

## What are some key topics to feature in upcoming coalition meetings?

Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 5.5.23

### Just as many on the street as always

Camping ban is a failure. Cat and Mouse  
on Hilltop. No consequences, no responsibility.  
Lots of individual people sleeping in doorways, etc ...

Camping ban is mostly alienating and traumatizing  
unhoused people now more resistant  
to offers of help or options for shelter...

People sleeping among the boulders  
tens of thousands of dollars spent  
Boulders are Soviet-era brutalist architecture...

— *Richard Dorsett and Sally Perkins*

### Topics for Discussion

- Where is the money?
- How can groups better coordinate?
- How do we create consistent form of revenue to house people and keep them housed?
- How can providers with outreach teams better collaborate?
- How to improve Coordinated Entry?
- What are the transportation issues to connect folks to services?
- How can we balance “right now” immediate outreach help like water and hand warmers and “down the road” help that changes people’s circumstances?
- How do we get people into MH and SUD services faster?

### Spotlight Suggestions

- Tenant Bill of Rights initiative.
- More about DV housing and outreach.
- Sexual assault outreach, what groups/services are available?
- Dana Peterson, Catholic community Services.
- Alan will present on Holy Rosary Safe Parking.
- More spotlighting and attention to workforce development work.

### Other Ideas and Areas of Concern ...

- Report back from the City every time they do a sweep, the City may say it’s a success because they’re gone, but can we get a human impact assessment?

- Can we come up with some sort of directory structure so people on the call can identify themselves as a resource and be able to re-find resources after the call is over. Maybe a resource corner the last 10 minutes of the meeting to help new people announce themselves or ask for help.
- More housing for the aging. More housing for families with children. What are cities and county doing. Hearing from companies building low income.
- Service providers need 24-hour, direct access to available resources - immediate help for clients rather than getting stuck on a wait list with no follow up, warm handoffs to help and transitional housing.
- Don't forget homelessness prevention, families with children and elders in crisis.
- By name list, to reduce inefficiencies in providing services to folks in need.
- Corporatization of houses and rental complexes, resulting in rapid increase in rent, lower accountability by landlords, and worse.
- Where is the action on the coming and happening grey wave of older homeless? We keep talking but where's the policy?
- Primary topic of discussion was the real need for family friendly shelter options.
- "We're worshipping the God of Coordinated Entry but it doesn't work the way we're doing it now." Need a thorough assessment.

## Notes and Resources List

### *New and Notable*

**Family Mental Health Wellness Event.** Bethel Learning Center, 21818 38th Ave E, Spanaway. MAY 13th, 11am to 2pm. Contact Courtney Chandler with any questions: cchandler@tpchd.org

**Mental Health First Aid.** More info at <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/>

**Workshop #1:** FREE workshop. MAY 6th (TOMORROW), all day. 110 Train St. SE in Orting. Registration link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeShA6vYZREvw3N4ImBPH\\_BLPa1zQOHeBi5AOaa4sOwFyZu0Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeShA6vYZREvw3N4ImBPH_BLPa1zQOHeBi5AOaa4sOwFyZu0Q/viewform)

**Workshop #2:** FREE workshop. MAY 13th, all day. 14205 215th Ave. E. Bonney Lake.

Registration link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cjCd5Wysl3V5O9RoRG06K4CXnhwyBHm61xTQZEzbOjc/edit>

### **All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness**

Executive Summary page: <https://www.usich.gov/fsp/executive-summary>

One-page summary sheet:

[https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Summary\\_of\\_All\\_In.jpg](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Summary_of_All_In.jpg).

The full plan is at: <https://www.usich.gov/fsp>.

### **Surgeon General's Report: Our epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation.**

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>

**Senior Farmers Market Program 2023.** Call ins are welcome, as are paper applications which can be requested at (253) 798-4600. ONLINE applications are strongly encouraged. (800) 562-0332, Monday - Friday; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/653/Senior-Farmers-Market-Program>

**27th LD Town Hall registration:**

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WALEGHDC/bulletins/358c0ca>

**Community Spotlight Opportunity:** Tell the coalition about your organization's good work. Contact [tpdrutis@nctacoma.org](mailto:tpdrutis@nctacoma.org) to schedule a brief presentation. 🗣️

**Recent Press**

**"Controversial Pierce County Homeless Village being challenged."**

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/controversial-pierce-county-homeless-village-is-being-challenged-here-s-what-we-know/ar-AA1aKZyJ?ocid=hpmsn&cvid=fc9a6b4c9a514e3881a8ea5c1404b507&ei=21>

**Fundraisers and Events**

**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](mailto:Melinda.lowe@fusionfederalway.org) If you are unable to attend, the link to the book synopsis is here -- <https://homelessnesshousingproblem.com>.

**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.

**Ongoing Resources and Needs**

**Need good street shoes.** No more sad feet. Nativity House, St Vincent DePaul, TRM all need shoes. Shoes have a hard life if the feet are in them 24/7.

**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/tZUsdumvrDMtHtSqWteCBB4VlDeAoIIrNuCI>  
<https://leg.wa.gov>

<https://tvw.org>

**Catholic Community Services Safe Parking at Holy Rosary, a 90-day program to work on housing, opened this week.** Need to call for screening, no drive ups. Referral phone: (253) 719-9333, 9 AM to 5 PM Monday – Friday. Eligibility:

- City of Tacoma residents
- Submit to background check (specific crimes against persons screened out)
- Driver's license and proof of ownership of car
- Families or individuals welcome
- No RVs or trailers at this time

Priority referrals taken from City of Tacoma HEAL team, or outreach teams from The Rescue Mission and Comprehensive Life Resources

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

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

**Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at**

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