

Gig Harbor Key Peninsula Housing & Homeless Coalition-
Meeting Agenda -Oct. 3, 2024 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

PC Human Services - Valeri Almony

TPCHD - Jennie Schoeppe - TPCHD Updates

Important Community Meetings in October:

Oct. 7th - “Facing Fentanyl - Town Hall Meeting - GH Civic Center, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 10th - Homestead Community Fundraiser, Westley Inn 7:00 - 8:30 a.m.

Oct. 16th - “Americans With No Address” Documentary / Galaxy Theater 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 21st - “Facing Fentanyl - Town Hall Meeting - KP Civic Center, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 7th - “Americans With No Address” Documentary / Grand Theater 7:00 p.m. (Tac)

*****Discussion of community services available for our Homeless and At-Risk residents -**

*****Learn more at [FentanylFacts.org](https://www.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.**

Relief Bed Update -

Relief Bed International has partnered with Orphans Africa and we are donating beds for their new dormitory due to be completed this fall in Tanzania, East Africa.

For detailed information about this project please see the attached press release;

https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/relief-bed-gives-the-gift-of-sleep-302238674.html?tc=eml_cleartime

*TPCHD - Protecting our youth with facts about Fentanyl (see below)

TPCHD - FREE WATER TESTING FOR WATER WELL OWNERS.

To Qualify : “Live in Pierce County on the Key Peninsula & Have a Private Well

Email: ehdrinkingwater@tpdhc.org or
[www.tpchd.org/drinking water](http://www.tpchd.org/drinking%20water)

***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, 2027, 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**

***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 our community.

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.

*****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.**

****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
- Career guidance, job search assistance, and other resources *at no cost to you!*

[Register for an upcoming session](#)

These sessions will be held once a month from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM. To find other session dates or to reg

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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
