**GH / KP Housing & Homelessness Coalition - May 16, 2024 - Agenda**

**Pierce County Human Services - Valeri Almony**

**Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept - Jennie Schoeppe**

**Back to School 2024 - Aug. 17th - Bob / Chandra**

**Hand Tools for FBPS4Kids Farm…**

**Presentations:**

**Jan Runbeck -** Health Cost of Being Housing Insecure, How Medical Debt is contributing to Homelessness and Impact of Poor Nutrition on Homelessness Health

**Family Promise of Pierce County - Steve Decker / CEO -**

FPPC’s interest in supporting the Key Peninsula and what we on the KP can do to help.

Ash Nagz Shelter Hub,

**\*Food Sustainability Crisis -**  The need for food banks across Western Washington is greater than ever. According to Food Lifeline, food bank visits have increased by 63% this year with 1.6 million families and individuals finding themselves food insecurity. But with increasing needs has come a decrease in donations.

**Coalition Updates:**

**\* May 9 - 18th** - [National Police Week is celebrated on the week of May 15th, under President Kennedy’s decree to honor the men and women who risk their lives every day in the line of duty](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=4e4d54c18b76eb63JmltdHM9MTcwOTUxMDQwMCZpZ3VpZD0zZGU5Y2U1ZS1lNDczLTYyYzYtMzMzMy1kYTc0ZTVjOTYzNzUmaW5zaWQ9NTc4Ng&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=3&fclid=3de9ce5e-e473-62c6-3333-da74e5c96375&psq=national+police+week+2024&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9uYXRpb25hbHRvZGF5LmNvbS9uYXRpb25hbC1wb2xpY2Utd2Vlay8&ntb=1)[1](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=c1148ec263a647ccJmltdHM9MTcwOTUxMDQwMCZpZ3VpZD0zZGU5Y2U1ZS1lNDczLTYyYzYtMzMzMy1kYTc0ZTVjOTYzNzUmaW5zaWQ9NTc4Nw&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=3&fclid=3de9ce5e-e473-62c6-3333-da74e5c96375&psq=national+police+week+2024&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9uYXRpb25hbHRvZGF5LmNvbS9uYXRpb25hbC1wb2xpY2Utd2Vlay8&ntb=1).

**\*May 21 - Property Tax Exemption Seminar.** For low income seniors and people with disabilities. Gig Harbor Civic Center, 10am. Learn how to save money on property taxes at a Property Tax Exemption Seminar

**\*June 8th -**  Food Backpacks 4 Kids “Food 4 All”, **Creviston Valley Farm Grand Opening** - “Lady Bug Release Event”/ Farm Tour 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Volunteers Needed. Please contact

***June 8th - The Mustard Seed Project Fund Raiser - : Saturday, June 8 from 4 to 8 PM at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.* There will be live music from the Michael Crane Band, delicious food from Gallucci's, and great company. Volunteers are needed with set up, day-of tasks and clean up. To volunteer, please do so here:** [**https://forms.gle/kxKsQ1eRAMjixtd99**](https://forms.gle/kxKsQ1eRAMjixtd99)

***Madysen McLain -* Transportation/Volunteer Manager Cell- (253)-884-2216**

**volunteers@themustardseedproject.org**[**themustardseedproject.org**](http://themustardseedproject.org/)

**Jun 11th - Tacoma Pro Bono Legal Aid Pop Ups -**

**KPCS 10-12:00p.m., Mustard Seed 1:00-3:00 p.m., GH Civic Ctr 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

**\*Pierce County Library - Key Center** - meeting room is available for free to library card holders by reservation during library open hours.

Contact Jessica Widner, 253-548-3511 [www.mypcls.org](http://www.mypcls.org/)

**\*Hispanic Community Newsletter Update -**

**\*\*\*You Know Me Now Podcast** [**www.youknowmenow.com**](http://www.youknowmeknow.com) **-** A Seattle based storytelling/podcast project giving voice to those marginalized in our community and those reaching out in service. When we listen to those living different lives or views from our own, we begin a journey of understanding. An understanding of not only those around us, but also ourselves. More to Come.

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| **Current Job Opportunities** | Pierce County, WAApply online at [**www.piercecountywa.org/jobs**](https://www.piercecountywa.org/jobs) |  |
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[Pierce county](https://sides-sip-jx6.craft.me/f0GVFmAubX8YUg) **“Inclement Weather (heat/cold) Shelters**

* KP: Waypoint Church North (12719 134th Ave. NW) is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mon.-Fri. For information, call (253) 853-7878.
* KP: Key Peninsula Civic Center (17010 S. Vaughn Rd. NW) is open daily from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. A volunteer will be on site if temperatures are forecast to drop below 35 degrees for two or more consecutive days. For information, eprep@kpciviccenter.org and office@kpciviccenter.org.
* GH: Chapel Hill Church Warming Center. 7700 Skansie Ave, Gig Harbor. Will open as necessary.

Enter Door D, follow signs. If doors are not open upon arrival, call 253-405-2829.

* GH Library is open daily, subject to change based on road closures.
* KP Civic Center hosts monthly PEP-C meetings covering “Emergency Preparedness” for neighborhoods. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday each month, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Whitmore Room.

## **\*Chapel Hill Lay Counseling and support groups -** affordable/sliding scale non-clinical counseling, free support groups for life challenges for youth and adults. <https://www.chapelhillpc.org/connect/support/>

## **\*\*Spring Faith and Finances course** - Chapel Hill Church in Gig Harbor is offering another course **Wednesday evenings beginning March 13 for ten weeks**! Invite any participants wanting to learn some basic financial literacy, budgeting skills and support achieving their financial goals even with very low incomes. Each participant is assigned an “ally” to go through the material with them as well as offer regular encouragement and light accountability and there are incentives for completing coursework. Please reach out to Carolyn Cleair, the coordinator, if you have any questions or people to refer to the course. carolyn.cleair@gmail.com

**\*Pierce County Human Services now accepting applications for “Summer Intern Positions”**

[**www.piercecountywa.org/job**](http://www.piercecountywa.org/jobs)s

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## **\*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.** The U.S. is getting close to the July 16 transition to [988](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kZLfB4rU6cVUjkiSenvsLktapL9PLVR_hByS0nhhfnU3RV3LG6YfomVeOOXm_NedmjzKE8uaAQkHlew9e2o9p-riUtHbtK3UIJHAmAn3EId9c_t-7_2HhvFiRTo_sMF91jwQ3n2O_creLan3o6-YcNNZYr0DsqCLFkJoUVWkXzUcOH9ktB1JxFZcUzyeRz9M_TF5nfBjlzMXi8Ai2bJFLsddjr9If03pM3ghc-Zb1pMEjNFW8dy3l1laiFvL86bjXlIzWGWbeWEPlo3ywquCq3MBZw1SL0fIio9olqoIj-9m3DMY5OqLLQ==&c=mz6fW9SQjsygOylKGeFIpXUW9KuTBn-YwL3aya_o3vzwdhjH3NYVtg==&ch=6bYBqczNlpwW3fPOESOiV13G608Cwn1HX5jrRDYBYZXSRACrMi51vQ==) – the easy-to-remember number to reach the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This transition is an important step to strengthening and transforming the crisis care continuum in the U.S. Find out more below.

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## **\*\*TPCHD - WA State Department of Health unveils Strong Start, a new statewide data system that supports child development *The free, secure online tool helps families track children’s development from birth through age 5***

## OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is pleased to announce the launch of the state’s new universal developmental screening system, [Strong Start](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vZG9oLndhLmdvdi95b3UtYW5kLXlvdXItZmFtaWx5L2luZmFudHMtYW5kLWNoaWxkcmVuL2hlYWx0aC1hbmQtc2FmZXR5L2RldmVsb3BtZW50YWwtc2NyZWVuaW5nIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTAxNi44NDE0MjM1MSJ9.WbbvZHpMSEPRAMkRAN4pTW_dua8R4QJO6bIS6CpX_m8/s/1121713882/br/228140757042-l). It’s a free online tool where parents, caregivers, and providers can securely store, share, and track children’s developmental screening information from birth through age 5.

By creating a centralized and secure location for sharing developmental information, Strong Start offers families and health care providers the opportunity to collaborate to best support each child’s unique development and make sure they find any needed support. Regular screenings show how children are doing with language, movement, thinking, and interacting with others. It’s important because the brain develops faster between birth and age 5 than any other stage.

“Universal developmental screenings play a critical role in ensuring all children have the best possible chance at a healthy future by monitoring important milestones in their speech, play, and motor skills,” said Michele Roberts, Assistant Secretary for Prevention and Community Health, DOH. “Strong Start empowers parents and caregivers to take direct action in their child’s health while also ensuring they can find the necessary resources for their children to thrive.”

Parents and caregivers can add Strong Start as a service to their [Secure Access Washington](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vc2VjdXJlYWNjZXNzLndhLmdvdi9teUFjY2Vzcy9zYXcvc2VsZWN0LmRvIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTAxNi44NDE0MjM1MSJ9.-kTNURC5bOF2PdvO4vOOCQHM5qnpWQa2ERLBZER54bk/s/1121713882/br/228140757042-l) accounts. From there, they can easily enter their child’s completed developmental screening results and share them with authorized health care providers of their choosing. Parents and caregivers can also use links to find screening tools within Strong Start if a child has not completed a developmental screening with their health care provider.

The [DOH website](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmRvaC53YS5nb3YvIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTAxNi44NDE0MjM1MSJ9.eXd97y83q3Qjv3eFTSpLBtRPwJGewWUAe2SezJ1HO5Y/s/1121713882/br/228140757042-l) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. [Find us on Facebook](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHA6Ly93d3cuZmFjZWJvb2suY29tL3BhZ2VzL1dhc2hpbmd0b24tU3RhdGUtRGVwYXJ0bWVudC1vZi1IZWFsdGgvMTE3NzYyMTU4MjcwODk2IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTAxNi44NDE0MjM1MSJ9.q2yzL3q6zHSzJ56LvycSVGz3sPL7AaD9eDJm5niYrLc/s/1121713882/br/228140757042-l) and [follow us on Twitter](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vdHdpdHRlci5jb20vd2FkZXB0aGVhbHRoIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTAxNi44NDE0MjM1MSJ9.61htcWkMb1PTJ-RDui9wLI-iebP8mAjKk5xQsZpVF5U/s/1121713882/br/228140757042-l). Sign up for the DOH blog, [Public Health Connection](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vbWVkaXVtLmNvbS93YWRlcHRoZWFsdGgiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMDE2Ljg0MTQyMzUxIn0.2loEFt6V6h5voxtPRQnEyHfDH8bbYzT8XUvJwSL2J-Y/s/1121713882/br/228140757042-l).

[Visit the DOH Newsroom](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmRvaC53YS5nb3YvTmV3c3Jvb20iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMDE2Ljg0MTQyMzUxIn0.II4at-VzV3aQGQ4HsMaLbkGwAsv3iFemJ0zfoBfVgvA/s/1121713882/br/228140757042-l) for all news releases. - [Subscribe to get news releases in Spanish](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vcHVibGljLmdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5LmNvbS9hY2NvdW50cy9XQURPSC9zdWJzY3JpYmVyL25ldz90b3BpY19pZD1XQURPSF8xNiIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEwMTYuODQxNDIzNTEifQ.J15k6KvAiHmaJfAPKM5NEE2Mx5cK2sOoMxam3LPiT3w/s/1121713882/br/228140757042-l).

## **Emergency Food Network Update -**

## Since it’s conception, EFN has grown from serving 4 food programs to over 75 food program throughout Pierce County. In 2022, EFN distributed 13,000,000 pounds of food to our partner food programs. These programs supported over million visits, an increase of 43% since 2021.

## While EFN has consistently served the community by providing nourishing food, the need continues to grow. Our current warehouse and footprint can no longer accommodate this rate of growth. We have reached our capacity.

## Our current warehouse is 17,000 square-feet with an additional 3,200 square-feet in our 747 warehouse adjacent to our main building. Due to the limitations of this space, we need to shift product to make more room constantly, and our warehouse is unable to operate at maximum efficiency due to this overcrowding.

## The new warehouse will be able to store dry goods increasing our storage capacity by 40%. With this additional storage space we will be able to seek out and purchase more fresh and frozen produce, protein, and dairy products, the foods most frequently requested by food pantry guests.

## **Read the full Capacity Campaign** [**here**](https://www.efoodnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Case-Statement-5.9.23.pdf)

**\* Emergency Food Network - UPDATE on new warehouse/growth.**

* EFN broke ground on the new warehouse in summer 2023 – and we expect building completion in the coming months!
* The new warehouse will increase storage capacity by 40%, utilizing lots of vertical storage on a 21,500-square-foot floor
* The new warehouse will also greatly increase our efficiency –
	+ No more moving orders around because they can’t all fit, no more moving food from rented offsite storage to EFN main – this saves us thousands of dollars in fuel, staff time, and rental costs
* These improvements are sorely needed – visits to our Partner Programs were up 30% compared to 2022 (up 95% compared to 2019, the last ‘normal’ year)

EFN is the backbone of the emergency food system in Pierce County. The new warehouse will help us meet the urgent need in the community right now, as well as whatever challenges may come our way in the coming years!

# TACOMA RESCUE MISSION:

## **IMAGINING NEW, INNOVATIVE & DIGNIFIED WAYS TO CARE FOR OUR CHRONICALLY UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS**

## Thank you for expressing interest in staying informed about the progress on the community for chronically homeless individuals that the Tacoma Rescue Mission has undertaken. Progress is continuing to move forward, even when it’s not as fast as I wish it could be. Here is a little update for you on where things stand.

##

## The Mission’s engineering team completed our Conditional Use Permit application in December, and now a hearing date has been set for April 29th through the first week of May. Hopefully, this means that we will have our decision on our permits by the end of June. Once we have a favorable decision, we will move forward toward site prep and groundwork (clearing, water, sewer, electrical, roads etc.). We feel confident in our application because, in all of the county code regulations, we are meeting or exceeding every standard, whether that is not impacting any wetland boundaries, saving old growth trees, providing ample parking, creating buffers etc. This is important because we want to show that we are being the best neighbor possible, as well as treating our future guests with the best possible dignified community to live in.

##

Our chronically homeless neighbors deserve dignity, care, and love. Through the Pierce County Village, we are so excited to imagine and implement new and innovative ways to care for and address the unique barriers of our neighbors experiencing chronic homelessness. In doing so, we are shaping a brighter future for our community and for all of Pierce County Community Village Model**A**

**COMMUNITY OF HOPE FOR PIERCE COUNTY -** Pierce County leaders are working to establish a planned community of micro homes, work opportunities, and onsite physical and mental health care, patterned after the stunningly successful Community First! Village near Austin, Texas. This new community would address the biggest challenge to homelessness in Pierce County: permanent housing for the chronically homeless. No homeless housing strategy is credible without addressing the chronically homeless. Pierce County commissioned an advisory board to make recommendations on the feasibility and merits of the Pierce County Village project. The findings on his advisory board were overwhelmingly positive. house findings include: Pierce County commissioned an advisory board to make recommendations on the feasibility and merits of the Pierce County Village project. The findings on his advisory board were overwhelmingly positive. hose findings include:

\*The environmental concerns have all been addressed in a way that is beyond the minimum needed environmentally to proceed with the project.

\*The impact of the village development on the environment and land use is significantly less than the impact single-family housing would have, which is what the land is currently zoned for.

\*The operations and capital funding budgets are solid.

\*This is a fantastic opportunity to serve our most chronically homeless, and there are no other barriers from the Mission to serving all people who want help.

# PIERCE TRANSIT RUNNER

Pierce Transit Runner is now available in [*Transit*](https://www.piercetransit.org/transit), Pierce Transit’s all-in-one app to plan, track and pay for rides. Thanks to this new integration, riders can for the first time plan and pay for trips that combine Pierce Transit’s on-demand and regular bus services. [Read more here](https://piercetransit.org/news-releases/?id=691).

## RUNNER MEANS ON-DEMAND TRANSIT

With one simple smartphone app and just a few taps, Pierce Transit Runner will pick you up and drop you off in certain areas where a bus may not be available – all for the same low public transit fare. Convenient, fast, and affordable on-demand transportation is at your fingertips to help you get to work, school, shopping or connect to local buses or regional rail.

[What is Runner?](https://www.piercetransit.org/runner#whyride) | [Hours and location](https://www.piercetransit.org/runner#hours) | [How to ride](https://www.piercetransit.org/runner#howtoride) | [Fares](https://www.piercetransit.org/runner#fares) | [Accessibility](https://www.piercetransit.org/runner#accessibility) | [Things to know](https://www.piercetransit.org/runner#thingstoknow) | [FAQs](https://www.piercetransit.org/runner#faq)

## WHAT IS RUNNER?

Convenient
Use your phone to tell Pierce Transit Runner where you are and where you want to go. Runner pairs riders headed in the same direction to ensure faster service. Also, with your ORCA card, you can transfer easily to or from a bus.

Fast
Booking your ride is quick and a Runner will pick you up in about 15 minutes! The app will send you an approximate arrival time for your vehicle and you can track your driver in real-time.

Affordable
Ride the Runner for the same cost as a Pierce Transit bus trip. Also, Runner doesn’t raise prices during peak hours, so you can rely on the same great pricing whenever you ride!

Transit Options
The app will list your best transit choice based on your pickup and drop-off points—in some cases that may be a trip on the bus or another transit service.

**Resource Links / Materials**

* **Chapel Hill Lay Counseling and support groups -** [**https://www.chapelhillpc.org/connect/support/**](https://www.chapelhillpc.org/connect/support/)
* **Greater Lakes Mental Health** [**www.glmhc.org**](http://www.glmhc.org)
* **Refugee Women’s Alliance -** [**www.rewa.org**](http://www.rewa.org)
* **Legal Aid** [**www.tacomaprobono.org**](http://www.tacomaprobono.org)
* **Tacoma Rescue Mission** [**www.trm.org**](http://www.trm.org)
* **MDC** [**www.mdc-hope.org**](http://www.mdc-hope.org)
* **Work Force Central** [**www.workforce-central.org**](http://www.workforce-central.org)
* **Blue Star Families** [**www.bluestarfam.org**](http://www.bluestarfam.org)
* **A Place Called Home” by David Ambroz**
* **Violet Sees www.violetsees.org**
* **“Love in the Time of Fentanyl”** [**www.meaningfulmovies.org**](http://www.meaningfulmovies.org)
* **Associated Ministries Programs** [**https://associatedministries.org/**](https://associatedministries.org/)
* **Miracle Messages - reach lost family -** [**www.1800MISSYOU.org**](http://www.1800missyou.org/)
* **Cornerstone Respite -** [**www.cornerstonerespite.org**](http://www.cornerstonerespite.org)