

# What are the best resources you use when you encounter someone in distress? What has been helpful and what hasn't?

Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 2.17.23

## Autobiography in Five Short Chapters

**I**

I walk down the street.  
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk  
I fall in.  
I am lost ... I am helpless.  
It isn't my fault.  
It takes me forever to find a way out.

**II**

I walk down the same street.  
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.  
I pretend I don't see it.  
I fall in again.  
I can't believe I am in the same place  
but, it isn't my fault.  
It still takes a long time to get out.

**III**

I walk down the same street.  
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.  
I see it is there.  
I still fall in ... it's a habit.  
my eyes are open  
I know where I am.  
It is my fault.  
I get out immediately.

**IV**

I walk down the same street.  
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.  
I walk around it.

**V**

I walk down another street.

*By Portia Nelson, 1993,  
There's A Hole in My Sidewalk*

**WOOT:** *The Lived Experience Coalition was mentioned and lauded yesterday during President's Equity Executive Order rollout.*

## Principles of effective outreach

- Consistency
- Important to over-communicate.
- Conversation and less official "documented" feeling.
- Services offered depend on what people are asking for, and what people need.
- In the end it's about "building love and relationships. Love is the real answer, not the system."
- It is important to communicate with the people you serve, to listen to them, to share your name with them, to take the time to show that you respect them as a person.
- We talked about the concept of "joining" which means to present yourself as an equal to the person in crisis. This comes in dress, in actions, in your conversation. This is important because it shows respect to the person.

- Help, but do not give out too much info concerning location because a sweep may come from it and then you start to lose trust.

### **Barriers to helping**

- Outreach and grant requirements are awkward when attempting to help and gain info.
- Part of the reason for not referring is the lack of a good resource list, since resources are constantly changing.
- The end of Pierce County rent assistance was a big blow, and Tacoma pro bono is short-staffed.

### **Resources that are most valuable**

- The Coalition website at Pchomeless.org
- Networking between providers and social networks.
- Some folks said that they count on individuals and groups like Richard Dorsett, Peoples Assembly, and other mutual aid groups that are helpful and nimble.
- FOB Hope- Van and items in the van help to gain trust. The more you can do with the first touch the better the chances.

### **Potential open spaces**

**RI International**, Julie Youngblood: We have 2 behavioral health crisis centers, one in Fife and one in Parkland. 2150 Freeman Road E Fife, 98424 and 253-584-2300

**New Hope Resource Center** has a Safe Parking program affiliated with local churches that puts people on a 30-60-90-day program with rehabilitative tasks to perform. There are requirements for the program, like tabs for vehicle and no felonies. Safe Parking should be considered as a resource for houseless people with cars.

### **Organizing ideas**

Discussion about organizing event with testimonials about sweeps that builds coalition with folks who are low information but not rabidly against homeless folks. Let's work with people who we could bring to our side!

### **Notes and Resources List**

**NAMI Advocacy Day** in Olympia. February 20th in Olympia. <https://www.namiwa.org/lobby-day>

**New grief group** for parents whose children died of drug overdose or violence. Contact Debbie Cox, Coxdc067@gmail.com

**LASA is seeking community support letters** to build the next stage of affordable housing at our Gravelly Lake Commons campus (25 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units). We'd like to ask everyone here to submit a letter if possible. We just need it on letterhead and signed. Please contact Shannon@lasawa.org for text of the letter.

### **Winter '22 Emergency Outreach Tracking Googledoc**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10Ec\\_bw5KKsFQidzRN7XkM6yea6vHzDOYf0m5IfjgdpU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10Ec_bw5KKsFQidzRN7XkM6yea6vHzDOYf0m5IfjgdpU/edit?usp=sharing)

**Delivering food to Union Avenue encampment** at 3:45 Tuesdays and Fridays. Takes less than 45 minutes. We will have soup, cocoa, oranges and supplies. All welcome. Supplies welcome too. Richard 253-442-3045

### **Three numbers for TRM Outreach** (Try numbers until someone picks up.)

Connect to an outreach specialist at the Tacoma Rescue Mission for emergency shelter. Outreach Team One: 253-883-1513, Outreach Team Two: 253-921-3063, Outreach Team Three: 253-433-0151

### **US Treasury Press Release Lauds Pierce County's Rental Assistance Program**

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1274>

If you haven't visited the Coalition website, you can take a look here:

<http://pchomeless.org>

### **Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness can be found here:**

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7309/Comprehensive-Plan-to-End-Homelessness>

### **Tacoma Encampment Removal page.**

<https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=133588>

**Tax Preparation Help.** Here is where you can check for VITA sites near you -

<https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/jsp/vita.jsp?zip=98424&lat=47.2324122&lng=-122.3473803&radius=25>

**Jennifer Ammons at NW Justice is interested in hearing of anyone who loses possessions** or is otherwise harmed by being swept from a location they genuinely did not know was within a "buffer" zone. [JenniferA@nwjustice.org](mailto:JenniferA@nwjustice.org)

### **Advocacy Resource List**

<https://leg.wa.gov>

<https://tvw.org>

WLIHA Advocacy pages - Take Action Now! <https://www.wliha.org/take-action>

2023 Public Policy Priorities <https://www.wliha.org/advocacy/2023-public-policy-priorities>

Join the weekly advocate calls on Fridays, 2-3pm on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsdumvrDMtHtSqWteCBB4VlDeAolIRnuCl>

### **Employment Opportunity**

**Arlington Drive**, serving unhoused youth ages 18-24. Please share with your networks.

Swing shift case manager <https://external-seattlemca.icims.com/jobs/14390/case-manager-ii%2c-arlington-drive-housing-program-%28swing-shift%29/job>

On call case manager <https://external-seattlemca.icims.com/jobs/13903/on-call-case-manager-lead-%28arlington%29/job>