**GH / KP Housing & Homeless Coalition Mtg Agenda -**

**Feb. 20, 2025 10:00 - 11:00 A.M.**

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**\*Pierce County Human Services** - Valeri Almony

**\*Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept**. -

**\*KPCS Homeless Outreach -** Delci Whiten / Judy Parker

**Key Note Presentation:** - Harbor Hope Center, Erin Shive & Brandon

**\*KPCC** - Livable Community Fair - May 10th. Register Now!

\***Pierce County Selected for J-PAL North America Incubator to Evaluate Opioid Treatment Programs**

**\*\*Prevention Program Update:**

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**e** \*\***Ambassador Program - create community ambassador board**

**\*\*Continuum of Care** - For all who are passionate about ending homelessness, please join the Continuum of Care: <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/FormCenter/Human-Services-18/The-Road-Home-Membership-Candidate-Appli-566> . The web site and form are outdated, but the membership is still valid. The CoC is changing, looking for enthusiastic members to help on committees developing strategies.

**\*\*CHC / Key Medical Center - Medically Assisted Treatment Options at Key Medical Center: We are always happy to see patients for assistance with treatment for substance use and assist people with referrals, resources, and talking through options even if there is something we do not offer.**

**\*\*DV Update - In 2023, 53% of women, 20% of men and 60% of people identifying as transgender experiencing homelessness in Pierce County identified as survivors of domestic violence.**

# \*\*Council Passes Ordinance to Lengthen Time Taxpayers Have to Claim Refund on Property Tax Errors

**On Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, the Pierce County Council passed** [**Ordinance No. O2024-572**](https://online.co.pierce.wa.us/cfapps/council/iview/proposal.cfm?proposal_num=O2024-572) **to expand the time property owners have to request a refund for manifest errors in property tax assessments – such as an incorrect square footage listing or an error in the number of rooms – moving it from three to five years.**

**The change brings Pierce County’s property tax rules in line with state law and ensures that homeowners and businesses aren’t unfairly charged due to clerical mistakes. While the total financial impact is small compared to the county’s overall tax base, it could mean an additional $600,000 in annual refunds for those affected.**

**Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer Marty Campbell supported the ordinance, and it moved out of the Council’s Rules and Operations Committee with a *Do Pass* recommendation on Monday, Jan. 27.**

**The Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer’s Office is responsible for determining the value of all taxable property in the county, which affects how much property tax each owner owes. However, mistakes happen—sometimes, a property is listed with the wrong size, number of structures, or other attributes that lead to an incorrect tax bill.**

**Over the past five years, an average of 227 property owners per year have successfully appealed manifest errors in Pierce County. These errors have resulted in an average of $28.2 million annually in corrected property values, translating to approximately $300,000 annually in tax refunds.**

**The ordinance now heads to Pierce County Executive Ryan Mello for signature.**

# \*\*Pierce County Selected for J-PAL North America Incubator to Evaluate Opioid Treatment Programs

**Pierce County is proud to collaborate with J-PAL North America to assess two programs addressing the opioid crisis in Pierce County.**

**Pierce County Human Services (PCHS) will evaluate how extending stays in a fentanyl detox program affects the successful completion of inpatient treatment and hospital utilization for individuals.**

**“PCHS is interested in evaluating longer fentanyl detox stays to inform our funding decisions, streamline our resource utilization, and encourage additional financial commitments to address the unmet needs of individuals dealing with opioid use disorder,” says Trish Crocker, grant coordinator.**

**The second PCHS program will evaluate the impact of providing medication and outreach services via a mobile distribution unit to individuals with opioid use disorders on program take-up and substance usage. Margo Burnison, a behavioral health manager with PCHS, says the team is “thrilled to be partnering with J-PAL North America to dive deep into the data to inform our elected leaders on the best way to utilize available resources.”

 This opportunity allows the County to work alongside researchers and leverage rigorous evidence to guide funding decisions, optimize resource utilization, and advocate for necessary investments to support individuals facing opioid use disorder.

You can read more about this partnership by visiting** [**https://news.mit.edu/2024/j-pal-north-america-announces-evaluation-incubator-collaborators-1115**](https://news.mit.edu/2024/j-pal-north-america-announces-evaluation-incubator-collaborators-1115)**.**

| **Kitsap Rescue Mission Update -****The shelter is housed in the former Olympic Fitness Club at 4459 SE Mile Hill Drive, next to Astound Broadband. It sits on a nearly 5-acre wooded site purchased by the county in April of 2021 for $1.5 million. Funding for the nearly 4-year project came from state grants designated for new emergency housing, affordable housing, and homeless shelter projects.****Guests at the shelter will also have access to numerous on-site services to help them get a leg up. Peninsula Community Health Services will operate a health clinic in a Pacific Building office once a week, much like they do at Pendleton Place, Lund said. MSC Counseling Group LLC will provide a mental health counselor and Agape Unlimited will provide a substance use professional, both of whom will be at the shelter full time. The shelter will also have offices for Rescue Mission case managers and housing navigators.**

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