

**Gig Harbor Key Peninsula Housing & Homeless Coalition-
Meeting Agenda - June 13,, 2024 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

10:00 - 10:10 a.m.

PC Human Services - Valeri Almony

TPCHD - Jennie Schoeppe - TPCHD Updates

10:10 - 10:25 a.m.

Presentations:

Mi Centro - Priscilla Desidero - Mi Centro's programs / partnering GH/KP Community

“Prevention Pilot Program” - Jessica Hall, Nathan Betts and all... open discussion of how we can start a pilot program that would include identifying the need, realistic scope of work to be done, how will repairs be financed etc.

Coalition Updates: (Pls read down the page for more information on -

***Tacomaprobono** - will be at the Gig Harbor Civic Center every 3rd Monday,
10:00 a.m. - 12:00p.m. (this in addition to their second Tuesday's 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. visits.

***Good Neighbor Village Update** - building permit approved

***VA to offer no copays for mental health visits for veterans**

By [Steve Aguilar, KIRO 7 News](#) June 01, 2024 at 8:34 pm PDT

*** Veterans Crisis Line: A free resource for veterans in need of support**

***TPCHD - Protecting our youth with facts about Fentanyl**

***Tacoma Rescue Mission Update -**

***Good Neighbor Village Update - building permit approved**

We learned yesterday that the building permit for Good Neighbor Village has been approved by the Pierce County hearing examiner!

With this ruling, we can move forward with our plans immediately.

This great news is compounded by the fact that the hearing examiner did not impose any restrictions to our plan (such as number of units, outbuildings, setbacks, etc.), as part of his ruling. This is particularly important because restrictions and modifications to our plan as presented would have required additional delays to make modifications and potentially lodge an appeal.

The Good Neighbor Village project team is gathering to review the ruling in greater detail

I will continue to keep you apprised of our progress along the way, which will include ramping up our \$19 million capital campaign to match the \$20 million in funding committed by Pierce County.

Thank you so very much for your support of GNV.

Duke Paulson
Executive Director

***VA to offer no copays for mental health visits for veterans**

By [Steve Aguilar, KIRO 7 News](#) June 01, 2024 at 8:34 pm PDT
On Wednesday, the Veterans Administration announced that veterans will not need to pay copays on their first three outpatient mental health care and substance use disorder visits each year through 2027.

The exemption is retroactive to June 27, 2022, and is in effect until December 29, 2027.

Veterans who visited a qualified mental health professional at a VA facility or network provider prior to the announcement will automatically receive a refund for those first three appointments. No action will be required on the veteran's part.

Veterans Crisis Line: A free resource for veterans in need of support

The Veterans Crisis Line offers confidential support to veterans and service members in crisis

The Veterans Crisis Line began operating in 2007. In 2022, it became one of the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) subnetwork lines.

As of April 2024, the Veterans Crisis Line has answered more than [7.7 million calls, 377,000 texts, and 941,000 chats](#). Crisis responders have also made more than 1.5 million referrals to Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators.

****PCHS Behavioral Health Tech Services** - any PCHS patient who has been established with a PCHS Medical Provider for 3 months, can make appointments with PCHS Behavioral Health Techs.

*Protecting our youth with facts about fentanyl - February 9, 2024

Chelsea Amato [Fentanyl-Facts-Not-Fear-Flyer-English](#)[Download](#)

Just over 3 years ago, Pierce County Council passed a 0.1% sales tax to fund work to improve Behavioral Health in our community. They did so as more people and more younger people were dying of fentanyl overdose at heartbreaking rates. January 2020–June 2022, 60 people under age 24 died of fentanyl overdose in Pierce County. And fentanyl was involved in another 342 drug-poisoning-related emergency visits.

Tacoma-Pierce County Opioid Task Force gave us funds to create and run a youth fentanyl prevention campaign last year.

Public health at its best. This work is an example of what public health does best: Confront big health threats to our most vulnerable neighbors. In this case, that's youth at risk of fentanyl overdose.

We used approaches honed during our [award-winning responses to complex public health threats](#), like COVID-19 and mpox, to partner with the community and reach our youth. We:

- Talked face-to-face with people in our community.
- Gathered local data to learn more about the youth who need help.
- Asked local youth to help develop messages.
- Educated youth about fentanyl and how to make decisions that reduce harm.
- Worked closely with local groups that work with youth.

Reaching youth where they are—millions of times.

You probably saw our fentanyl facts messages—especially if you're a younger person. In a few short months, we launched a campaign that drew 25.45 million ad impressions and 75,000 visits to our new fentanylfacts.org website. We ran the ads where kids go online.

Grants went to: Clover Park School District Innovative Change Makers
 Multicultural Cultural Child Family Hope Center Our Church Foundation Priceless
 Inspiration Foundation, Recovery Cafe Orting, Tahoma Indian Center Therapy Fund
 Foundation

What's next? - Our work on this campaign was a constant reminder of fentanyl's unique danger and how much work we all have left. Fentanyl presents an ongoing threat to you. Fentanyl is a strong opioid—as much as 50 times stronger than heroin. An amount as small as 2 grains of salt can cause an overdose. And it can be mixed into other drugs like pills, meth, cocaine, or molly without you knowing because you can't taste or smell it.

It's never safe for youth to use illicit drugs. But we know some do—and in the age of fentanyl, far too many of them overdose. That's why our messaging offers ways youth can stay safer if they use drugs. In public health, we call it harm reduction.

We make sure youth know it's only safe to use drugs prescribed by your doctor. We also help them understand [they can stay safer when they:](#)

Use test strips. Carry naloxone. Don't use alone.

Or don't use in the first place.

Learn more at FentanylFacts.org. [Follow our social media accounts](#) and [sign up for the Your Reliable Source blog](#) for regular updates on this and other important public health topics.

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VA mental health services

Health care

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Health issues related to service era

VA mental health services

PTSD

Depression

Suicide prevention

Military sexual trauma

Substance use problems

Exposure to hazardous materials

Women's health care needs

Health topics A to Z

VA mental health services

Find out how to access VA mental health services for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), psychological effects of military sexual trauma (MST), depression, grief, anxiety, and other needs. You can use some services even if you're not enrolled in VA health care.

How do I talk to someone right now?

Find out how to get support anytime, day or night.

Get connected with mental health care—no matter your discharge status, service history, or eligibility for VA health care.

Get care now

Getting started

If you need support for a specific mental health problem—or if you're having problems sleeping, controlling your anger, or readjusting to civilian life—you are not alone. And we can help.

Over 1.7 million Veterans received mental health services at VA last year. Our services range from peer support with other Veterans to counseling, therapy, medication, or a combination of these options. Our goal is to help you take charge of your treatment and live a full and meaningful life.

How do I schedule my first appointment?

If you're already using VA medical services, ask your primary care provider to help you make an appointment with a VA mental health provider.

If you're not already using VA medical services, contact your nearest VA medical center or Vet Center to talk about your needs.

[Find your nearest VA medical center or Vet Center](#)

What if I'm not sure what kind of help I need?

You can call [877-222-8387](tel:877-222-8387) to find the right resources for your needs. If you have hearing loss, call TTY: [800-877-8339](tel:800-877-8339). We're here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET.

It's hard for me to get to a VA facility in person. Can I get mental health services online?

Yes. You may be able to use one or more of the care options listed below.

- The Veteran Training online self-help portal for overcoming everyday challenges: You can use this portal's tools to help manage your anger, develop parenting and problem-solving skills, and more. The tools are based on proven mental health practices that have successfully helped other Veterans and families. The portal is free, and you don't have to sign in or provide any personal information to use the tools.
[Visit the Veteran Training portal](#)
- Smartphone apps for Veterans: There are more tools than ever before to support your mental health. Complement your care with [mental health apps](#). These resources can help you manage posttraumatic stress disorder-related symptoms and stress, learn to practice mindfulness, manage depression symptoms and more.
- The VA telemental health program: You can connect with a VA mental health provider through a computer or mobile device in your home or at your nearest VA health facility. If you're enrolled in VA health care, ask any of your providers to help connect you with our telemental health program.

Can I speak to a fellow Veteran who's been through this before?

Yes. The BeThere peer assistance program, in partnership with Military OneSource, offers support to service members (including National Guard soldiers and Reservists), their families, and transitioning Veterans up to 365 days after separation or retirement. Through this program, you can talk privately with peer coaches who are Veterans, service members, or military spouses.

To talk with a peer coach, call Military OneSource's free, confidential peer support services at [800-342-9647](tel:800-342-9647). This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

What other options do I have?

Eligible service members, Veterans, and family members can visit one of our Vet Centers to get free individual and group counseling. You don't have to be enrolled in VA health care or receive disability compensation to use these services.

Vet Centers offer these types of services:

- Individual and group counseling
- Couples and family counseling
- Military sexual trauma (MST) counseling
- Readjustment counseling, like mental health services, and educational and employment counseling
- Bereavement (grief) counseling
- Substance use assessment and referral
- Help applying for VA benefits

[Find a Vet Center near you](#)

You can also call [877-927-8387](tel:877-927-8387) (TTY: 711) to talk with a fellow combat Veteran about your experiences, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

If you'd like to connect with other Veterans, families, and local services, you can visit our Make the Connection website. This site connects millions of Veterans, and their family members and friends, to local VA and community mental health resources. Visit the site to access these referral resources and hear Veteran testimonials of strength and recovery.

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****NEW** www.thechangeprogram.com - Leaving prison can be really tough
Peer to Peer Life Counseling - A new way forward

*****Work Source Layoff Assistance Sessions**

Facing a layoff, furlough, or job loss? We're here to help! Attend one of our free online Layoff Assistance Sessions to learn about the benefits and resources available to you.

Topics covered in the session include:

- Unemployment benefits and how to file for assistance
- What to do about health care and/or retirement benefits
- Expanding your job skills through training and educational programs
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[Register for an upcoming session](#)

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Food Supply Chain Sustainability

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 facing food insecurity. But, with increasing needs has come a steep decrease in donations.

"For years, the vast majority of the food we've distributed has been donated. Today, we are budgeting millions of dollars toward food purchases to keep our partners supplied with the foods they need. It's just not a sustainable model," said Ryan Scott, Chief Development Officer at Food Lifeline.

****Impact of rent increases on homelessness -**

(State Representative Alex Ramel/40th District, WA. State - (San Juans/ -Whatcom/ Skagit Cos.

"We know that for every **\$100 rent increases, homelessness rates go up by 9%** in an area.(this is a US wide statistic). The US Census estimates that over the last six months, there have been [half a million](#) Washingtonians displaced because of rental rate increases. Renters are hurting and so are small rental property owners. That is why we need to move on rent stabilization now and bring some balance to the households.

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Resources:

Greater Lakes www.glmhc.org

Refugee Women's Alliance - www.rewa.org

Legal Aid www.tacomaprobono.org, GH KP clinics every third Tuesday: [Calendar of Legal Aid Clinics](#)

Tacoma Rescue Mission www.trm.org

MDC www.mdc-hope.org

Work Force Central www.workforce-central.org

Blue Star Families www.bluestarfam.org

Safe Streets www.safest.org

A Place Called Home” by David Ambroz

Violet Sees www.violetsees.org

“Love in the Time of Fentanyl” www.meaningfulmovies.org

Associated Ministries Programs <https://associatedministries.org/>

Miracle Messages - reach lost family - www.1800MISSYOU.org

Cornerstone Respite - www.cornerstonerespite.org

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