

What should the Coalition prioritize in 2024?

Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 1.5.24

Stubborn Ounces

(To One Who Doubts the Worth of Doing Anything If You Can't Do Everything)

You say the little efforts that I make
will do no good: they never will prevail
to tip the hovering scale
where Justice hangs in balance.
I don't think I ever thought they would.
But I am prejudiced beyond debate
in favor of my right to choose which side
shall feel the stubborn ounces of my weight.

— Bonaro W. Overstreet. *Hands Laid upon the Wind*. New York, NY: Norton; 1955.

Suggested Priorities for 2024

- NIMBY issue and how we can appeal to the community through media connections to change the narrative.
- Building those relationships so that more members of the community also care & speak up is just as important as media outlets.. I always name our unhoused neighbors during the prayers for healing at the synagogue. I was told that on the rare occasion I was absent, my friend named them for me.
- It would be nice if we as a Coalition pushed back on the media when they publish exaggerated and misleading stories. They greatly effect the public. The Coalition has a strong voice.
- Does reemergence of Pierce County Human Services Coalition mean that there are now two sets of coalition meetings to attend? What is relationship between their work and ours?
- Can converting underutilized properties and abandoned buildings be a bigger part of the solution? Remembered how there used to be more direct-action style occupations of buildings before the police were so militarized and property values so gentrified. Also LIHI has converted four buildings recently between Tacoma and Fife.
- Have a strategic approach to testifying at city and county, or setting up in-person meetings with gov't folks where we seek different people to commit to testifying or meeting at specific times and on specific policies.
- Also discussed personal commitment to more state testifying with thanks to Cynthia for her suggestions. And also commitment to speaking with members of personal networks to encourage accurate information.

- We appreciate educational talks like the one today by Cynthia.
- We need to gather resources so we can better serve those in need. The 211 system is important but doesn't meet the critical needs.
- Stop camping ban. Set up group to attend council meetings and committee meetings to keep insisting the camping ban be ended.

Notes and Resources List

New and Notable

Pierce County Human Services Coalition Meeting: January 16th 10-11:30 Community Health Care Coalition, 1202 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Tacoma, WA 98405. The building is served by LINK, bus lines #28, 57. CHC access: enter from rear/parking garage side of building. The rear door is off the alley between MLK and L. Walk past the urgent care and take the hallway on the right towards the laboratory, before the navigator desks/pharmacy. The meeting room is tucked away and the other outside doors are not opened to the public yet, unless they are making an exception for this meeting.

Legislative Roster link: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/Rosters/Members>

Point in Time count Info: <https://piercetacoma.pointintime.info/>

Coats of Many Colors — we are on a coat soliciting, acquiring and buying binge, to contribute for the January 25 Point in Time distribution opportunity. Good quality winter coats can be acquired at the Goodwill outlet store and similar distribution sites, and those extras no longer needed that fill your closets are welcome. Initial goal is 100 coats, but we hope to go beyond that. Drop off at our porch at 812 North Ainsworth, or get in touch and we will pick them up as convenient. Richard (253) 442-3045.

Tacoma Libraries have now started their warm clothing drive that will go to TRM. As a warming center we do provide hot tea & cocoa. Tacoma Needle exchange has given us some limited supplies of Bomba socks and emergency blanket, but we are always in need of gloves, hats. etc for our warming stations.

Stacey Soltoff just joined the board of Associated Ministries. If you're reaching out to me as board member of Associated Ministries, my personal email is stacey.soltoff@gmail.com. or call/text 703.801.7608 If it's for my work as a housing case manager w Aspen Court, stacey.soltoff@lihi.org

Free Covid Test Kit Links

Here is the link to order at home COVID tests from the Fed Gov't:

<https://www.covid.gov/tools-and-resources/resources/tests>

If you're w/ an org or agency and need test kits, please reach out to our testing team at: epitesting@tpchd.org

Blind or Vision Impaired Covid Tests <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/now-available-free-home-covid-19-tests-people-who-are-blind-or-have>

Free adult vaccines:

<https://www.tpchd.org/home/showpublisheddocument/1715/638163732748330000>

TPCHD respiratory illness dashboard: <https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/provider-resources/respiratory-illness>

FLU info: <https://www.tpchd.org/Home/Components/Blog/Blog/32768/333>

RSV info: <https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/immunization/diseases-and-vaccines/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv>

FOB Hope fundraiser is January 20th, 5pm-9:30 pm at the Puyallup Elks Lodge. Theresa Power-Drutis is coordinating a coalition table. tpdrutis@nctacoma.org

Sign up for Housing and Homeless Adocacy Day January 30th.

<https://secure.everyaction.com/RwWmyBVnCEm4vThBztxSg2>

Interested in spearheading a local Laundry Love?

Contact Theresa Power-Drutis. <https://laundrylove.org>

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

Recent press

Homelessness Rose Sharply in 2023. Congress Must Act in 2024.

<https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/congress-housing-report-emergency-2024-rcna130529>

Ongoing Resources and Needs

SVdP is willing to store any items for sharing- including massive amounts of socks. We have systems in place so outreach workers can pick up supplies every day between 10am-5pm. Just text Dionne. 253-355-5868

Link for the Coalition's cold weather resources page: www.craft.me/s/f0GVFmAubX8YUg

Outreach and Supply Need/Share Form:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Kh2OBOLT-SXN8cq7L7Z1Bb04iXxCf6Nfv_RBP-FOSZk/edit?usp=sharing

Free wound care clinic every Friday afternoon, TNE clinic at the STD room at T-PCHD on S 37th & Pacific. Spread the word.

Safe Sites

<https://ss4a.pchomeless.org>

Outreach Supply Need and Share form: <https://forms.gle/2zfK8Y5JvC1K5eXLA>

Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at

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

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

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