believe that they need to do their outreach to folks on the street, and then things that you might have that could be shared with those who are doing the direct contact with people on the street that's posted on a Google Sheet. When I get a moment I'll paste that link in the chat. But you can use our chat to to just drop the items mentioned the items that either you need or you would like to share. And we'll make sure those get added to the spreadsheet so that outreach workers know where they can find those items. So let's move on to our first community spotlight. And I don't see our first guest, but I do know that Norman is here. So Norman, would you like to talk to us about the city of Fife jobs program?

## **Norman Brickhouse**

I would love to thank you so much. Can I use my PowerPoint?

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, let me give you that ability. Just second here.

## **Tammy**

Why thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

You should be able to do that now.

## **Norman Brickhouse**

I actually can everyone see my PowerPoint or my screen? Now? How about now? No. All right. Well, that's alright. I'll just talk about that way. Okay. It won't be eruptive. I'll pull it up so I can see it but first of all right. My name is Norman Brickhouse. I'm with the city of Fife. I'm here to talk about our jobs program. We started this program in October of 2021, led by Tim Anderson, who was still with the city of five providing valuable knowledge and mentorship to me as I transition into this role, establishing the excellence then I'm going to do my best to keep up. Our program has three parts to success. The first part is our jobs program where we're actually trying to change the culture of individuals as you can imagine they're their behaviors are in survival mode. We want to change that to something that is sustainable, something that can help them progress to achieve their own personal goal. So we want to establish certain routines, we want to make sure they're gaining valuable skills. And within our parks and recreation department. We provide case management to address the barriers we want to have some goal setting. And as we're doing that, sustainability is our main goal. achieve that by providing financial literacy, financial coaching I'm discussing sustainable employment while you're getting a livable wage jobs. And with our program, we have a tiny home village of 10 homes. Our first goal is to stabilize them in our tiny home village. So the whole goal is programs provide housing and basic needs





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to insecure and unemployed individuals in the city of five by offering training programs, in partnership with our parks or recreation department, gaining these valuable skills necessary to be successful. Our program is a 12 month program and again, we have a program but yet we individualize it on. Our whole goal is to help people achieve their goals. So the program is for men and but we do take it on an individualized basis. So our first 90 days, we want to get them into our parks and recreation. We have close supervision they're learning the basic routines to get those positive behaviors necessary want to start attacking those short term goals that are tied to their long term goals. That trainee goes to a level one this is all within the first 90 days and what we're doing as they achieve the level one status is creating those positive habits and breaking down the barriers with our case manager as they're talking with them and learning the basic skills of landscaping and within the Parks and Recreation, the second 90 day period, and we want to make sure that we we address some of the main barriers that we see some of those main barriers that we see is active addiction, mental health. In the city of five, we have a unique issue in that gambling. We have three four casinos in a very close proximity. And we're identifying that as a major barrier as they achieve level two, they start taking a mentorship level to the new individuals coming in and we see that as a huge value. Having another individual say hey, I was where you were 90 days ago. Please understand, you can make it because I made it to as they progressed to level three, they're going to be drug free. They start taking a leadership role within our program and start again mentoring others. That's when they start learning about power tools. Maybe driving our Gator. Start talking about housing. That's when we're going to get to our housing stability plan. And as they move to level four, that's when they take a full time leadership role. Um, they're supervising others. We've had one individual, but we recognize that there's some other pathways that individuals need. So we do offer our office assistant position within our parks or recreation. I'm learning the valuable skills of being a minister to assist in answering phones during clerical work, learning computer skills, all those valuable skills necessary to be successful. The success of our program is our case management. We can get them working within our parks or recreation, but we have to establish that relationship because talk and address those tough issues that we're dealing with. Of course, the barriers that we talked about. We're all seeing it within the community and again 12 month program with certain goals and certain successes in each level. Again, it is customized on an individualized basis. We're proud to say that everyone that comes through our programs achieved several certifications. The Food Handlers card we certainly want to get First Aid CPR. We have a defibrillator training. We have a flagger and a forklift training. Um, as those progressed we also have some advanced certification but people that have identified that yeah, I really liked for parks or recreation I would like to do this as a career so our advanced certifications include pesticides, playground, Specter, and aquatics. As we're achieving all this, we're going to concentrate on certain trainings such as financial planning, which includes our financial coaching our financial education, career readiness, that way we could provide those employment services goal setting, and certainly have an action plan that addresses the goals. We also have some personal training that are on an individualized basis depending on what barriers that particular clients addressing. Some of the areas that we address would be anger management substance abuse, and mental wellness. As we realize our barriers are so tough. We want to develop those good working habits have a sense of financial soundness. So that way when



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they graduate the program, our whole goal is that they never have housing instability. Again, but they have a livable wage job that can feed their families that can make sure that they address their individualized needs. I'm proud to say I worked for the city of Fife. Our program has been successful. We're having a graduation on the 25th of several individuals that have graduated our program, both of them are employed. Oh, we're in the process of getting both houses that we anticipate that will happen by February. It has been a huge success. And I'm here to make sure that I establish the relationships to where I can provide support and I can certainly ask for support from this coalition. I cannot tell you how proud I am to be a member of this coalition. And again, thank you so much. Please, if you have any questions, I would love to talk with someone and particularly people that are in Edgewood, Milton, five, to one all our relationships in the communities how we do a better job at serving our clients, how we all can pull together our resources. So that way, we all can be successful in our programs. Thank you so much. And if you guys have any questions, I would love to talk about my program with

## **Rob Huff**

you. Sure. And I do see Dr. Jarvey has a question.

## **Douglas Jarvie**

Yeah, my my question for Norman is Do you Do you focus only people who you have discovered in five or do you take referrals from and you did mention Edward crawl up in those areas, but like, say for example, if we have someone in Tacoma who fits your plan idea, do you take referrals from out of five or do you focus only on people that you discover in

## **Norman Brickhouse**

five we are working directly with clients and the Parks and Recreation. Unfortunately, I if there are five I will help them. How about that, sir? I don't want to go any farther than that. But yes, the whole goal of the program is to work with the citizens of Fife and I did say citizens regardless if you're unhoused or not, you're a citizen of five, and our goal is to address those barriers.

## **Rob Huff**

Alright, a couple more hands have shut up. We'll start with Bob and then go to Jan.

## **Bob Vollbracht**

Oh, thank you. Good morning, Norman. Hi, Bob. How

## **Norman Brickhouse**

are you doing? Good. To see you.

## **Bob Vollbracht**





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Good to see you. Thank you. Um, Gig Harbor comes to mind and Robin Denson is on our call. She's been on the city council now our new county council representative of is there a document or reference material you can share with us about the outline of the program so we we could look at it and talk to our mayor Tracy Markley and just kind of open a conversation using using something like that.

## **Norman Brickhouse**

Bob, if you will put your email in the chat line. I will certainly provide you that information and that the next meeting I'll have a link so that way I can share it with everyone. I am literally this Friday. I'm two weeks on the job. So I am transitioning still. i And again, Tim has set a high bar of excellence. So I'm learning a lot. He is certainly providing valuable information to help me transition and to do the best job I can so and Tim just answered your question for you. I'll get that information for you, Bob, and I'll have it at the next coalition meeting where I can put it in the chat. Thank you. No problem, sir. All right, and Jan. Norman,

## **Janet Runbeck**

you brought up a point that caught my attention. The best way for folks to get out of homelessness is to identify how they got in I'm I'm sort of convinced of that. And most of those ways were social determinants of health kind of factor. You mentioned the city of five is geographically close to one of the largest gaming centers in the state. Having been a small business owner and having suffered the consequences of employees trusted employees who fell victim to the addiction of gaming. I would be really interested and supportive. If the city of Fife could gather get data concerning how gaming specifically addiction to gaming or however I mean there's there's a lot of ways to get addicted to gaming. how that relates to your homelessness issue. So if your population has a higher rate of folks addicted to gaming, and that's an you know, the the the loss of the tables and so now they're on the streets. I would really appreciate hearing you know if that's I'm not going to add to your burden because I can't I'm not your employer, but I'd be real interested to know if the how that factors into Pierce County homelessness. So thank you.

## **Norman Brickhouse**

That's an excellent question. I wrote that down Janet, and I'll see what we could do to address that because you are 100% right and again, I came from the city of Tacoma. That's where I did all my training. So this particular barrier is somewhat new to Maine and we're addressing it we had a few problems with the City of Tacoma. But again, I'll see what I could do to get you that information. I would hate to say something that is incorrect or provide an incorrect information. So you're asking for data on gaming and how that is attributing to homelessness. Is that correct? All right, Jenna. I wrote that down and I'll see what I could do to get that data because I have written the financial education curriculum and again, it's kind of based off of Goodwill's curriculum and some of the stuff in the area. And so the first part of it is addressing the unique barriers that individuals have and you can imagine barriers are external and internal. Sometimes people who've lost their job the highest correlation to homelessness is our rising rents. I mean, there are external factors that are addressing that, but we also have those



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internal factors that we could deal with. So great question. I'll see what I could do Janet to get an answer for you.

## **Rob Huff**

All right. So thank you so much, Norman, for a thorough overview of your program, and we'll look forward to interacting with you and your program in your new role. So it's great, great to see you. Great to have the overview. And we are going to move on with our agenda if you have other questions for Norman. You may want to drop those in the chat. And, and along we go. So thank you.

## **Norman Brickhouse**

Thank you, Rob. Yeah.

## **Rob Huff**

So real quick, we wanted to double back on a topic that we had ZEV talk with us about last week. And that is the the tenant rights Action Conference that is coming up next month. And there was I wanted to address there was a a question about whether the coalition wanted to endorse a conference. The Steering Committee met on Wednesday and talk about how we really haven't had a habit of endorsing conferences per se, but we certainly are in support of the conference and wanted to give Zeb another opportunity to kind of lay out some of the details about when the conference is and how folks can join. And and then we'll double back on this as we get closer to the time when an actual tenant rights initiative is ready to be considered. So those of you want to give us just kind of an overview.

## **Zev Cook**

Yeah, I'll just keep this quick. We did our public launch of the Action Conference. Just yesterday. I'm going to drop a link in the chat right now. That that's pretty big, but should work. Yeah, it does work. Great. Yeah. So hit that link and go register for the event. We're doing a lot of outreach for this. It's gonna be pretty big and I'm looking forward to seeing you all there and we are also looking forward to get you know, the full campaign off the ground, looking towards mid February and I talked with Rob and we should be back on February 17, to discuss things further. So anyways, just hit that link register for the event and we'll see you there.

## **Rob Huff**

All right, thanks. Thank you very much ZEV. And is I think you mentioned last week, there might be an opportunity for folks who had an interest to help work on the final wording of the initiative. Is there still an opportunity for that and

## **Zev Cook**

they do that if people are interested in that? You know, we won't really have things finalized toward till mid February so people should reach out to me directly. I'm going to drop my email in the chat.



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## **Rob Huff**

Perfect. All right. Thank you ZEV. And let's move on to the next item. On our agenda. And that let me put this a little bit into context. So I saw Garrett back here. Yeah, he's here. In light of the City of Tacoma, announcing at the end of December that they want to convene a work with a consultant to convene a series or I don't know, they haven't decided exactly what these community conversations about homelessness will be. We thought it was important that we kind of go over a quick review with the folks in this room have the kinds of materials that we're going to pass along to the city of Tacoma, just to make sure that they recall the Safe Shelter summits that took place in in late 2020 and January, I believe in 2021. Those two summits were convened because of the energies of Maureen Howard and the in reaction to a person who was currently homeless who was killed in at the Evergreen site in late 2020. So I asked Garrett to come and give us kind of an overview and look back and ironically enough, I was scrolling through YouTube yesterday and saw the Safe Shelter summit, the first iteration of it, pop up on my screen and I couldn't help but scroll through and watch the concluding remarks by Maureen so. Yeah, that's great to have Maureen present even though she's no longer with us. Go ahead, Garrett. Well, thanks, Rob.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

When I was thinking about how to kind of remind us of what happened at that summit, I thought, well, let me look through my materials and I found I did a seven minute sort of highlights video which actually closes out with marine Howard. Which I have to say I find a little jarring but um, but good to hear Marine. So I'm gonna play that for you. And this is really some commitments that mostly policymakers made at the summit. And then I'll talk a little bit about some of the, again the other commitments organizations made during the summit, but I think that these are sort of checks politicians have written and and that we're sort of yet to cash, I guess. In other words, some folks are identifying ways that they want to be more effective and more active in increasing housing and programs for people that are homeless, and that as a community and not just a coalition, but as a whole community. We need to figure out how we're going to engage them to do the work they're saying in this clip that they would like to do. So. Let me give this a try. Failure is always a big part of sharing video. See if I can pull this off.

## **Mayor Victoria Woodards**

Today is all about commitments and the power of what a community as a whole might be able to accomplish working in collaboration together. What I also want to commit to you is that we continue to be open we are looking for opportunities and ways to provide shelter. And so again, if you are knowledgeable of anyone who's interesting in in helping us address this issue by helping provide their buildings whether it's a church or nonprofit, please let our staff know we are continuing to find ways and explore ways to maximize our use of federal funds. We are using FEMA funds at this time. But when I look through all of these screens, and I see everyone who's gathered here today from the nonprofit community to the business community, for those experiencing homelessness to government, to



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advocates, to everyone who's on this call, I know that because we're all here today and we all have this focus. I'm encouraged that we will be able to solve this issue.

## **Tom Pierson**

This from this column, Pierce County Chamber. I'm the president CEO This is a high priority for us. And in when you think about the work that we do, we this year have changed our vision of the chamber the chamber is making vision is to make the South Sound the most equitable and inclusive place to do business in Washington State. And so we have three imperative groups that we work on. And one of those imperative groups is this is homelessness than our spot is really with workforce. It's on housing, it's on VBA behavior, health advocacy. And so we're down in Olympia working side by side with you and cool in terms of whether it's housing tax credits, where there's other items that need to be addressed. So when you have the business community saying next to nonprofits and other folks around our community, that's where we find we can find a path that's going to move us forward. So I just want to say thank you. We're committed fully committed, help us navigate us lead us to where we need to go, but we're definitely highly engaged and want to be involved and want to be part of the answer.

## **Representative Adam Smith**

Hello, I'm Adam Smith and the congressman who represents the ninth district but it really is important that we take a comprehensive approach certainly funding existing housing programs is one piece of it. But there are several other pieces that I feel it's really important that we pay attention to one of the biggest is what creates homelessness and housing insecurity in the first place. There are a number of things but one of them is the unequal pay in this country. The concentration of wealth. Over the course of the last 50 years we've created a situation where shareholders and executives are disproportionately rewarded for their work, and average workers are not the people who drive trucks cab drivers people who work at the airport like my father did janitors incredibly important work that has seen their buying power go down and down and down over the course of the last 50 years. So we really need to put pressure on our laws and on our corporations to to better compensate workers. Hey folks, Derek

## **Representative Derek Kilmer**

Kilmer here. We need more housing. We need more workforce housing, senior housing, more homeless housing, more affordable housing. as you suggest, we need more non congregate sheltering options. We need 10 to 12 million more housing units nationwide. And when we talk about building more housing, there's a number of things that we can do, but I want to pledge my support for the National Housing Trust Fund. We also need to ensure housing affordability and embrace housing as a human right.

## **Representative Kim Schrier**

Hi, I'm Kim Schrier, a representative from Washington's eighth congressional district. Okay, I'm a big believer that housing comes first that once you put a roof over a person's a family's head now you have



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safety you have security. You have a place to be of better nutrition, the ability to hold down a job for students for kids to do better and get better nutrition. And it really all starts there. But I'm also a real believer in giving people the chance to figure it out themselves. There's a lot of evidence that just giving money to people who are in need is the most effective way to address poverty and homelessness.

## **Representative Marilyn Strickland**

This is US Representative Marilyn Strickland of the 10th Congressional District of Washington. State, alleviating human suffering must be at the top of the list. We also need to make sure that homelessness is a temporary circumstance, not a permanent situation. And this means all of us will have to do our part to address it. Whether that's job opportunities, building more housing, being more creative in how we define what it means to be securely housed, tiny homes, dormitory style housing, and making sure that we have permanent supportive housing.

## **Katie Condit**

I'm here to conduct SEO workforce central our core aim is ultimately to connect job seekers across Pierce County to living wage employment. And we're especially focused on serving community members facing systemic barriers to employment and that includes job seekers experiencing homelessness.

## **County Executive Bruce Dammeier**

Have you may have heard about our \$4 million effort to roll out part of our max mass vaccination program. Part of that includes mobile sites that can go meet people where they are and administer the vaccine. It's something that's missing it had been missing in the current rollout. So we're going to augment that by doing that and that's, that also highlights one of the challenges and one of the things that we're trying to get resolved is, is we need to when we go to an encampment, we need to vaccinate everybody in that encampment. We don't want to go there and say if you're over 65, raise your hand, we'll vaccinate you and we'll come back two weeks later to vaccinate those that are over 55 And that doesn't make sense. So we just need to get there effectively and efficiently. is we all have to grab in order to get this thing done. This is not any one group or any one government or any one organization doing it. It's all got. It's got to be all of us.

## **Maureen Howard**

That the only thing predictable about us is that we will do this work as well as we can until we don't have to do it anymore. We're not stopping our safe shelter summit work. We don't know exactly how we're taking it forward only that we are and that there is more than enough room for each of you to join us. We're using a messy sort of grassroots model where anyone with the time, energy and passion to take on one of the requests or commitments can serve as the leader of a group of like minded and diverse people willing to work together. Think of a giant web across this county. Some notes, some requests some commitments, clearer and easier and even stronger than others. Some more fragile,



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some just waiting for the right person the right moment. Maybe you are that person and maybe this is that moment. Maybe that giant web is in fact our beloved community.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you for pulling that together, Garrett.

## **Gerrit Nyland**

So the other thing I was going to toss in is that we had a bunch of organizations make some commitments before the summit happened. And I'm just going to show this is a document that seems to me I'm doing wrong anyway. document associated ministries, Catholic Community Services, the city of Tacoma, comprehensive life resources, coffee oasis. These are all groups that said we were committing ourselves to doing more right or specific tasks to come in needle exchange helping handhelds. Lots of these are just the folks that got back to us in time, right. Lehigh Medical Reserve Corps metropolitan Development Council NDC new connections, the rise center to come up pro bono, St. Leo's social justice, Virginia Mason, right, or whatever it's called now, and come up Public Library workforce central right. And the commitments from those politicians were notable right. And even the leadership of the chamber has changed but not their commitment to work on homelessness. The executive director is on the advisory board for the comprehensive plan when homelessness right these these folks haven't stepped back. I don't think any of that was lip service. I think all of that is things that people care about doing more and we write our community, our people that work in the homeless industry that work for government that are volunteers. Our job is to help everybody do what they want to do. Right. Sometimes the path doesn't get taken because it's not clear how to do it. And so I think that's what I came out of the summit front with was that these discussions were good. And that made us understand better that everybody wants to work on this. And that and that we can find things to do. And money is a limiting factor and muscle memory. We just don't know how to do things and so we're uncomfortable with new things. And so helping us to walk this path, right, helping each other to walk this path is something that we can all kind of, I think work on. So that's my positive spin on it all.

And put in the chat, maybe some links to things or have you sent something out to the listserv, sorry. Rob. I know some things went out.

## **Rob Huff**

No, the only thing I sent to I sent to the steering committee, a number of links. It would be great though, if you could put the links in the chat. Folks who want to take a look back. I did put a link to the full video from the first safe shelter summit in the chat. And it is it is interesting to kind of watch that and if you're around at that time to think back to it. Our hope though, is to pass this along to the folks at the City of Tacoma and so that it can so that whatever community conversations happen, build on what has been done in the past and doesn't just retread that ground. That's, that's one of our challenges, I think





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because there seems to be cycles that we go through. So we want to break those cycles and actually start seeing action.

And I will do a closing statement, which is I will say that one of the products of this summit, I believe is the comprehensive plan to end homelessness. We came out of this not feeling like anyone was taking leadership that was still the coalition and the coalition. You know if no one else was going to coordinate homelessness across the county, the coalition is going to have to do it. And we were talking about, you know, how do we become an organization capable of that instead of a grassroots effort? And that's when Derek Young said you know what, this is not an appropriate task for the coalition nearly as much as it's an appropriate task for the county council. And that's when they put together a group that eventually created the comprehensive plan to end homelessness, and this sort of overall effort to begin implementing and and bringing the resources and we need so it did have a pretty real product at the end, although I don't think that was what any of us were sort of ageing for, as we were putting the summit together. are really just doing what marine told us to do to put that summit together? Yes,

## **Rob Huff**

yeah, for sure. Okay, thanks. Thank you, Garrett. And I do know that we want to move on with our agenda. But if you can drop those items in the chat that would be fantastic for folks to take a look back at and after this. We'll get this information over to the folks at the city so next thing on our agenda is a review of last week's breakout discussion and Timothy I can share on screen if you would like to give us the rundown? Yep.

## **Tim Harris**

Ready to go with that. So yeah, there was a really rich conversation last week about priorities for 2023 and it really dovetails very well with the presentation Garrett just did. As always, I broke out people's feedback into categories. To try to make it easier to absorb. One thing that came across clearly as people's thinking that we needed to assess what we've got going on already and adjust that work going forward for 2023 groups talked about basically accountability and the system. You know, the efforts to fund a fully develop a fully funded Crisis Response System and to look at what's working and what's not and that sort of thing and to hold Pierce County accountable for everything that they said that they were going to do and create some, some some documents that we can refer to, which seems like that's happened. And then look back on pilot programs to see what worked and so forth. Something people talked about also was doing better publicizing our successes. And then the last point that came up in that category was continuity on other campaigns that we've got going on including the 10th of a cent tax and obviously the county comprehensive plan. Then people talked about the importance of having conversations with decision makers and deepening understanding and there were a couple of themes in there about how to make stuff sticky. And you know, talking about specifics, rather than polarizing generalities and the power of using story and then a lot of stuff about the importance of being



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humanizing. And the way we talk about things again, the importance of the use of story, how the kind of negative stigmatizing voices in the community are often loud, but also there's this ongoing, very widespread compassionate response and a lot of compassion out there and in the community that offers more than a counterbalance to that if we can harness that. There was a section on the next page about internal coalition work that we might consider doing. You know, the obvious what's the word I'm looking for the Well anyway, that the words escaping me but the thing that comes up with all of this is, you know, we're a volunteer organization with no staffing, and there's lots and lots of things that we could do, but we need to be realistic about capacity. So there was talk about fundraising and donations slash fundraising subcommittee. There was something about power mapping the coalition you know, we come back to this all the time, but we probably can't do it enough is reminding people where all the essential coalition information is improving the visibility people talked about our power being and sponsoring convenience. between groups to kind of lean back into that. I don't know what the WF D committee is. Maybe Rob can put something in chat. They're not coalition's some it's more social time. Hot Topic Action section, maybe in our meeting and diversity within the coalition. Then, you know, there's an exception that's so painfully obvious that I don't even need to comment on it is that you know, universally everybody hates the camping ban. Moving on, long list of additional actions that we might consider kind of the big bucket of ideas. You know, I'm just going to highlight some of the less obvious ones, connecting rental owners and property owners to people living homeless, that's a route to prevention. At least and and you know, creating some more opportunities. There is something really specific about crisis intervention money that needs to be looked into supporting workforce development efforts. Laundry and hygiene, medical respite and mitigation site is Pierce County. Lot of support and excitement about the tenants rights initiative. some concern about things going along with church parking that we should be paying attention to the gap between low paying jobs and high housing costs the gray wave and then there was a lot of enthusiasm around an event to help change the narrative on homelessness. Todd brought that up in the call and there were a number of people who talked about their interest in that and that seemed like a great idea. And I actually will add my voice to that. That's something I'd be happy to work on because it kind of dovetails really well with my other priorities. So we should talk about that. And that's the report.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you for pulling that together, Timothy. That's there's a lot of good in there. And I love that last idea of some sort of event to work on changing the narrative. I think that'd be really helpful. And we we will use this brainstorm to help move the coalition forwards throughout this year. So that's time well spent. So let's get into today's breakout conversation. You'll recall last week that Edie employee implored folks to if you had the opportunity to go out and have a conversation with someone who is currently homeless and if they're willing to share to kind of share some of the anecdotes of what you heard from people and their stories that they're willing to tell us. What we're going to do is break up into breakout rooms and hopefully folks did have an opportunity to do some of that. If you didn't do it this during this week. Maybe you have some some stories that you can share from your the the time before this week when you've been doing interact, interacting with folks who are homeless. I'm going to put us



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in small breakout rooms like we do every week, and we will be in those breakout rooms until about 10 After 10 Please have someone taking notes in your room. And the key to all the magic is making sure folks come back here and paste those stories into the chat when you return. I'm going to send us off to breakout rooms now and we'll be back at 1010.

## <Breakout Rooms>

### **Rob Huff**

So welcome back, everyone. Hopefully that was a good opportunity to network and share stories. Please do if you have the opportunity, paste those stories and anecdotes into the chat so that we can have Timothy pulled them together for another great summary next week. And we will move on to our regular government updates. So first up, City of Tacoma. I saw Caleb on the call earlier Caleb did you have any updates to share with us?

### **Caleb Carbone**

I do not have any updates other than what I shared last week about the community meeting on Wednesday. I will put the fire here in the chat for the safe parking site at Holy Rosary as always would love coalition to come and see what's happening within the community. I know it's always sometimes it's been borrowed by committee members that are usually against it and don't always be able to understand context this will be a little bit different because it will be in person and we will do breakout sessions or groups with individuals so that they can talk about some of their concerns and have any questions and often in those smaller spaces. questions can be answered and have more conversation around those as opposed to our previous meetings where it's often one individual or a couple of people answering questions. So I would love if people were able to come and I will post that flyer in the

### **Rob Huff**

chat. Thank you. That'd be great. All right. Jeff Rogers, I saw you on the call earlier from Pierce County Human Services.

### **Jeff Rodgers**

Yes, good morning. I don't know what that was my camera here. Good morning. As all of you are aware, we're planning for the homeless Point in Time Count it will occur the evening part of Thursday the 26th the evening of the 26th and into the morning hours of the 27th. We're still looking for volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer, I'll put the link in the chat for the registration. Things are going well. One of the things we ask of you, is that you I'll put my email in there as well. If you have a known location of where folks are staying outside, you can email those to me. Many folks are sending me those locations. We're compiling that information so that we can give assignments to the teams that we're going out this year. So I encourage you between now and the PIT count if you see something to share that information so that we have that all over Pierce County, not just in the city of Tacoma, but in



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eastern Pierce County. On the Gig Harbor. Cuteness aside throughout the entire county, we're looking for locations that people need to visit. I've had people tell me, well, they may not be there, though. They might move. Well, that's fine. We'll still go there and make sure that there isn't anyone there because sometimes they do move but sometimes they move for a week and they end up back right where they were. So any locations that you see or know of or hear about. Please please pass it on to us. Onto another topic. We're in the process of finalizing a funding opportunity. Our homeless housing program funding opportunity will be released in early February. Those that's the largest funding opportunity we have. It's our state homeless money. It's a chunk of federal homeless money. And then of course, it's our local document. Excuse me. Sorry, I'm losing my voice. I've done like eight pit trainings this week. And spoken way more than I usually do in a week. But I'm that funding opportunities coming out the opportunity funds, street outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing components of the system. So if you currently have our money, remember that if you don't and you're interested, we're always interested in accepting applications from new projects. Can't guarantee projects will be funded. Staff don't make those decisions. But we'll let the coalition know when that funding opportunity is available. And we'll post the materials to the coalition's website. That's all that I have for today.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks, Jeff. Are you going to offer just a brief context of the importance of the Point in Time Count and why we do it?

## **Jeff Rodgers**

Yeah, yes, I'm sorry. I planned on that. We do it because HUD uses this data, along with other data that they compile from other data resources to identify the need across the country and to allocate funding. This is a local communities opportunity to share with the federal government, the need locally based on eyes on the ground, because as we know, HUD in Washington DC has no clue what's going on in Pierce County. And to be honest, HUD in Seattle, which is a regional office may have a little bit of a clue what's happening in Pierce County based on their closeness to us but not a full understanding based on the work that you do. So it does impact funding, not 100% Do they use this data, but they use this data along with our Homeless Management Information System data. As you know, the pit Council a snapshot, it's a one night event where our Homeless Management Information System we collect data on folks who are in all of our programs, folks who come to coordinated entry to share that they're in need. And that's over 10,000 people approximately 10,000 over 10,000 people a year. That's put into that system. So it's a piece of data that you use. It's required, both by the feds and the state defense required every two years, but the state requires it every year. So because we're in Washington, we do it every year. That's the biggest reason we also do it and we invite community citizens and to come and volunteer so that we're bringing awareness to the to the homeless crisis, you're in Pierce County, and to help people understand and during our trainings we share with them hopefully, you know, they'll have a opportunity to experience being out on the streets and serving folks and can take that experience and share it with family friends. And help the community you know, experience being on the



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streets and talking with folks who are homeless, because many people have stereotypes of folks who are homeless, and those stereotypes as we all know, are not accurate. So those are two big key reasons. I've only got a tight agenda. So I'll kind of start with those two is really for community awareness and for our funder requirements. Jeffrey, I see your hand.

## **Jeffrey Boyce**

Good morning, Jeff. Having been involved in the point in time count for several years. I highly encourage everyone to be a part of it is a way to get the stories and it's a way to help Pierce County and City of Tacoma. Understand what's going on up out there. in their communities. Without this data, they're shooting from their hip with no information the demographics year after year after year. Show that our African American citizens make up what 14% of the population in Pierce County, but they make up over 50%. In demographics, to the homeless. And that to me is one of the saddest points that we need to look at. So I'm encouraging everyone to join Jeff in getting this count as accurate as we can. Thank you.

## **Jeff Rodgers**

Dr. Jarvey I see your hand

Hi, Jeff. Aye. Aye. Aye. I believe in what you do and the P i t. So I think that's really important. But, but I know that this a lot of people have questions about accuracy. Some people say Oh, well, with the sweeps, there's going to be an undercount. There's going to be an over count how do you how do you how do you justify how do you justify the accuracy to the to get the proper funding the proper, you know, support the proper data. So so how do you how do you figure out how do you justify the accuracy of your number?

## **Jeff Rodgers**

We don't. I can tell you that every year it's usually an undercount. I think everybody that works in this business understands it's an undercount. Folks have the option to share information with us. They have the option not to share information with us. So it's account really of folks who want to share and let us know that they're homeless, they're experiencing homelessness and answer some questions regarding their homeless situation. We all clearly know it's an undercount. That's why this is not the sole resource that is used by the funders at a state level or a federal level to determine funding. They use other data from the US Census Bureau and other sources of data that they have. That they collect over, you know, throughout a year period. So everyone's aware, it's always an undercount. We have never, in my opinion, or anyone public works with Is there anyone that works in the community with homeless I would say we've ever done an over count. Because there are people we don't find. There are people who we do find and when we ask them if they're homeless, they say leave me alone. You know, they don't want to talk to us and we don't count them. Because we don't assume anyone's home was, you



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know, we asked that question first. So, it's complicated. It's required. It's one piece of data that use with other data to make informed decisions on how to use the resources that we receive, as well as for the funders to help them inform themselves about who to fund and how much to fund for, if that makes sense.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Jeff. And I appreciate the context. It's always good to put the effort into context

## **Jeff Rodgers**

every every year. We hear from many, many people. It was an undercount. It was an undercount. It was an undercount. It's it's a process we go through and we do the best we can. Every year we try to do things differently in different strategies. So we asked you and I'll leave it with this, please, please, please, if you don't have a location at your earliest convenience, I've put my email in the chat. Please email me those locations so that when we send people out, and we give them a catchment area, we help them I notify up front, what's the nerd catchment area like a parking lot that may be frequented by people sleeping in parking lots at night or an encampment or tents on a corner somewhere or a bus stop that may be frequently have people at it. So give me any information you have. This count will only be as successful count if all of us contribute and provide information that we know so that we can visit those locations. Now, I'll just share an example on the Gig Harbor Key Peninsula, the 20th I believe it is. There were four outreach workers from greater lakes mental health and for outreach workers from Tacoma rescue mission. Who were doing a type of drive by with the sheriff's department out there have known locations that the Sheriff Department knows of so there's efforts going on in different parts of the county with different resources and different people to prepare for it. So that's like one example where the outreach teams are working with local police to identify locations and they may not be there when they go back on the 26th or 27th. But at least we have identified them and are trying to find folks. That's just one example.

## **Rob Huff**

Thanks, Jeff. And quickly updates from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Hey, everybody, this is Jenny. I'm good morning. I don't have a whole lot. That's different from last week. In terms of what's going on in the world of communicable disease in our community, it's kind of status quo. The CDC has made some changes to their recommendations. And doh is working on those and I'm working closely with with our individual shelter partners to help offer them guidance on how to interpret things around quarantine, isolation, those kinds of things. That probably isn't relevant to this whole group. But I also we have a GOV Delivery. Notice I guess it's called GOV Delivery Email. That should be coming out today. And if you all are on our contacts list, you'll get that that communication, which will give you some more information about flu, COVID, etc. I want to take a few minutes today





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just to share one resource that I think we've talked about before, but maybe just remind folks, and then mention some upcoming events. So we have a family support Partnership Program and family resource centers. We have nine family resource centers across the county, and folks can go to those resource centers to get assistance with like enrolling in basic food program, parenting classes, other resource navigation, there's a diaper bank, I will share the link to those resource centers. We are doing more and more all the time. Rachel Houser is working really hard on that program to have it offer even more resources to our folks who are unstably housed or unhoused. You may have seen things come through various emails, but there are some events coming up. So at Urban Grace Church on the 18th from 11 to three, that's at 902 Market Street, there's going to be a health fair, TPC HD will be there along with other partners coming needle exchange, and lots and lots of others. There'll be free health and social services and resources there, including STD testing, and parks, vaccinations, naloxone distribution, etc. Project Homeless Connect is coming up December 27. St. Louis parish and then I also found out yesterday about a free community dental clinic going on on the 27th and 28th. That life bridge church which is in University Place, and there'll be offering free cleanings, fillings and extractions to folks. They do recommend pre registration but not necessary but they will only have services until she's holding on to 2022

## **Valeri Almony**

You said December people are asking you met January. I'm so sorry. You're just holding on to 2022 Hardcore. It's fine.

## **Jennie Schoeppe**

Yeah, well, yeah, no, I should be. I'm ready. I'm ready for 2023 Sorry, folks. I again, I'll share information in the chat and hopefully that will be that will be more accurate than what's coming out of my mouth at the moment. Apologies. But yeah, and then finally there's, there's a movie folks might be interested in a screening at the Grand Cinema of a film called Love and the time of fentanyl. It is on the 22nd of January 2023 and I will share the information for that as well. And so Richard is sharing that Liz and I both got COVID boosters this week. Yay. Yes, please get boosters. Evidence is you know, the data are coming out that just continuing to support the efficacy of our vaccine. So keep getting boosted and encouraging others to do so. And sorry, I've talked more than I said more than I thought I was going to kind of my normal routine. So I will stop now and share some things in the chat. Thanks all.

## **Rob Huff**

Great. And Isaiah, did you have stuff you needed to share this week as well?

## **Isaiah**

I don't Jedi stole my thunder. She took all of the events that I made with myself so you're not gonna hear me talk as much but that's okay. Her voice is very beautiful. No, I have no updates. The only thing that I'm slowly doing for folks that might be interested is just gathering some more information about



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how we can plan for our key events happening. So obviously warm weather events and wildfire, smoke and whatnot. I know we're all still in winter. And so everyone's just trying to figure out how to best navigate that. But I am in the process of trying to figure out then that includes trying to figure out a response at TPC HD for warm weather events that includes reaching out to folks who were in this room who were doing the work and doing the direct service and asking them what they want to see and what they think is important. So I am slowly doing that. So that is going to be a long process. But just to put the back of your mind if I'm ever reaching out to folks to ask you for your thoughts. So I reached out to some folks here in there to get their feelings like Sally Perkins and they were really so that's something that we're slowly very slowly working out. And so I don't expect anything quite yet out of me but just something to keep in the back of your minds. But other than that, that's all I have.

## **Rob Huff**

Great and just to make one connection, Isaiah if you can, if you'd have the time to attend a safe sites for all meeting that would be a great place to talk about the planning for the heat and smoke. Yes, absolutely. You're on Mondays. Right? Yeah, Mondays at noon. Yeah. The link is on our website, PC homeless.org. Great. Thank you. All right. And Valerie, you had something you wanted to share with us.

## **Valeri Almony**

Sure. Thank you. So the eviction prevention portal is open. So folks who are currently past due on their rent up to three months can apply on our website. I'll put the link in. It does come with some pretty intensive case management to help folks get stable so are to nonprofit to nonprofits doing that work or sharing care house and multicultural Child and Family Hope Center there is an option to apply in person online. We're working out our partnership with the amazing United Way two on one at the moment. And we're still processing rental assistance applications from 2021 2022. We have about \$160 million spent in that program in the last two years. So if anybody has any questions, I'll put my email in the chat.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Valerie. All right. So we're a little bit behind on our agenda. Let's hop over to advocacy updates. And we've invited Cynthia Stewart from the league of women voters to join us today for an update. Take it away CYNTHIA

## **Cynthia Stewart**

Thank you. I'm going to share my screen here. I'm going to try to make this very fast. So just as

Why is this not working? Derek Can you see it? We can so just to be clear about why I'm giving this presentation is I am on the state league of women voters lobby team and I work on housing and



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homelessness and revenue transportation and growth management. And in the revenue category. There is an issue that overlaps with housing and homelessness and some of the briefings that you may get from the Low Income Housing Alliance. I've heard Robin poll and others may cover this but I just wanted to make sure in case they don't make you aware. I put this on a rainbow format because I think it might be pie in the sky but I hope not. So this is about the Evergreen Basic Income pilot project. Basically, income means that there's unrestricted cash benefits to those who participate. And a universal program means everybody gets it, regardless of other eligibility requirements and the guaranteed basic income program just means that certain people who are eligible will receive the benefit. So this proposal came about because of a study that DSHS did. That was completed in June of 2022. And basically what the findings included were that the bottom 90% of the income distribution is creating terrible financial difficulty for households and we've all known that we know that those are the people who are becoming homeless because they can't afford places to live. We also know that the inequality in racial and geographic circumstances is growing and has been historic and systemic and particularly the racial part. And that was documented in this study as well. Those factors made it possible for the state to take a look at this issue. The legislature asked for this study and they have it now. And part of what the study documents is that over 100 pilot or nearly 100 pilot projects have been introduced in the United States. So the findings of this study are that a program like basic income should be feasible at the state level. It does reduce poverty. It creates a dignity and self determination that is a different kind of an effect than other kinds of benefit programs create, which is really desirable for the people that we work with. It allows the recipients to take ownership of their own life, which is where the dignity comes in. There's nobody telling them how they have to use the money and so forth. And this extra cash benefit can provide resilience in the case of emergency and so some of the case studies that came out of the breakout groups have to do with compounded emergency circumstances that people are dealing with that lead to homelessness. So there's kind of a cash benefit could really stop a lot of that. And that another there's a fable myths about how people get a cash benefit. They're just going to be lazy and not work but the evidence is that people who have received this and other pilot programs have actually gone to work maybe working one full time job at a higher rate of pay than three part time jobs. They've used it for education and training to get better jobs and so forth. And so the mythology that some of the conservative people use about this has really been debunked. The vision for this program in Washington is honoring the dignity of people, ending poverty, creating racial equality and economic justice, providing flexibility and the resources, valuing caregiving and the role of caregivers, which is an important way to assure that people have dignity and that there's no neglect and then easing the burden of trying to access resources. So with that vision in mind, this pilot program is being proposed in in legislation this year. The DSH s speakers who are the one I've heard the most is the one who authored the study the primary author. I've heard her a couple of times and she has said very plainly that there's not necessarily a reason to do a pilot program there. Rather, it would be appropriate to just proceed with implementing a real program, but that a lot of people are skeptical and want to see as a pilot program at the state level. So that's the reason why this is a pilot. In this proposal. The idea would be that up to 7500 participants, income levels up to 200% of the federal poverty level. We'd get payments equal to 100% of fair market value grant for two bedroom dwelling



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unit and whatever county they live in. So obviously the rate will be different in Okanogan than it is in Canada, and so forth. So that that's what the proposal is. The other criteria are that the individual receiving this cash benefit would have to be one of these conditions involving children homelessness, immigration, exiting firms and state system and so forth. So there are some criteria that I have combined with the income level to to make persons eligible for this. Part of the program is funding of outreach services to make sure that people know about it and can enroll if you're eligible, and particularly ones that support participation by people of color. So the if the proposal is funded and first of all pass and then funded, there would be outreach designated toward people who need this the most. And also they would get we used to be into the get ongoing benefits. Counseling, which is helpful. And furthermore, the biggest part of all is that if they're already enrolled in some other kind of a benefits program, they will not lose that. If they did get cut off, they will be reimbursed for it. So the idea is to make supplemental payments to make people more or and not to take away and to test what happened when people have an adequate income. So there was a public hearing already this week and my reason for bringing it here today is that I want you to be aware so that we can provide maybe in the chat and future weeks rather than a presentation but provide updates and opportunities for you to let your legislators know that you support it. So I will put this information in the chat about how to contact your legislators. I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to let them know as we go through the process. I'll be adding more information in the chat. I will also provide this on a PowerPoint so that rod can have it somewhere in your database and you can look up this study. I'm not going to put that poll in the chat right now. I want to point out that this particular bill is a programmatic or policy bill. What would have to happen is the policy bill would have to pass first and then the appropriation would be happened would have to be added to the budget. So there's really a two step process. But it starts with bear so because this would be so tremendously helpful to the people we serve and we care about. I really felt it was important for you to know about it in addition to some of the other housing legislation. So thank you,

## **Cynthia Stewart**

I appreciate it.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Cynthia, and it is our hope to share advocacy opportunities like this as session continues. session just started on Monday and it has hit the ground running. Folks from the Housing Alliance and other organizations have been doing testimony on the various budgets that have been proposed on the governor's referendum proposed referendum for housing bond that could go to the voters in November if it's approved by the legislature. There's a lot happening in Olympia right now. So we'll try to boil that down and make it actionable every week during our advocacy updates. So thank you, Cynthia. Thank you. Other advocacy updates I did want to share the City of Tacoma actually is not holding its regular meetings on Tuesday. So there is no study session or regular council meeting this week. And I'll lean on Sally if she has some ideas that she wants to share in the chat for additional advocacy. Opportunities. I will say that I will drop. I will make sure that I send advocacy opportunities as well as



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they come along to the coalition mailing list, but I did drop into the chat a couple of opportunities that folks could take advantage of one is that the Housing Alliance will be hosting weekly housing advocate calls at 2pm on Fridays during session, and I posted the link to that to sign up for those calls. In the chat. Those meetings start today at two. It will be held every Friday. The meeting itself was an hour. And then I also posted the link to this year's version of it'll be virtual again but of the housing and homelessness Advocacy Days that take place in Olympia. That'll be on February 6 through the eighth. If you have the ability to participate, it's a good opportunity to learn about the issues on the legislative agenda. And also take the opportunity during that time to have short meetings, virtual meetings. With your representatives to focus on issues related to housing affordability and homelessness in the state legislature. So anything Sally that you think we should add?

## **Sally Perkins**

Um, yeah, my keyboard sticks. I can't put it in the chat. I'm on January 24 Tacoma City Council at their new study session, we'll be talking about what to do about drug crimes related to the Blake decision. There is a big push to either make drug possession a gross misdemeanor or a felony again because it's compassionate way to force people into treatment. Just Just give that some thought. So anyway, it's it will impact that whole conversation will impact unhoused people who are suspected of or may actually be utilizing some street drugs. If it's a mouse, the prosecutor Robinette is is advocating for tougher penalties. City of Tacoma has not yet signed on. The study session is to discuss whether the city ought to sign on so if you have thoughts about that. You might want to talk to your council member.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Sally, and appreciate you being able to have to the advocacy opportunities. All right. So briefly, I wanted to offer an update on the Pierce County comprehensive plan to end homelessness last week. Wow. It doesn't seem like it was just a week ago but last week, the the advisory board for the comp plan met for a couple of hours. And one of the topics on the agenda was to try to determine what recommendation that that advisory board will make to the to the Pierce County Council regarding the consultants recommendations on where a unified regional approach either office or function needs to be located within our region slashed County. That conversation there simply was not enough time for it. So there's going to be a special meeting this next week. Currently it's tentatively scheduled for Tuesday afternoon where the advisory board will meet for a couple of additional hours just to consider what recommendation needs to be made to the Pierce County Council. There was some preliminary conversation and suggestions of what recommendation should be I don't think that that has solidified any more in email conversations that have happened this week. So if you do have the ability to attend that meeting next to Tuesday, which right now is scheduled to happen from Tuesday. from two to four. Then that would be a good opportunity not only for you to hear the public conversation about where the Advisory Board wants to land, but also to make public comment and yourself. Thank you Sally for submitting written comments. Those have been shared with the advisory board members so so there is an opportunity to get your voice heard. And so that's where we are with that update for now. Anything, Courtney you're also on the advisory board. Is there anything you wanted to add on that as well?



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## **Courtney Love**

Thank you for asking. I don't think there's anything for me to add at this point in the space but to reiterate that your public comment is very valuable because I think that where I'm standing now I feel like I might be in a minority position. But I'm fighting for the good thing. And so, you know, and that that position will be finessed further over the weekend and early week. And so I don't have something to suggest but please attend and rally behind the suggestions do you most support. Thank you.

## **Rob Huff**

Yeah, and I'll, I'll second that I I'm right there with Courtney. I I'm not so sure that where I'm hearing folks coalesce around a decision around a recommendation is where, where I personally feel that we should be but it's just important if you get an opportunity to take a look at the document that's been suggested by the consultant and, and then weigh in and written comments ahead of that meeting on Tuesday would be really helpful. So I will post a link to the comp plan web page here shortly. All right, let's move on to a brief update. From the safe sites for all committee. Jen.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Yes, Monday we had a very robust conversation on the newest site that is being planned right now actually we have to Jeffrey is fight fighting the soldiers fight as far as why is permitting even an issue for somebody that owns their own parking lot when it's guaranteed by the state that is you can have a safe parking. So that battle goes on but also the good news is that CCS Catholic Community Services under the guidance of Alan Brown is been contracted to have a larger much it would be the largest site that we would have in the county at Holy Rosary. So there's a lot of discussion between those of us who have a lot of experience namely Paula Anderson with newhope Who has the contract from the county and this new site so and like Rob said earlier, the planning for inclement weather events happens at the safe Site Committee, which is open to everybody along with everything else under the universe that it can happen is there so come and join the conversation. Monday at noon.

## **Rob Huff**

Everything under the universe's a lot.

## **Janet Runbeck**

Wait a minute Monday at noon. I might be busy. It's Martin Luther King Day I think folks still want to gather I know that I'm doing a day of service. Now funny how Monday sneak up on you and holidays and all that. So I may not be there and Holy Rosary is the Catholic Church to come Avenue and about 40s It is the Notre Dame of Tacoma. Holy Rosary is the Notre Dame of Tacoma. Everybody knows our landscape. It's an amazing building.

## **Rob Huff**





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All right. Thank you, Jan, and we'll still open the room for the safe sites for all meeting on Monday. So I'll definitely be able to to be there and take the time for that noon meeting. And I hope others can join. And I see Theresa is gonna be there too. All right, any other coalition committee updates that we need to talk about this morning? All right, not seeing anybody raising your hand. So let's move on to one of my favorite parts of every week's meeting and that is anybody have good trouble announcements they want to share with the 53 folks who are in the room Yeah, Teresa,

## **Theresa Power-Drutis**

my video is still broken. Sorry. But I just want to say that Richard and Liz and I have been going out to the Union st Loup and it's been very positive, just in general. One thing that we did last week was to bring some notebooks and pens out. So I want to encourage anybody who has a stack of nice notebooks whether they're used or not. I mean, please take your personal writing out of them unless you want to entertain somebody but we would love to have them to take them forward. Also writing implements. People are pretty delighted to get a nice working pen or a retractable pencil, that sort of thing. So if you have such things hanging around, also Richard is putting in there he's he's trying to expand our, our reach into colored pencils and coloring books. We're actually there's some potential here for a little extra creativity. And so we're talking with Tim Timothy also about possibly encouraging people to write things and submit them for his publications. All of that said, the other thing we're using are gallon sized Ziploc bags to put the notebooks in so that they survive the dam. Any or all of that is welcome as our soup supplies and anybody who would be interested in making two and a half gallons of soup on a Tuesday or Friday. I would be delighted to pick that up from you. Just let me know. Take care.

## **Rob Huff**

Thank you, Teresa. And I see Zoey has her hand up

## **Zoe Grieder**

everyone to call mutual aid has one of our distribution days coming up on January 29. It's a Sunday. We're still working on sorting out a location. Now that everyone has been shuffled around, but if you would like to volunteer have materials or want to be by to promote your services. If you want to cook that would be great. We'll have a flyer in the next few days. Once we settle on location, and we would absolutely love everyone's help distributing that flyer while you're doing your outreach. You know, just to folks in the neighborhood not trying to spread it to people that are you know, five miles away but yeah, I I put something in the chat. I'll go copy and paste it down here to get in touch and all that but we'd love to see y'all out. There or have your help. Yeah, I think that covers it. Thanks, everyone. Thank you, sorry.

## **Rob Huff**



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And thank you Dr. Jarvey. For posting the link to the upcoming MLK celebration coming up this Monday. I hope folks are able to attend that as well. I recognize it's challenging to be in committee meetings and celebrations at the same time. So we have to have to juggle things as always. Other folks who want to have anything to share with the larger group All right, so let's see. Does anybody have a particular success story that they would like to share, to close out today's meeting anything that folks have gathered over the last week? All right, I see your silence. I know there are good stories out there. This is just a reminder that next week, if you had the opportunity, jot down some notes for that good story to share. Here at the end of the meeting. We really it does help inspire and keep the work going. So I really appreciate when folks can share stuff. Richard, thank you for sharing that. A friend of yours got into a tiny home. That's the kind of thing that we can we love to hear that there's positive progress for folks and we hear it throughout the meeting, but I love to be able to close out the meeting with something positive. So thank you, everyone. I hope that everyone has a safe and productive weekend. That MLK Day is a celebration and time of remembrance and learning for all of us. And I look forward to seeing everybody again at this same time next Friday morning for another of these meetings.