



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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Homeless Coalition Friday Meeting

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SPEAKERS

Rian Booker, Richard Dorsett, Jeffrey Boyce, Jennie Schoeppe, Stephen Sprague, Sally Perkins, Paula Anderson, Laurie Davenport, Ed Jacobs, Rob Huff, Isaiah, Theresa Power-Drutis, Jay Worley, Patricia, Rosemary Powers, Brooke Gower, Zoe Grieder, Donna Parker, Lisa Coley, Gerald Daniels, Tim Harris, Janne Hutchins, Donna Stinson, Courtney Love, Matthew Jorgensen, Janet Runbeck

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Rob Huff

All right, so we're getting close to 30 folks in the room. So why don't we go ahead and get started. It's 901. Let's see if this was in a classroom. I'd be saying this is the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness if that's not the meeting that you're supposed to be in. Rosemary, why don't you go ahead and get us started for this

Rosemary Powers

morning. Thank you Rob. Today I welcome all of you to our open table where we joined together each week to promote actions and policies to end homelessness. We seek common ground with all who recognize people's basic need for safe and secure housing, who are willing to engage one another with respect. We acknowledge that we were on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe who have lived on and stewarded these lands since the beginning of time and continue to do so today. We recognize our responsibility to honor the voices experiences and histories of the indigenous people of this land and beyond. Wednesday night I attended with a number of you a neighborhood meeting called to hear about the safe parking project planned on the property of Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tacoma. That is a collaboration between the property owners the City of Tacoma, and Catholic



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Community Services as the provider. This meeting left me thinking a lot about a couple of words I offered to send her us today. Those words are neighbor and collaborate. So first, the word neighbor. I always look things up to see what they might have come from in neighbor is a noun an adjective and a verb. Surprisingly little at the end there. Neighbor one who is neither a nearby or hidden habitant a person living near as an adjective neighbor, Li usually a positive interaction as in a neighborly wave and as a verb. This site neighbors the busy street, you need to join live relatively close to to be nearby and to be a positive support and share common goals so to neighbor with that as a context, I can still hear one person at the Wednesday evening meeting who used the noun form of neighbor forcefully several times. Your neighbors they said don't want you here. This person did not speak for the whole group of nearby residents and in fact themselves had lived in the area only about three years. It was hard to hear this comment but I believe the recognition of the presence of these other neighbors, even if unwanted, still left some space for thinking more deeply. To be called a neighbor at all, suggests some tentative right to be in a space. The complex negotiations over shared spaces that a safe parking project or shelter citing require can benefit from thinking more about the power of the neighbor word. Take neighborly. For example as in proceeding with humane and respectful regard. There was certainly a good bit of that at this meeting and an insistent that all voices be heard. And for myself just trying to listen to others in a neighborly way can soften my judgment make my stomach turn less and lead me to consider if there are any connective tissues I can strengthen. And what about neighbor as a verb? What does it mean to neighbor? As members of the coalition we consider and carry out lots of ways to quote bring ourselves close or quote to bring ourselves nice to those neighbors who are most vulnerable. What we do in our own ways to mitigate the effects of homelessness is neighboring day in and day out on the streets and in the shelters and in the libraries and in the lobby spaces. And I'm confident that many of the people at the meeting last Wednesday night neighbor already in many ways and then with greater knowledge and opportunity they can be connected and mobilized to join what has to be a community wide collaboration. Which brings me finally to collaboration. Thinking again, the Wednesday night meeting, it could be described as a telling session where people simply got informed about what was going to happen. Get a chance to vent or ask a few questions. And that's it. I'm sure that many who attended saw things that way and this gets repeated in other places, but whatever the shortcomings of communication, whatever the current experiences of unsafety that amplify fear rather than compassion. I also saw some pretty impressive evidence of collaboration. A suggestion about putting chairs in a circle was taken by the organizers lessening the US them or audience speaker dynamic, passionate comments both amplified concerns and led to positive shifts in the discussion. And it was obvious how different entities government social service agency advocates of various kinds, and people with experience as residents of a homelessness Containment Zone, all focused in messy but important ways on what it means to live together in this time. Later in our meeting today we'll have an opportunity to talk about our own efforts, working with others and our hopes and challenges for the year ahead. How do we up our collaboration game? How do we neighbor better with each other, and with those most in need, and with those who need to understand the realities of homelessness. We have a pretty good model and Fred Rogers who sang sincerely and often the saying, so let's make the most of this beautiful day. Since we're together. We might as well say would you be mine? Could you be mine?



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Won't you be my neighbor? So neighbors, here we are. We'll introduce ourselves if we're new and just a short bit of time, but like to start now with our norms for our community gathering and to make sure that we all mute ourselves when we're not talking. That we'll use the Zooms raise hand function to be recognized that we limit distractions by turning off our camera if we're doing something else that might be distracting. And that we use the chat for all kinds of information sharing and conversation. It can get pretty rapid in there. So certainly pay attention to it. It's not seen as a distraction to the meeting or as anything inappropriate. So we also have zoom norms about conversation and these are neighborliness issues in the best sense, I think. So. Robbie, as he puts these in the chat. I didn't look there yet, but you can check those out if you're new to the group. And then I'd like to move now to having anyone who's new or who's back from being away for a while. Raise your hand and be recognized if you wish and let us know who you are. And if you're related to an organization to state that it's not a time for a long introduction, but to let us know that you're here you can leave your information in the chat as well. So with that mouthful, and if anyone is new, we'd love to meet you. While we may not have new folks today, or we may have people who are just coming in and wanting to just see how things go for a little bit before speaking out. It's kind of a big group. So I'll just pass it back to you Rob. And we can move on with things for today unless you have anything more to add.

Rob Huff

No, thank you, Rosemary. I always look forward to your openings to these meetings. So thank you for that. And again, if you do want to introduce yours if you're new here or haven't met,

Donna Parker

you can hear me I think I'm having some issues over here.

Rob Huff

I can hear you Donna.

Rosemary Powers

Oh great.

Rob Huff

Go ahead, Don, if you'd like

Donna Parker

Okay, good morning. I don't know what's going on with my camera. But I'm Donna Parker and I'm from Karen with compassion community and we do supportive services for housing and employment and also crime victims. So I was out last week but I do plan on attending weekly or every other week and it's great to meet everyone and to be a part of what's going on so that we can help the underprivileged and



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you know get everybody housed if there's a possibility. So we got a lot of work to do, but I'm glad to be a part of the team.

Rosemary Powers

Thank you, Donna. That's great. Yes,

Donna Parker

ma'am. Also, we are working on getting certified for coordinated entry. So yes, and I've been doing this for a long time I used to be a sound sound back in the day. So I'm just glad to be a part of the organization.

Rob Huff

Great. Thank you, Don. You're welcome. And anyone else who wanted to briefly introduce themselves well, if you don't want to do so on, on mic, or on camera, you can do so in the chat. We as Rosemary said we use the chat as a resource. So please feel free to do that as we go throughout the meeting. And thank you for that Danna for that information. So, let's get started with our regular weekly item that we do which is called This Week on the streets. We're asking folks in this situation to share what they're seeing seeing in terms of changes on the streets, changing needs, and so that the 54 folks who are in this room might be able to help address some of those needs here as we move into the weekend. I know that putting this in context, there are still sweeps going on, people being moved around a lot in beside the City of Tacoma. As the city continues to march out its camping ban in the buffer areas that were established by our esteemed City Council last October. So what are folks seeing and what would you like to share with the group? Just go ahead and raise your hand and I see Jan's hand up first.

Janet Runbeck

Yes, thanks, Richard are are diligent advocate for those who are living in in Canada's being swept. Richard and Teresa and others have started a a meal service at the growing Union Avenue loop. encampment. I was able to join them this week. And Richard introduced me to a man living there and an account much who is on dialysis. Three days a week he's got to go to the Tacoma mall Boulevard. Without dialysis we die within less than a week right? If you're if you're if you're that if your kidneys are that far gone, you you die within less than a week. My big point in this particular example what's going on in the street is transportation. This is the second major major physical ailment that I've seen recently. Where transportation is the key to life. So I want everybody in the coalition to think about transportation issues. We've just lost COMM A Fire Department cares, the AMR ambulance service. So just a reminder that transportation is just part of the social determinants of health. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jan. Stephen, see your hand up.



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Stephen Sprague

Good morning, everyone. I will be very quick about this. I just wanted to let everyone know that. We have we have opened our data center at the Nativity house. So folks are able to come in and get meals and we're keeping 25 men and 25 women from the day center and they get to stay in for dinner. If we have beds open after check in then we will assign those beds as needed. And then we are going to continue to serve meals at the door also for people that don't want to come inside. So just a heads up.

Rob Huff

Thank you Steven. That's good news. Thank you. And Richard.

Richard Dorsett

Yeah, it seems so long ago but it was only Monday and a crew from the Pierce County Health Department was out during the holiday helping and cleaning up the encampment site at behind the post office, also known as the street of dreams and it looked much nicer after a few hours of a crew. I also heard the next day that the city had picked up the 50 Purple bags that had been set on the corner so that was a successful and worthwhile effort doing Orion people if you see and you'll will you will certainly see there are encampments popping up all over the city. I suspect the county as well. Please pass that information on to Jeff Rogers. So that they can have that on the list for the the the point in time counting and know that he'll welcome that information. And then finally, thanks to Teresa and others who helped Jan included with food delivery. We've been doing Tuesdays and Friday afternoon. Anybody wants to join us at Union loop we'll be out there again this afternoon about four o'clock, typically 45 minutes. I mean, it's not an extensive thing, but it's a chance to meet some of the people distribute some supplies and provide some food service. And so we've been doing that pretty successfully on Tuesdays and Thursdays. And Tuesdays and Fridays sorry in recent weeks. So if anybody wants to join us with that they're certainly welcome. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thank you Richard. And Sally.

Sally Perkins

What I'm seeing is that a lot of people sleep being on the concrete sidewalks are sleeping in doorways, they're selecting properties that are vacant so that there's less likely that the person will come right out and and tell them they have to leave. I saw one man sleeping in the curb cut on the yellow nubby stuff at 19th and Cushman several days ago. What it feels like to me is that the people who got swept kind of scrambled around trying to figure out what their options were. And as it became clear that they didn't really have good options. Those with connections in the hilltop are back to what we used to see a year and a half ago which is people sleeping in doorways and people sleeping on sidewalks so it's very distressing to see people sleeping on concrete and 33 degree weather. I don't understand what it is about our city that makes that acceptable. So



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Rob Huff

yeah, I struggled to understand that to selling. Thank you for the update and and I did want to mention just the weather context for the next week. It does look like we're going to be moving back into having some freezing or near freezing overnight temperatures. So I'm sure there's going to be more direct needs for things like hand warmers and those kinds of things, which is a good segue into our standing agenda item to talk about what folks need and what folks have to share. Jay, I see you on the call. Do you have the ability to paste the link to the Google Sheet with the that includes the tab for need and share? Yeah, Thanks, Jay. Folks do use that. I know I I ended up handing off a couple of boxes of handwarmers yesterday to folks from Tacoma Public Libraries. Who, you know, they're very don't typically have dollars in their budget for supporting those who are homeless but who use the libraries as warming centers during the day and as a respite from the outdoors. So there's lots of needs, and so does anybody have any specific need or share item and I see Jan with your hand up?

Janet Runbeck

Yes, um, nourish. foodbanks has 48 sleeping bags. They're not cold weather sleeping bags, but they are sleeping bags with a hood. And I'm wondering if Jeff Rogers is here? If so, are you still collecting items for point in time? They measure their compact you know it's in a stuffed bag. So for the sleeping bags. To to the first one who says they need them otherwise, I don't know. Jeff, are you paying attention?

Rob Huff

Yeah, I don't see Jeff in the room right now, but I presume he'll be here at some point later in the meeting. So maybe when you see a pop up and you can put it in the chat. Um, Sally, did you have something you wanted to add? Or were you is your hand just still up?

Sally Perkins

can still up sorry.

Rob Huff

Okay, nope. No problem at all. Okay.

Jay Worley

All right. I've got to switch devices really quick. But Kristin linguist has been updating our need share list. So please get on there and update it to your current status from what it was. Please forgive me. I did not realize the temperatures have dropped into coma. So drastically. I'll touch base with all of our staging sites and update what we have and what we don't have. Emily will be getting a list of donatable items pretty soon. Hopefully from the health department, so please do update that so that we can correlate it. Thank you.



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Rob Huff

Yeah, thank you, Jay. And I'm looking for the link to the need. And here we go. Sorry, I'm not looking at the camera here. But this this is the Google doc where we're where we have, need and share items and add Go ahead. I mean, Jeffrey Sorry.

Jeffrey Boyce

Good morning. I have seen a lot of movement to D O T land six and I are state highway 16. People are starting to hit their 70s Fourth, and I fives is another big site. Moving over from the Hosmer area and a lot of people there. The that's so far what I have seen in the last week movements due to the sweeps and there's been a couple of people who were swept from under the Thompson Street Bridge who are very concerned because it they felt that they were outside that 10 block area and they were swept anyway. So I'm not sure what rules we're playing with here. And also Point in Time Count. I believe Jeff Rogers was complaining yesterday that a lot of people who had signed up didn't come in for the training. And even though I've been doing it for the last five years, you need the training so you can get your phone, your phone hooked up to the app that we're using. Now for those point in time counts. The more we count, the better it is for everyone. The money does loosen up a little bit. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Thanks Jeffrey. And Courtney, can you help us close out this portion of today's agenda?

Courtney Love

Sure. The Department of Emergency Management reached out to me for feedback on the hypothermia kits that they helped supply for us in the last cold weather. But I did not do outreach during times when I expected to see people suffering from the beginnings of hypothermia. So while I carried one in my car at all times, I did not have the opportunity kind of thank goodness that to hand any out. So one I have at least for it at the lived experience coalition storage at First United Methodist Church. And if there is anybody who had an opportunity to utilize it, connect with me or the Department of Emergency Management to give that feedback because they're looking for reasons to do more of it. And so I want to encourage this kind of supply prep but I don't have any affirming stories. So thank you.

Rob Huff

Thanks, Courtney. And just out of curiosity, was that Ivan that you're working with on that?

Courtney Love

No, it was

Janet Runbeck

a pancake.



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Courtney Love

Yes, pancake. Thank you.

Rob Huff

Yeah, if you have that contact information, it'd be good to drop it in the chat too. If you have the ability.

Courtney Love

Oh, grab it and get there. Perfect.

Rob Huff

All right. So thank you, everyone. And if you have additional information to share regarding street outreach, please do use the chat. And let's shift to our first presentation of this morning. And I'd like to invite Brooke Gower from week care daily clinic to talk about the new mobile unit you wanted to share with us. Hi,

Brooke Gower

my name is Brooke our I'm a project manager with we care I oversee the mobile clinics. Currently we have one in Seattle that's been up and running for about six months is located in North Seattle and 84th in Aurora for those of you that are familiar with that area and we're getting ready to launch our Tacoma unit and February 1. That's located at 2510 East D Street, those directly across from the field house right next to the Greyhound station. So we're in a really good spot and a lot there. So we're excited about that. Moving into the future. We'd like to create a space for all agencies, organizations, volunteer groups, to use that space to provide services information, networking, things like that. So that will be coming down the line and I will let you know a little bit about that. As it comes up. We care daily clinics. We offer medication for opioid use disorder, primarily methadone. We also offer Suboxone. Vivitrol is sublocade dependent on the individual's needs and what's decided between them and the provider. Let's see it to be eligible. And we take Medicaid, all forms of Medicaid. We're not specific per county, which is nice. I've come across that in the past where you have to be part of a specific county to get services. The big part is IDs. So the individual when they register with us, they do have to have a picture ID. There are variations to that. And there are some rules that kind of give us a gray area to work with. As we acknowledge that a lot of the folks that we work with do not have an idea when they walk in the doors. So if you are referring someone that would be something that I would initially ask them and if you have the capabilities to kind of assist with that. Otherwise we do the best we can with who we had and what we have to ensure everyone has an idea at least appropriate enough to start receiving services. With us. Let's see how to take some notes. The mobile units will be providing the same services that our brick and mortar clinic does provide. So there'll be access to peer services, counseling services, we have navigator services. Like I said, if they come to us without having insurance, we can help them get set up with that. And we also kind of have an easy transition between



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the mobile clinic and the brick and mortar clinic. So if we have someone that you know moves, relocate, those things kind of come up, they're able to kind of seamlessly go between the two locations as well as our Seattle if they you know, tend to move up to the Seattle area. We can see them up there as well. The current hours of operation are nine to three. We would like to extend that out a little bit but we're going to start there to kind of see how that works for the individuals we serve in the beginning will provide transportation for medical services. So we want to be sure that everyone kind of has the ability to get the services that they need within a reasonable time. If they do say they missed a dose they tried to catch us they missed a dose or late for a dose. We can provide transportation to our brick and mortar clinic, which is open until 8pm So allows you know some alternatives because sometimes you know we lose track of time and things like that. The best way to contact the mobile clinic right now is through me. We do have a number getting set up specific to our Tacoma mobile clinic. But I will post my number in the chat and you can contact me directly to do pre registration or if you have any questions. We also there's a pre registration form on our web page. And so if you are the client that you're working with patient neighbor that you're working with, fills that out. We'll get back to them in a really short period of time that way, you know we're able to get them started. We have all kinds of the preliminary information and it makes the process a little bit easier. There is no kind of going into that there's no specific referral process. We don't have a hard and fast. We do know going into this that it's just going to be as flexible as we can make it and then kind of see what works for everybody. Like I said, we have that brief pre registration that to me is the easiest way to kind of get things started other than to call me and it kind of just gets the ball rolling, registration as simple as basic demographic information. And once that's done, we get them set up with a provider that'll do their additional medical exam to make sure you know that we're on track with the right medications. And as far as helping out I mean, just we'd love to be part of the community. We're excited to join the community. So any feedback, guidance suggestions that you all have, we're wide open to it. I mean we're new at this, this is kind of a evolving project. So you know, we're taking everything in that we can to make it a better situation for those that are being referred as well as those doing the referrals. So

Rob Huff

great. Oh, yeah. Thank you, Brooke. So I did see a question in the chat from Richard asking, Who is your organization sponsored by Are you an independent organization or something else?

Brooke Gower

We're, we're actually owned and operated through Muckleshoot so that's kind of our great

Rob Huff

and then Jenny asked, Can you clarify location? Both of the where the so you said it was easy D street that you'll be located for the mobile unit? Is that the same same spot is the brick and mortar spot site or?



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Brooke Gower

No, the brick and mortar site is up in Auburn so it's 3320 Auburn way north and Auburn's for the brick and mortar and then we're located. It's literally the best way I can describe is across from the Fieldhouse, there's a huge parking lot or kind of we get a quadrant of that. Okay.

Rob Huff

Cool. And anybody else with the quick question they would like to ask Brooke? All right, not seeing anything right now. It'd be great if you could drop your information in the chat and thank you very much for attending this morning and letting us know about this coming resource.

Brooke Gower

Sure. Thank you so much.

Rob Huff

All right. So let's shift gears over to Rosemary to talk about what's next for the effort to pass the Pierce County affordable housing tax.

Rosemary Powers

Well, thanks, Rob. And I won't make this too long. But and I also want to acknowledge the work of Carolyn Reed, who wasn't able to be here today. In helping to organize the efforts we've made over the past two years to try to get this housing tax passed. I thought it was important that we just acknowledge, again, where we're at with this today. I won't be repeating the need for the tax. We've all known that. And the and to provide a little bit of messaging that could be useful to anyone who wants to participate in the next six weeks that we have before there'll be a vote. So just to go back to December, December 13. There was testimony at the December 13 council meeting from a wide variety of experts and housing folks and residents and it was very strong support for passing the tax. But as you know, any taxes in Pierce County require a supermajority of the council members to pass so you need five votes and the council has four. So there are three people who could be lobbied and perhaps might change their mind. And what happened at the council was instead of taking a vote that would fail. There was a vote for continuance. So let's continue talking and we'll take the vote in March. So what that means is not so clear, but the meeting itself, there was discouragement and felt by many. It was kind of like a balloon balloon deflating and said, Oh, God, we're going to do this again. Any time I think back to the mental health or behavioral health tax debate, I just it just sends me off. Anyway. So here we are, again. As Matt Driscoll said in the column commenting on this event, he said it's like putting molasses on a slug in terms of process. Whether that's true or not, it's certainly felt like that. So but the meeting to try to pass the tax happened on December 13. The last meeting that Derrick Derrick Young was to be the chair of the Council and he really cared about this tax so he's hoping to pass it. It was right before the holidays. Everybody went away. It's now January. What is it January 20. Right? So and march is coming up. So it was seemed important to just say, whatever this continuance vote means is unclear.



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There's backroom stuff, of course happening and conversations that many of us are not part of, but the revenue for housing group that's been lobbying, I have a few suggestions for things that we could do in the meantime. So we think it's important for anyone who lives on the east side of Tacoma in any of the districts that are involved, to lobby their representatives to give them the point of view they have about this because it's hard to know what health what effect that has and we have differing views on the effects of that sort of lobbying but Dave Morel and district one, Paul Herrera and district two and Amy Krueger and district three need to hear from us. And while Amy has been really opposed, it's still important that she here and Dave is probably the most likely one to to vote for the tax but what we don't know is what sorts of conditions his tax may be dependent upon. So it's important to get that in and, Rob, if you could help me share the screen for just a minute. I'll repeat I'll point out the flyer that we've used.

Rob Huff

Okay, you can do that now.

Rosemary Powers

All right. Let's see what I can do. In in November, with the support of the County Council staff, we managed to produce this flyer that was used and I can make that available to the to the whole list. I think that will be useful. On one page. It's it's right describes the problem and on the second page that describes what might be done to help with the problem and suggests as the fire does that we count out the council that we signed on to the community letter supporting it. And just to let you remind you that Maureen Howard, one of her last public acts as our official representative was to sign in the name of the coalition to support this tax. So that's something we can do and then to sign up also. So I'll just I'll stop sharing the screen now. But this is a flyer I'll send out to the list so that you have access to it and oops and you can share it with give us back here. Share it with any folks in your own community. That would want to maybe be supportive of then sit consider testifying between now and March 7 at weekly council meetings. Our revenue for housing group has scheduling people to do that and we're happy to provide you with some information if that's something you haven't done a lot of for how to do that well and you can let me know if that's the case. And I'll make sure to get some things to you and then save the date of March 7 still attend the council meeting in person or or online. And to testify at that point. It's still important to do it. It's kind of tiring to have 100 people testify but it's also the sort of moral mandate that I think makes a difference. And so, just to end, we've emphasized a couple of messages over the past few weeks that might be of use to us to remind ourselves about one of them. Is that a message that we've already lost millions of dollars in matching are leveraged funds from state and federal housing programs. And we won't be able to meet the identified needs without more sustainable bondable funds. Up to \$20 million a year in tax revenue could help begin to meet the need but given the real realities of housing construction timelines, this tax should be ongoing rather than past with a sunset clause that would really cripple long range housing project progress. Secondly, without new funding will have no chance of meeting the state requirements for the county under HB 1220. The amended Growth Management Act that requires jurisdictions to provide housing for all income levels and to address



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disparate issues with regard to race. That's this failure will affect other AI issues that the county needs to deal with with the state. And third, we can mitigate the effects of regressive tax like this one, even though it's small, estimated to be \$16, probably per resident per year. Still, it mostly affects more more severely affects those on very low incomes. So one thing we can do is to support and help information about the providing information about the working families tax credit that can provide up to \$1,200 a year in tax rebates for available folks for people who are available to that. And so that is something we can do. And then finally, if you're interested in housing in general, although this is happening at the same time as our coalition meeting on January 27, the Affordable Housing Consortium in Tacoma is holding an event on how to deal with barriers to affordable housing in Pierce County. So I'll put that information in the chat for you. And I think that's all I have. If anyone has any questions I'd be happy to try to answer.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Rosemary. Anyone with any questions, clarifying questions for rosemary. All right, well, I know that we're going to want to stay on top of this issue that the interesting thing right now is that there are many things at play in terms of council activities and opportunities to advocate at the city and the county level as well as all the state legislative items taking place. So I know it can be hard to juggle everything but this is really a high priority. For Pierce County residents and will benefit affordable housing greatly. So appreciate the the update and overview. Rosemary.

Rosemary Powers

Welcome.

Rob Huff

All right, so yes, Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Just want to say if anyone's not certain who their representative is. I'm sorry, Rosemary had to step away for a minute, but did you mention that that's available on the website?

Rosemary Powers

I did mention that. So yeah, just

Theresa Power-Drutis

go to the county council meetings and your wonderful council people will show up and there's a map there that shows where you are if you're not sure. And it is important, especially for those of you who live not in Tacoma to take a look at that and please do if you need help with some tactics, rosemary and Carolyn have been doing this for a while as have some other folks in that group. So thanks.



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Rosemary Powers

I just would add that Carol colorin is put the information in the chat. She has been the one organizing our testimonies on a weekly basis. So I wasn't sure if she would be here today, but I'm very glad to see that she is and she's been doing a great job to get us organized.

Rob Huff

Thank you, everybody. So we're gonna spend just a couple of minutes talking about the coalition website. I know we don't have a ton of new folks in the room right? Now. But the steering committee had been talking about some of the wanting to make sure that everybody at our Friday meetings is familiar with the information that's available on website and then also to talk about some of the critical pieces of information that we are being challenged to keep updated on a coalition website. So let me share my screen here. Briefly. Alright, so Are folks seeing my screen? Looks like it should be working. Yeah. So. So those who those of you who have visited our coalition website will recognize this sea of text which is the the front page you can see that our site is is at this time very focused on providing the most information that we possibly can in the most concise manner. The key pieces of information on this main page are links to all of our meetings and to community meetings that are coming up. Like say Project Homeless Connect here, which is listed at the end of the month, happens in court in coordination with the Point in Time Count later this month. So this is always the place to turn to find where the link is to the next coalition meeting. And you can see besides these Friday meetings that we have every week, there are the safe sites for all committee meetings at noon on Mondays, the communications group the safe sites for all campaign work group steering committee meetings every Wednesday. And then again any special meetings like the networking social our coming up at the beginning of February. I'm also on this page our links to our YouTube channel where you can find video from each of our meetings, just like this one. And folks may not be aware but you can actually a few like to listen to the meeting and not see the talking heads or the presentations. If there are any. You can subscribe to the podcast feed and listen to the meetings. That you happen to miss. And then of course, there's a link to the coalition Facebook page. The other information that's on this page that's really useful is all of these links under recent presentations. Take you to pages for instance, this is for the meeting on the sixth that shows a way to watch or listen to the recording to read the chat. Again, this is a reminder for why we use the chat so much during these meetings, or read the full transcript that comes through the transcription service that we use for these meetings, which can be much quicker to actually locate an item that you're interested in and hone in on where that is. And then you can view the minutes from the entire meeting here as well. I will go back to the main page. One of the things that I wanted to talk about briefly in this overview is that many organizations, the media and people who are currently homeless, do end up relying on this coalition web page as a resource for seeing where they can find Coordinated Entry locations and also where they can find overnight shelter. The thing that I wanted to point out on this page is that many of these sites that are listed and there's quite a few shelter locations listed here are not updating their availability on a frequent basis. And that's one of the things that we're trying to focus on getting improving the performance of the website and partnering with the providers so that we can get more accurate information on this site every day. During the most



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recent cold spell that took place in December. We were holding the county was hosting daily outreach meetings in the mornings. And during those morning meetings with providers that are we were able to I was able to have folks drop in the chat there updated information about each shelter so that we could update this page every day. But right now we were still trying to work with providers to to make these updates regularly so that those numbers that are listed there around availability are actually useful. It is critical because again, especially when the weather's bad the media points to this page. Pierce County points to this page at the current time. It is the best publicly viewable resource for folks to try to self refer and find shelter locations. So I wanted to call that out. Again, the Coordinated Entry locations is a good place. I get emails every week, sometimes every day from people who are seeking help and reaching out to the coalition. And quite frequently I'm trying referring people to the resources that are on either the shelter page or the Coordinated Entry locations page so people can do that initial intake interview and have a conversation about what options they may have to find more secure shelter and housing and then the last thing I wanted to talk about briefly here is to mention the link up here that says resources. This is a little bit cumbersome, but it is page that the folks from comprehensive life resources maintain and that we link to that is a way for you to walk through if you have somebody in your neighborhood if you encounter somebody who needs specific help. You can use this page to hone in on resources that may be available. So there's a general need help form where people can drop either call to get a hold of the comprehensive life resources team or put their information there so that they can get a call back with with more information. And then if you go click this Resources link here. The site then offers a series of steps to step through. Regarding Are you male or female. Are you a member of a family are you a veteran that will help you try to find the resources that are most connected to to your situation? So I do urge people to take a take a few minutes to jump through the options on this page. Because it can be helpful for folks is as you're encountering people out on the street, you may be able to after going through this be able to see what some resources are that folks can can access. So I'm going to stop my share there. And see I see there are a few things on the chat. Yeah, thanks, Teresa. I do want to say that the website itself is is a design and back end a lot of backend work by Garrett and Island. And we can't thank you enough for his work to put this together. And then it's just a team effort to try to keep it up over time, but one of the things we wanted to do this morning was just for those who do outreach to make sure that people were aware of the resources that are on the page. And then for those who are providers, to just remind people that there are folks relying on the information on our page and we need to keep it updated. There's critical pieces of information there. So let's see. We're only a few minutes over time on our agenda right now. Does anybody have any questions or comments about the website? Yeah, Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Sorry, my video is still messing up. I haven't updated it yet. So thank you for that. And I'm wondering, I don't know if anyone who works with the CLR website is here but I haven't found a workaround where I if I just want to find a set of resources and I don't have a specific person I'm working with. If I could circumvent the thing about saying giving information about the person I'm seeking help for, is have other people found a way around that.



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Rob Huff

What I've done in that area is kind of just gone through scenarios or scenarios. So I you know, so that I have a sense of what's available for somebody under 20. You know, I guess it's 24 and under and 25 and over and kind of get a snapshot of what's available. But yeah, this is very much kind of setup as a self help page so that you walk through it and with your own situation in mind. So I think that's just the way that it's been designed.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Yeah, that I understand that. I think it's really great. The way that works. There's another place that I've seen that does that for local resources, but it would also be really cool to be able to get at those resources without having to create an imaginary person. So yeah, thanks. Yeah.

Rob Huff

Yeah, great question. And Jay, I see your hand up.

Jay Worley

I think that a large portion of what could be helpful with our situation here is sorry for exactly. I got super distracted back on target. Would it be helpful if we restarted that thread? disclaiming the people that are on the listserv, and that was the other thing is I need to talk to Garrett and work on that listserv for inclement weather. It looks like the list the thread might be valuable to at least discuss with each other what we need currently would that would people be interested in up ticking that again

Rob Huff

and you're referring to the to the inclement weather thread that that you had had started? It may be I know that there was a desire for some folks to shift to the listserv for inclement weather. It's interesting because we haven't had inclement weather since since it ended right before Christmas. So we haven't had another chance to do more testing. I know there's been no traffic on that listserv at all since Christmas time. So I'm not sure

Jay Worley

I'll send out the listserv without or I'll send out the thread without all of the additions of the people that had said, Hey, I'm on the listserv. I don't really need it and reconnect it to the listserv like I did last time and it should be much better this time, but I'll send out a new threat and we'll try to get it that way. Thank you, Jane.

Rob Huff



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All right. So I see that Timothy knows what's coming next on the agenda. So why don't we shift over to talk about what Timothy pulled together from last week's breakout conversations? I will share that on the screen here if you want to get started Timothy.

Tim Harris

Okay, great. And I also dropped it in the chat if anybody wants to just download that then. So last week we talked about stories that people who are currently homeless have shared with us. And as usual, I started off with some quote swit was Martin Luther King day when we talked or close to it anyway. And so I put that quote there that Rosemary offered and a few more from our own remarkable leaders that went with it some of the things that homeless people are saying like any good fundraising communicator, I took the heartbreaking direct quote and put it right up top. Um, a lot of things that we're used to hearing you know, frustration about getting help through the system. The 211 line being being less than optimal. People deal dealing with the triage system that we have, how bad does it have to be to get the help that we need to meet needs people talking about having to tell their stories over and over again, and and how re traumatizing that is a number of stories. They're sort of direct stories that came up losing your housing while you're in jail. Not being able to afford housing even though working multiple jobs. Somebody who's living in a tent with their abuser, older woman whose spouse dies and loses her housing as a result of that. We get a sort of a short break from unremitting tragedy with a couple of happy stories that the people saw was died got a permanent job and one of his fellow workers bought him a car. That's pretty cool. Some very successfully entered treatment from a sanctioned encampment. That's great. woman who is out on the street in Colorado bonded with somebody as a fellow NPR listener. Just a reminder, I scratched the surface of many homeless people, you're going to find someone there who's actually middle class but speaking to people with the medical problems and emergencies and disabilities and not being able to get the sort of care that they need and then winding up hospitalized, which is the most expensive way to deal with them because of other options. Not being available. And then the snowball effect, which is something that we're all familiar with that it's not usually just one thing that puts somebody on the street. It's this combination of economic vulnerability, erosion of resilience things piling up and and finally putting someone over that tipping point. Um, there's a list of additional observations and they're nothing that I feel really called out to highlight except that you know, the gang of red shirt is out there doing their thing and getting art supplies to homeless people. And you know, that whole sort of Bread and Roses then that that immediate survival is one thing but when people get an opportunity to exercise their creative side and be more fully human, they appreciate that as well. And he's looking for supplies to get out to people. And then finally, at the end, I just put a list of various events and links and things like that, that that got posted. And I'd like to say that I went to a pre showing of Love in the Time of fentanyl. That was on Wednesday. That is an amazing movie about the DIY approaches to to what's going on on the street with with drug use and vulnerability and people going out there as peer activists and support people to save lives and it's just an incredible movie. And showing again on Sunday, and the filmmaker and the guy from the overdose prevention society in Vancouver that the film is really about is going to be there as well. So cool of that, that would really recommend people go to if they can't, and that's it.



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Rob Huff

Thank you, Timothy. Yeah, the name of the movie is Love in the Time of fentanyl. Jsi, your question in the chat?

Tim Harris

Yeah, it's at the Grand Cinema. I think it's Sunday at 215. Yep.

Rob Huff

Great. Thank you very much. So this week, we decided we are going to hold a little bit shorter breakout conversation, but we really wanted to focus on just creating some networking time for people to visit for about 10 minutes. So the question that we thought people could talk around was just around how we work together. And you know, maybe some thoughts that you could gather in each of the rooms and take notes on about how we work together and collaborate and maybe can improve how we work together and collaborate here in 2023. So I'm going to send stuff send everybody off to chat rooms. We will come back here at 1008. And I'm going to make the rooms just a little bit bigger than we usually have because we've had a lot of folks not going to the chat room. So I want to make sure that these are good conversations. So away we go. See you all in 10 minutes.

<Breakout Rooms>

Rob Huff

Welcome back, everybody. Hope that was a good conversation. I know this was a shorter breakout than usual but if folks do have ideas about how we can better work together to get more done for the our houses, lists neighbors during this year, please do drop those in the chat. That would be fantastic. And again, a reminder the better your notes, the better the document that Timothy can pull together every week. So appreciate everybody's collaborative work on that piece. Let's shift over to our regular weekly updates from government partners. I see Matthews on the screen from the city of Tacoma Matthew, what do you have to share?

Matthew Jorgensen

Morning everyone, Matthew Jorgensen from the neighborhood community services department with the City of Tacoma. Not a lot of major updates this week, as Rosemary mentioned, we did have that community meeting for safe parking and Holy Rosary on Wednesday night and I just do want to say thank you to the coalition members that did show up, particularly Teresa and Jan for their perspective and experience and expertise that really added to that conversation we were we had, which I would say diplomatically was robust. So I just really appreciated the support and having that perspective in the room. So that's that's my major update for the week. I'll put my contact info in the chat and if there any questions, please let me know.



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Rob Huff

Matt, one question I had is that we've noticed a lot of a lot of sweeps happening without any real notification where we're kind of surprised that they've happened. Has there been a change kind of in how you're doing that or

Matthew Jorgensen

I can follow up on that. Not that I'm aware of. I think a lot of how we've planned it out on the website as far as you know, the encampment removals per shelter is pretty fluid I guess I'm gonna get can change not necessarily sooner but would shift to later and as I forget who mentioned that but the Thompson bridge um, there's there still are removals happening outside of those those areas if it's a public health and safety risks, but I can definitely follow up with you on that on that notification piece. I'm giving you all as much notice as possible about what's what's coming up next.

Rob Huff

Alright, right. Thank you, Matthew. Yeah, we'd appreciate it. It it. I know that there just is a lot more people being shifted around and it's especially in light of the Point in Time Count coming next week. It's making things pretty chaotic. All right. Is anyone on this the call from Pierce County Human Services? I don't see. Didn't

Donna Stinson

Donna Donna, how are you doing? Good. So I'm gonna just Jeff has asked me to do some updates, because he is so busy with the pet count. So, I wanted to let have me let you know that the HHP Novus are going to be coming out sometime in February so keep on people look out for those THE PIT count is next Thursday and Friday. Um, so trainings are over for that. So we're pretty well, just organizing the teams and we'll have all that figured out next week, early next week. He's still asking for folks to let them know if they're out and about and they see any unhealthy neighbors or any encampment still, please let him know. So that will help us add to the when we go out and look for folks. It'll help us out a lot and I will put his email in the chat in case you if you have any information that you want to give them. And Jan, I had talked to Jeff and he said yes he would. He would like the sleeping bags and he would just like to know maybe we can get together to see how we can get them. So maybe you and him can talk about that unless you have somebody that can deliver him or however y'all want to work that out.

Rob Huff

Go ahead Jen.

Janet Runbeck

In the past Pierce County had a collecting room on Pacific Avenue in your county building on Pacific Avenue next to the health department. So is is there a collection room there that you know about?



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Rosemary Powers

Yes, I mean, we still have we're still getting stuff and then we do have room for them. So he had just said asked if they were if you could deliver them. So

Janet Runbeck

I will do will do. Thank you.

Rosemary Powers

Okay, and so we'll be there on Tuesday. Okay, and um, eight to 430 someone will be there.

Donna Stinson

Great. Thanks, Jan.

Rob Huff

We know those will get put to good use. Yeah, Donna, one question I had for you. Do you hit me? Did Jeff share how many folks have registered to and gone through the training to be volunteers for this year's count?

Rosemary Powers

So I don't know about how many. I know how many people have registered. I think the last time we looked it was about 180. Okay, volunteers, but I'm not sure I don't know if the cross reference has been made as to who's went to the training. Um, so we were hoping the numbers were were high and they seem to be so there's a lot of folks that have been doing it for years. And so some of them aren't taking the training because it's they I think they know and they're seasoned at what they do. So yeah, quite a few volunteers.

Rob Huff

All right, hopefully. Good luck to you guys getting getting everything coordinated for the logistics for that.

Thank you. Yeah. Let's shift

Rob Huff

over to updates. From the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.

Hey, everybody, go for it. Oh, sorry.



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Jennie Schoeppe

Oh, sorry. I'm, I'm used to going first Isaiah, on. Hi everybody. It's Jenny from this COVID Pierce County Health Department's just want to share that flu and RSV, the other illness respiratory illness you've been hearing a lot about our declining that's locally and across the nation. So that's really great news. Our COVID hospitalizations are down by about 10% More than 10% After since the last data reporting period. So things are looking calm. Please continue to you know get vaccinated. Encourage others to get vaccinated if you have questions about that or opportunities or how to find a vaccine or anything else like that. Just let me know I will provide you with all the information that I can. Just a reminder that we have a twice monthly email. It's it's got GOV Delivery as the system so it comes out from like the official looking TPC HD email, but I kind of just refer to it as our newsletter. It contains useful information for homeless service providers that you can pass on to folks. It went out a little late this round, but you should have received it on Wednesday. If you're not receiving that email and you want to be please reach out to me via email or drop your information in the chat, whichever you're more comfortable with. And I can add you to that as they and I work together on that to get communicable disease resources information in there anything related to environmental health. We try to pull in information and helpful links and resources from other colleagues here at the department and then put any events that we know of and just try to put those things all in one place and communicate them out to you all into our shelter partners and our reaching partners. So yeah, and then finally I just wanted to ask moving forward. What folks want to hear from me as someone who represents the communicable disease Division here at the department. So if folks, I'm putting people on the spot, but if you have thoughts during the meeting, put them in the chat. If you want to reach out to me via email and share some thoughts with me. I would love to hear from you so that I can bring the most relevant information to you at these weekly meetings. Thanks. Thanks, Jenny. I see there's a question. I'll I'll address that in the chat. So thanks, guys.

Isaiah

Yeah, that's that's pretty much what I wanted to add on to. I know, environmental health is newer to these conversations. And I've been coming to these meetings for about a month now. And I know Jenny's been coming for a couple of years. So she's a good old veteran. But the same goes for me. I don't have any updates at the moment about environmental health items. But if there are things that folks want to hear more about, as I'm coming to these meetings every week and there are specific questions that you might have for me in terms of like cold weather, hot weather, that kind of thing. Same thing, you can email me you can put in the chat. Just I'm open to hearing what your thoughts are.

Rob Huff

Great. Thanks. And we do appreciate having you here and I recognize him when it comes to COVID and the various viruses going around out there. It you know, things may be starting to calm down and that's great news. So so maybe that information slowly becomes less critical, but I do think the connection maintaining a good connection between those who are doing homelessness outreach, and



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like Richard mentions in the chat connecting with resources like Narcan, those kinds of things are going to be continued, needs going forward. So appreciate that and others will have thoughts, please address them in the chat. That'd be great. All right. So let me shift over to some quick advocacy updates. As a reminder during this section of the meeting, I tried to highlight opportunities for coalition members to participate at the city, the county and the state level in advocacy. And so briefly to come on City Council this week. They didn't have a meeting this previous Tuesday. They are back on next week, and they're doing a joint meeting with Tacoma Public Utilities on Tuesday. There's nothing that I see on that agenda that's specifically tied to homelessness and affordable housing. But I did want to call out that on Tuesday night at this regular city council meeting that starts at 5pm. They are hosting the community forum which provides an opportunity for folks from the coalition and the community at large to get in front of the council and talk for a few brief seconds about the issues that are impacting our community around homelessness affordable housing. So I do encourage folks to to consider if you have the time to do that Tuesday night to make comment during community forum Saturday. I see your hand up.

Sally Perkins

The study session is going to talk about the state level Blake decision and the question of whether the city should support re criminalizing in some form possession of drugs. And that does have an intersection with issues around homelessness because there are so many claims about drug use and homelessness going together. And it could depending on what the city decides to support. It could result if this law passes at the state level could result in a lot of unhoused people getting arrested and then getting cranked through the criminal legal system which will only make things worse for them. So for those of you who are worried about the intersection of the whole drug possession, criminal penalties, topic and homelessness, watching that study session, and hearing their conversation about it might be really illuminating.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thank you, Sally. And thank you for that correction. That's really critical. Theresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Sally, I was feeling really proud that our mayor had not signed on to that letter from Rob net. Are you saying that it's only because they haven't had time? To sign on? It's not a decision not to sign on?

Sally Perkins

The common business council and the police union and others are putting intense pressure on the city council not only to have this conversation, but to sign on the letter. And I think there is an intention to bring a resolution in some form to the meetings on the 31st. So the study session is like the lead up to that. There's a lot of misinformation being given to city council members about what happens when when you have a criminal penalty and how it motivates people to go into treatment which may be true in some cases is not true in a lot of cases where the therapeutic courts is the answer to that and to do to



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understand that you have to understand that therapeutic courts don't serve very many people are very selective in how they choose people, et cetera. So there are a ton of disparities that spill through this whole thing particularly on racial and ethnic grounds. So it's a it's this whole conversation is, is full of landmines. So it's really important to stay on top of it,

Theresa Power-Drutis

I think. So can we send you to represent a sounder thinking for their study study session? I mean, are they going to hear from anyone who's opposed to this thing?

Sally Perkins

Well, this study session doesn't take testimony. So only people have I wrote him a letter about therapeutic courts because I happen to know something about that. So I did that. Other people are contacting city council members that they know, et cetera, Community Forum, the night of the 24th, particularly if you watch the study session, and you know what they talked about? Could be an excellent opportunity to testify in person.

Theresa Power-Drutis

Thank you for that. Yeah.

Rob Huff

Agreed. Um, as always, with the Pierce County Council, we'll see their agenda later today. So nothing really to share that in that area right now. But I did want to mention related to my day job with the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance that there's a lot of activity taking place in Olympia this week. It's the second week of the legislative session. There are two bills related to rent fairness and rent stabilization that were introduced earlier this week that will have hearings next Tuesday. So so I will drop the link in the chat to a new web page that lions put together called rentfairness.org. That site provides an easy way for folks to go and send comments to their lawmakers. Whatever district you live in, regarding the need for rent stabilization statewide. So that's a great opportunity there and we are encouraging folks to sign in Pro on the two bills that will be heard in a hearing on Tuesday afternoon at four. As you can see, all of these things are converging on Tuesday. So Tuesday is gonna be a busy day next week. But the other thing I will mention briefly is that the Housing Alliance is also hosting housing advocate meetings, briefings on every Friday afternoon from two to three. The link to join those meetings, including this afternoon, too, is in the chat. And it's a great way if you have an interest in in advocating for housing affordable housing and funding for homeless programs and all of those things at the state level. It's a good idea to check out these Friday afternoon meetings. And if you're on the Housing Alliance email list on the advocates list, I've been spamming you under various names all this week with information about how you can get more involved in Olympia and appreciate everyone who is reading and taking action. So all right, so moving on with our agenda. I was going to offer a very brief update and Courtney can hop in on this as well as you would like to Courtney regarding the Pierce



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County comprehensive plan to end homelessness. When we spoke last week, there was discussion about a Tuesday afternoon special meeting of the advocates or of the advisory board to spend a couple hours talking about what recommendation the advisory board for the comprehensive plan to end homelessness was going to make to the county council regarding the unified regional approach and where and how that unified regional approach should best be set up in Pierce County. That meeting on Tuesday did not happen. So we have as a as a board rescheduled and spent time over the last week trying to figure out what would be the best time for that meeting to take place. And where are we landed is that on the afternoon of of January 30. So Monday afternoon, from three to 5pm there will be another ad hoc meeting of the advisory board to have to consider what the options best option for Pierce County should be for where to put the unified regional approach. I urge you if you have an interest to go look at the report as it exists. I will drop the link in the chat here in a moment to the page where you can go find out about the latest including meetings for the advisory board for the comprehensive plan. This was the first goal on the comp plan was to set up this unified regional approach or unified regional office. And so it's it's critical that we if we're going to make a significant change in how the effort to end homelessness is coordinated on a countywide basis. We need to get this right so I know some of you have commented to the advisory board with your suggestions already in writing others can do that as well if you have an interest but it is critical that we hear everybody's voices and send a good recommendation to the Pierce County Council. The Pierce County Council is going to be scheduled to hear this at at at a Human Services Committee meeting on February 7. So Courtney, anything you would add

Courtney Love

mostly just the same as last week. I think that the best answer might be the minority answer. So and the minority of the advisory board and so public engagement with this decision is vital.

Rob Huff

Yeah, and the last thing I'll say is that the meeting that takes place on the 30th there will be an opportunity to make public comment at the end of that meeting as well. So so it can always be interesting to listen to the conversation and where folks are landing on their decision but it also provides some opportunity to offer direct feedback during the meeting. All right. That was a lot of word salad. So thanks for hanging in there. Let's shift over to updates from the safe sites for all committee Jan. Thank you.

Janet Runbeck

I would like to use Wednesday's meeting at Holy Rosary an example of how effective this coalition can be. This coalition started the safe parking network. We started it. We got a grant from greater Tacoma Community Foundation we started a pilot program. It works. We've got a director of our program. The City of Tacoma, then was persuaded that since it does work, then they will use existing partners to have its own safe parking site. Because we have a Jeffrey Boyce, who has already had the experience of bringing in the neighbors to not possibly the best result but he told us about his experience of having



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a neighborhood meeting that did not necessarily go well. Some of us came up prepared to address the messaging issues that are shared by many misinformed soon to be neighbors. So Richard and Teresa and Rosemary and I were there to let the folks know that faith based organizations don't even need to tell the neighbors. Faith based organizations have a legal right based on the House bill. I think it's 1754 that was passed in June of 21. They can do it and it was an act of good intentions to bring in the neighbors. The not in my backyard sentiment was nearly at a high pitch sound at the beginning of the meeting. I think that others might agree that by the end of the meeting, the tone settled down quite a bit. Richard had the idea of suggesting that the room being around so not not the traditional audience in rows, facing one person attacking one person. There was a lot of attacks going on. It was more intimate and I think more effective so this coalition actually has had successes. You know, I hate to think that what we're fighting over is just the right to not die in your car, because you're homeless. It's just amazing to me, but we've got committees here in our coalition that work on messaging. So anything to do with improving messaging, any support that way. So we've got a new side coming on. Alan Brown is brilliant in reaching out to get support, advice, connecting with the safe parking network. So that being said, I'll pass it over to Paul and Paula is around and has anything to add. We recommend and want everybody to show up at our moon zoom meetings, apparently even on holidays. So, everybody's welcome. It's an open table. Paula, I see that you have turned your light on there. So I'll pass it over to you.

Paula Anderson

Yeah, I just want to reiterate that. Part of the process of getting the neighborhood's to accept and be partners with the church is this informational meeting that we have. You're right, Jan. We feel like the churches have the right to do the ministry that they want to do on their property. But it would be a lot easier if you had support and participation with the neighborhood, which is why we tried to do that and that was, that was one of the meetings that blew my hair back a little bit. I think pretty much everybody there. But like you said at the end, I think there were some people that felt like their concerns were being heard. And it was a much greater issue. So sometimes when you have those meetings, you're going to get to the root of what the issue is, and it has nothing to do with say parking. It has to do with their neighborhood and then feel a feeling like the church is participating in security and safety in the neighborhood. So that's what happened with that one, but yeah, it's and then in that way we can help and maybe help mitigate a little bit but

Rob Huff

yeah, thanks, everyone. And I do think the context for this as every community initially is going to have concerns I know I shared privately with with Richard, one of the challenges and everybody feels like this is kind of being happening to them until those conversations start. And so I'm glad to hear that temperature went down as the meeting went on. Because I think that's what happens frequently in communities where sites get set up. That's definitely what has happened with the different micro shelters around Tacoma where typically the neighborhoods had a lot of concerns. And then and then



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there was intentional work done to do reach out to the community and have that conversation and ongoing manner so that it became actually a community asset. So appreciate that. Chan. Yeah, Jay.

Jay Worley

I think that people need to remember that one of the reasons we're facing such adversity is that homelessness is a fear factor. And people are becoming afraid because our economy is kind of breaking up, and we're having problems and our societies reaching a point where they are afraid that tomorrow they could be there. And that fear of being there, makes them want to push it away and shove people away and close doors instead of help people. They fear if they help then they will get there. Faster. They fear that if they assist that they will be needing assistance soon themselves. So instead of maybe the best way to attack it is saying that as a community we can face this and help each other instead of harm each other because harming each other will only hurt it. And if we stand as a community and support each other, then we can end it instead. So if we start pushing that kind of unity is better factor during meetings, we might have more success, attack, hate with love, compassion and understanding. Try to bring empathy and show them that know that they're not next. They don't have to get into that position and helping people won't help you get there.

Rob Huff

Thank you for that, Jerry. All right. So let's shift over to any other committee updates for the coalition that need to be shared this week. All right, not hearing anything there. Let's shift over to talk about good trouble announcements. We've got 41 folks in the room. Is there something going on that we need to be aware of so that we can participate? Zoe, go ahead. Everyone.

Zoe Grieder

So to come, mutual aid had a stationary distribution event scheduled for next weekend, but my landlord is messing with me and my housemates really bad right now. So we're moving it ahead to February 12. We're going to do a little Valentine's theme and talk about community Love Community Care, loving your neighbors. But we will we'll have food. We have lots and lots of donations to distribute. We usually end up getting about 100 folks from the street. When that gets a little closer, we'll have fliers that we'd love help distributing. I know I talked about that before for this week by postpone that a second. As I said it's gonna be the 12 It'll be from 11 to four at People's Park. And yeah, we hope you can join us. It's it's a really fun time we put things out as people don't just kind of shop and hang out eat some good food and I think we're gonna have a little like Valentine making station and yeah, we would love to see people and would love help getting the word out.

Rob Huff

Thanks. Thank you, sorry. Anyone else with community announcements or good trouble? Items to share? Yes, Project Homeless Connect is coming up on the 27th. It is linked on the coalition website on the front page if you scroll down the list of upcoming meetings and opportunities so please do check



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that whether you're a vendor or you're helping send folks there so and again that's happening that coincides with the timing of the Point in Time Count. Anyone have any Yeah, go ahead roll screen.

Rosemary Powers

This is not a good trouble announcement. Other than it's wanting to be reminded myself I, a number of people have talked about events coming up where we could testify or put our oar in the water. And it would really be useful to me if you care a lot about the situation or you've made us note made it known to us to send out something to the whole coalition reminding us about this event. Coming up or when we can speak to it. I saw a candidate had to go off and he said Could somebody send me all the things I should be at? I didn't exactly say that but but it would help me because I do track those messages from the coalition list and I would be more likely to go there than to come back to the chat to try to be reminded.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Rosemary. And yeah, thank you, Matthew, that that is definitely what I have observed, too is that folks are once they become familiar with the details related to a site and feel like their concerns have been heard and addressed, then communities to tend to really step up and support shelter locations. So thank you all right, and anybody with a success story that would like they would like to share this morning? Yeah, Jan

Janet Runbeck

I just want to repeat the success story of Monday, Martin Luther King Day of Service, a group of staff from Tacoma, Pierce County Health Department. And some of us in this coalition got together did a cleanup called the city called Caleb, I emailed Caleb asking for the purple bags to be picked up on Tuesday. And it happened. I mean, don't Don't you love it when there's these little systems that are set up to address a very particular problem or issue. And then the thing works so I'm I am just really sort of overjoyed to know that we are so effective when everybody's on the same page.

Rob Huff

Thank you, Jan and Teresa.

Theresa Power-Drutis

I'm checking to see if Richard Yeah, Richard is still here. Richard, tell us about the card trick.

Richard Dorsett

Okay, this has happened twice now. Where we've included playing cards, and some of our distribution we included one of the toiletries, but then last week we were hanging out we ended I don't know where they came from. We had a bunch of playing cards, and we were rewarded with a card trick, a magic trick at the table where we were handing out supplies. So it's just kind of a nice, it has nothing to do



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with homelessness. But you give somebody a deck of cards and they show you a magic trick and that's just kind of a cool thing that happens when you're out there. So pretty pretty much enjoyed that.

Rob Huff

Yeah, thank you Richard. All right. So we are actually through today's agenda. I do want to carve out just a moment for folks to share feedback on today's meeting, if you want to put it in the chat or come on screen and comment about what went well. What needs to be done differently going forward. We're always looking for ways to try to improve these meetings and make them more valuable for people who take the time every Friday to attend. So if you have suggestions, that would be fantastic. And drop those in the chat or just raise your hand and we'd love to hear from you. Yeah, Lisa, you're muted right now. Lisa, just lino.

Lisa Coley

There we go. Just an introduction. I missed that in the beginning of the meeting. This is the first meeting I've attended. I just wanted to say hello, my name is Lisa Coley. I'm a social worker for common spirit or Virginia Mason Franciscan and was asked by Kim Barwell, who's the Care Management Director to attend the meetings I think Keith homecare has been attending. Yes. So I just wanted to say hello. I'm on shift today. So unfortunately I was seeing patients and not able to get here so nice. To be a part of the meeting.

Rob Huff

Great. It's great to have you here, Lisa, and we hope you can come back. Thank you. All right. So I'm not going to belabor the point here. We have actually wrapped up today's meeting 15 minutes early. So I would like to say thank you to everybody for hanging in there. And if you as always if you have an interest in helping plan upcoming meetings, we're going to have a group of us staying on this call to do that in about five minutes. But for everyone else, I hope you have a good weekend and we will see you next week. Thanks.