

Should the Coalition shift to hold one meeting per month in person? Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 4.14.23

Miracle Fair

The commonplace miracle:
that so many common miracles take place.

An ordinary miracle:
Invisible dogs barking
in the dead of night.

One of many miracles:
a small and airy cloud
is able to upstage the massive moon.

Several miracles in one:
an alder tree reflected in the water,
And is reversed from left to right
and grows from crown to root
and never hits bottom,
though the water isn't deep.

A run-of-the-mill miracle:
winds mild to moderate
turning gusty in storms.

A miracle in the first place:
cows will be cows.

Next but not least:
just this cherry orchard
from just this cherry pit.
A miracle minus top hat and tails:
fluttering white doves.

A miracle, (for what else can you call it):
today the sun rose at three-fourteen a.m.
and will set tonight at one past eight.

A miracle, that's lost on us:
the hand actually has fewer than six fingers,
but still, it's got more than four.

A miracle, just take a look around:
the inescapable earth.

An extra miracle, extra and ordinary:
the unthinkable
can be thought

— *By Wislawa Szymborska*

Preliminary polling showed that a majority said they would attend a monthly in person meeting, but that number dropped to about a fifth of respondents when given the option of attending remotely. About half of respondents said their attendance in person or on zoom would vary with circumstances.

Pros

- How about at a library?
- There is real value to in-person interactions.
- Zoom allows for monitoring or passive participation.
- In-person does provide better option to talk directly to another person, to meet and chat.

- Heard that pre-COVID, in-person meetings were more diverse. It would be nice to recapture that. It would also be great to have more participation from people who are homeless.

Cons

- No to in person. Come to the social.
- Concern that in-person meetings might limit who can participate.
- Virtually is easier... especially as plates get full.
- Have been able to participate more with zoom meetings... if at home and don't feel well can participate for example.
- Like the option to jump in and out as need, to take care of other challenges and still attend.
- Far more participation and exchange of knowledge with zoom. Occasional times to get together for support and to network a little differently.
- We may lose a lot of side conversation and info in person that's included in Zoom chat.
- Distance and travel time might preclude some participants.
- 16 to 20% couldn't come in person. Would hate to say yes to something that eliminates 16 to 20 people.

Issues

- If we do meet in person, not doing it on Fridays would be great.
- In person sounds great, but there's a significant amount of additional work involved in hosting and managing an in-person (and even more hybrid) event.
- Running and attending hybrid meetings seems like a lot to manage. Predict that the same folks who regularly attend Thursday socializing opportunity would attend in-person and the rest would be on Zoom.
- Always like to connect with Coalition folks in person, but concerned about the additional strain on organizers and hosts.
- If in-person, the location would be very important. Might lose attendees from outside the Tacoma area.
- Some of the difference in people attending in the past and now is that some larger provider groups permitted staff to attend those meetings, and that hasn't been a general practice since covid

About Hybrid Meetings

- Do NOT stop the Zoom meetings. The convenience of Zoom meetings can't be overstated.
- Hybrid typically doesn't allow good view of the meeting room participants.
- Functional hybrid meetings require good tech support.
- Owl cameras work well with hybrid meetings. Two or three especially.
[<https://owllabs.com/products/meeting-owl->

3?currency=USD&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=Google%20Shopping]

- With hearing loss, zoom is preferred. Consider other disabilities. Hybrid meetings are the worst with hearing loss.
- Hybrid would be necessary. In person only would may participation too hard on too many people.

Other Solutions

- Provide opportunity to get together occasionally.
- Maintain online only meetings and add a complimentary, optional in-person meeting. Don't want our primary work to have barriers.
- Once a quarter may be better to make it more of an event, rather than a commodity.
- Quarterly - separate from Friday meeting, with other break outs and activities?
- What about starting with a quarterly in-person meeting?
- "Introverts for Quarterly Meetings" -- monthlies would make our heads explode.
- Quarterly meetings might work?

Notes and Resources List

New and Notable

Use Door Dash and not Lyft to earn Community Credits.

https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_council/city_council_news_releases/door_dash_community_credits

Link to take action for the Affordable Homes Act:

<https://housingalliance.salsalabs.org/affordablehomesact/index.html>

Please sign up for the inclement weather email list to help us plan and communicate about hot weather coming soon: <http://pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>

Link to the "Up From Homelessness" program put on by City Club.

<https://fb.watch/jVdzV4vEVX/>

Information on Seattle's JustCare: <https://wearepda.org/programs/justcare/>

Info about our 9 Family Resource Centers: <https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/family-support-partnership/family-support-centers>

Save the date: Free streaming of documentary "A Reckoning in Boston" is co-sponsored by A. Philip Randolph Institute, Tacoma chapter; League of Women Voters of Tacoma Pierce County, Our homeless Coalition, and Shiloh Baptist Church. Free at home screening May 13, 14, 15, with community conversation at Shiloh Baptist Church.

Need good street shoes. Nativity House, St Vincent DePaul, TRM all need shoes. Shoes have a hard life if the feet are always in them 24/7.

Community Spotlight Opportunity: Tell the coalition about your organization's good work. Contact tpdrutis@nctacoma.org to schedule a brief presentation. 😊

Recent Press

Phoenix Official says affordable housing prevents deaths.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/phoenixs-chief-heat-officer-affordable-housing-key-preventing-heat-deaths-2023-4>

Fundraisers and Events

Laurie Davenport's homeless art work entitled *The Unseen* is on display at Marlene's Deli. Go look. Held over through April.

FUSION is holding a luncheon fundraiser on May 9th in Federal Way. Our keynote speaker is UW Professor Gregg Colburn, who will present key findings from his book, Homelessness is a Housing Problem. His co-author, Clayton Page Aldern, according to his bio, provided data analysis and program evaluation for homelessness programs in Pierce County. If you are interested in attending, please email me at Melinda.lowe@fusionfederalway.org If you are unable to attend, the link to the book synopsis is here -- <https://homelessnesshousingproblem.com>.

Resources and Needs

Housing Alliance Advocacy Links

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

Advocacy resources: 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/tZUsdumvrDMtHtSqWteCBB4VIDeAollRnuCI>

<https://leg.wa.gov>

<https://tvw.org>

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

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

Here is the "Free Vaccines for Uninsured Adults" FLYER (UPDATED):

<https://www.tpchd.org/home/showpublisheddocument/1715/638040325432530000>

Foot care kits are available for outreach - just email me if you want some (thank you Sally, Sam, Health department folk, and all others who helped put these together).

tpdrutis@nctacoma.org

Free Food and Resources, Saturday 10~12 everyone welcome no requirements or ID needed you can pick up for others 4819 S 12 St., Tacoma Greater Heights Church across from Delong Elementary School

At Food is Free we do a weekly food rescue on Tuesday mornings at 11 am at The Hope Point Church, 6511 S C St., Tacoma 98408. If you need fresh produce for outreach please come see us. It goes in a couple of hours so please come before we open at 11.

Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at

<https://www.pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>

Winter '22 Emergency Outreach Tracking Googledoc

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10Ec_bw5KKsFQidzRN7XkM6yea6vHzD0Yf0m5IfjgdpU/edit?usp=sharing