**Gig Harbor Key Peninsula Housing & Homeless Coalition  -  Meeting Agenda -June 27, 2024  10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

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**\*-PC Human Services -** Valeri Almony -

**\*TPCHD** - Jennie Schoeppe  -

**\*Deputy Nathan Betts Recognition:  PIerce County Sheriff’s Dept.**

**Presentations:**

**\*Pierce County DEM -  Wyatt Godfrey -   PC Emergency  Preparedness Update**

**\*PEP-C Update    -     Peggy Gablehouse  PEP-C,  KPCS Office Mgr.**

**\*Homeless Memorial  -    June 30, 2024,    Shiloh Baptist Church, 1211 S. I St. Tacoma 98405**

**Pastor Ed Jacobs will lead a service remembering our homeless residents who have passed in the last 3 months.**

**Community Updates:**

**\*\*\*Aging Homeless Crisis -**

**\*\*\*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.

\*\*\*KPCS is partnering with  Associated Ministries to provide  rental / utility assistance programs

**\*\*\*SVdP Community Resource Center**

4009 South 56th St, Tacoma WA 98409

Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10am - 3pm

For client referrals, email assistance@svdptacoma.org

For information on programs or volunteering, visit: <https://www.svdptacoma.org/>

**\*\*\*A University of Washington professor and author offers** [**a compelling analysis of the root causes of homelessness in our region**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0APR7dt-uZ8) **in this video clip.**

**\*\*\* Food Backpacks 4 Kids’s /, Food 4 All, has two new volunteer opportunities:**

**Please email info@foodbackpacks4kids.org for more information and use the link below to sign up for volunteering at our new farm.**

**Maureen Howard Housing**

**LAKEWOOD, WA - The Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) is pleased to announce the opening of Maureen Howard Place at 10720 Pacific Hwy SW in Lakewood, WA. Built in 2010, this former Candlewood Suites has been converted to an enhanced shelter serving people experiencing homelessness in Pierce County, including singles, couples, and people with pets. The shelter includes 77 rooms for guests. Six rooms have been converted into offices for case management services, housing operations, and community space.**

**.\*Washington State Parks -  Michael Farley, Park Ranger 3 / Asst. Area Mgr So. Sound Joemma Beach, Penrose Pt. Kopachuck, Jarrell Cove, Hope, Harstine&McMicken Isl. St.**

**\*Kitsap Legal Services -** [**www.kitsaplegalservices.org**](http://www.kitsaplegalservices.org)**360) 479-6125**

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

**Chelsea Amato** [**Fentanyl-Facts-Not-Fear-Flyer-EnglishDownload**](https://tpchd.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Fental-Facts-Not-Fear-Flyer-English.pdf)

**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 youthfentanyl 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**](https://granicus.com/success-stories/how-pandemic-lessons-shifted-digital-community-outreach/)**, 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** [**fentanlyfacts.org**](https://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 ouFentanyl 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**](https://fentanylfacts.org/sample-home-page/stay-safer/)**:**

**Use test strips.    Carry naloxone.     Don’t use alone.**

**Or don’t use in the first place.**

**Learn more at** [**FentanylFacts.org**](https://fentanylfacts.org/)**.**[**Follow our social media accounts**](https://tpchd.org/i-want-to/about-us/sign-up-for-notifications/) **and** [**sign up for the Your Reliable Source blog**](https://www.tpchd.org/i-want-to/about-the-health-department/sign-up-for-notifications) **for regular updates on this and other important public health topics.**

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**TPCHD Update**

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| **2023 Healthy Youth Survey results offer signs of hope and resiliency among Washington students** |  | HYS brand |

**Contact:** DOH Communications**OLYMPIA** – The statewide 2023 Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) results are now available, representing the voices of over 217,000 Washington students in grades 6-12. The survey focuses on the health and well-being of young people. In 2023, students reported improved health behaviors and mental health along with increased social support. While concerns remain, the findings suggest positive changes in adolescent health and well-being. These results are an opportunity to carry this momentum forward and continue focusing on prevention and resiliency among youth in Washington.

“The Healthy Youth Survey provides educators and policymakers with important insight into our students’ well-being,” said State Superintendent Chris Reykdal. “Our students are telling us that they are continuing to recover from the impacts of the pandemic––they are resilient, and hopeful, and they are getting access to the supports they need. While we still have work to do, the focused work of our educators, the support of our families and community members, and the resources provided by our Legislature are making a difference.”

The COVID-19 pandemic brought with it a large decrease, roughly 50%, in most youth substance use. While the long-term impacts are unknown, in 2023 we see that substance use has mostly remained stable, both in Washington and nationally, according to the 2023 HYS and Monitoring the Future surveys. Among 10th grade Washington State HYS participants in 2023:

* 8% reported current vaping
* 9% reported current alcohol use
* 8% reported current cannabis use

Exceptions to this stable trend were increases in misuse of prescription drugs, pain killers, and other illegal drugs compared to 2021. While representing a relatively small proportion of students overall (each under 3%), these findings show more prevention work is needed. There was also an increase in 2023 in the number of 10th graders who reported ever having alcohol, but this remains lower than students reported in 2018 (49% in 2018; 32% in 2021; 40% in 2023).

Will Lukela, Agency Director of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board advocates for continued collaboration, “The Liquor and Cannabis Board’s focus is on preventing youth access to alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, and vapor products and these data make it clear, comprehensive prevention services need to remain a top priority.”

Mental health outcomes among 10th graders are improving, but remain highly concerning, especially for youth who already face more barriers to mental health support. According to the new data, depressive feelings and contemplation or planning suicide significantly decreased from 2021 to 2023. Even so, 30% of 10th graders reported persistent depressive feelings, and nearly 15% reported contemplating suicide. While this is an unacceptable level of youth struggling with suicidal thoughts, it is also the lowest rate we have seen in Washington in 20 years.

The same improving trends seen among youth in general were also seen among sexually or gender-diverse (LGBTQ+) youth and those reporting a disability. However, many of these students still experience far higher levels of mental health issues. Depressive feelings were nearly two times higher for students who identify as female compared to male, more than two times higher for LGBTQ+ youth, and three times higher among students identifying as having a disability.

“We hope to leverage these positive trends in the 2023 survey to close disparity gaps where they exist in communities throughout our state.  We want to ensure we continue to see positive trends for years to come for all families and communities. It is important to maintain focus on adolescent substance use and mental health, while also using prevention strategies to address other challenges facing young people including disordered eating and violence,” adds Michael Langer, Assistant Director at the Washington State Health Care Authority.

10th graders report significant increases in social support. Compared to 2021, more students reported:

* Having adults to turn to when feeling depressed (50% in 2021 vs. 59% in 2023)
* Having people from school who would help them (72% in 2021 vs. 77% in 2023)
* Receiving information from their school about the warning signs of suicide (47% in 2021 vs. 56% in 2023)
* Greater levels of success on academic indicators (52% in 2021 vs. 56% in 2023)

“Overall, we are encouraged by these results after the height of the COVID-19 pandemic,” shared Dr. Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, a pediatrician and Chief Science Officer at the Washington State

**Resource Links / Materials:**

* **Greater Lakes** [**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)
* **Safe Streets** [**www.safest.org**](http://www.safest.org)
* **“A Place Called Home” book by David Ambroz**
* **“Love in the Time of Fentanyl”** [**www.meaningfulmovies.org**](http://www.meaningfulmovies.org)

**Miracle Messages -  reach lost family -** [**www.1800MISSYOU.org**](http://www.1800missyou.org/)