**Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness (TPCCEH)**

**Steering Committee: Meeting Minutes**

**August 24, 2022**

Present: Rosemary Powers, Ed Jacobs, Dana Peregrine, Jeffrey Boyce, Richard Dorsett, Dana Peterson, Michael Yoder, Jay Worley, Laurie Davenport, Jan Runbeck

1. Opening, Hot news

* Water distribution report – sorry to say I came in right after Jan’s report
* Brian Ebersole, former Tacoma mayor and WA State Representative, is joining Richard to distribute water. He wants to learn more and contribute.
* Suicide threat (and also, some report, a hostage situation) on 8/23/22 outside St. Vincent’s resulted in 21 officers for 2 to 3 hours. No one harmed. One person arrested, one went to hospital.
* Sweep at Tacoma screw 8/24/22. Many at encampment “self-swept” in days prior. Campers report they do not know where they are going to go.
* Behind Habitat were 6 or 7 RV’s… they are gone now.
* Reports that next week there will be a “ground-breaking” at the 34th and Pacific sanctioned site. Have 34 campers for this site that has a capacity of 50.
  + The City has plans to enact a camping ban once the 34th and Pacific site is open. **Important to inform campers** about the consequences of this for them.
* St. Leo’s has requested a sweep of G Street. The City is telling St. Leo’s campers will have a sanctioned place to go (34th and Pacific) when this may not be true. For City to share this puts placebo of “salve on the conscious” of St. Leo’s leaders/parishioners.

1. Committee Reports:
   1. Safe Sites for All…
      1. is in contact with Safe Parking (22 spots) property owners and the County. Paula is in the negotiations. Sticking point at the moment is who pays for what and what percent for site clean-up and prep.
      2. Kevin Glackin-Coley will present to SS4All about a *Facing Homelessness* program (BLOCK project?)
      3. County planners are meeting with Jan and Paula in research and prep to write codes for safe parking ordinance.
   2. Governance…
      1. “With all that is fraught around us, the Coalition is clear about who we are and what we do” stated Rosemary Powers in intro to work being done for an “About Us” tab for Coalition website.
   3. Race and Equity Committee…
      1. has upcoming meeting in September
   4. Media Workgroup…
      1. Working on one-page documents/toolkits, for example, differences between a sanctioned and unsanctioned encampment, and how housed and unhoused neighbors can live more peacefully side-by-side.
      2. Talked about neighborhood meeting held at Marlene’s. Could develop information to try to thwart anger and frustration with homeless community.
      3. Richard mentioned that communications from Mutual Aid about the meeting attacked Marlene’s as anti-homeless
2. Friday Meeting review
   1. **Community Spotlight** ***is*** the Lived Experience Coalition
   2. **Breakout suggestion** related to lived experience. Something like, “How can we make space for those with lived experience to share their experiences in ways that will have an impact?”
   3. Potential future Spotlight…
      1. Coffee Oasis has an outreach team. This team, for example, will respond to calls where sex trafficking is witnessed.
      2. 988 - portal for mental health services
   4. Announcements…
      1. Next Homeless Memorial is September 18th at Bethlehem Baptist
         1. Memorials will be moving to various churches now versus always being held at the same one.
      2. Ryan Mello holding his next District meeting at Fife’s new community center on September 7th. One agenda item is the County’s housing action strategy. An opportunity to bring up 1/10th of 1% tax for housing.
      3. Shout-out to Associated Ministries who held its most recent Quarterly meeting in-person. Meeting was very well-received by the 30+ people present. Many continued to network for 30 minutes after the meeting concluded. **Was suggested the Coalition talk again about an in-person meeting.**
      4. Maureen Howard’s birthday is August 25. Family is accepting birthday emails and texts.