

**PIERCE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS IMPLEMENTATION  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

1:00 – 3:07 p.m.

January 6, 2023

**Members:** Adam Reichenberger, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (alternate) - excused  
Alan Hartman, Youth Advisory Board - absent  
Andrea Reay, Tacoma-Pierce Chamber - present  
Caleb Carbone, City of Tacoma - present  
Courtney Love, Lived Experience Coalition - present  
David Schroedel, Tacoma-Pierce Chamber (alternate) - excused  
Delmar Algee, Pierce County Human Services Homeless Programs – present  
Erika Tucci, Ben B. Cheney Foundation - present  
Faatima Lawrence, Catholic Community Services - present  
Fred Palmiero, East Pierce County - present  
Gina Cabiddu, Children’s Home Society - absent  
Kevin Bates, Helping Hand House – present  
Kirsten Stewart, Suburban Realty – present  
Dr. LaMont Green, TAC (CoC rep) - absent  
Linda Dillon, Puyallup Tribe - absent  
Michael Mirra, Affordable Housing Community - present  
Mieko Gray, Metropolitan Development Council - present  
Dr. Michele Jackson, Community Member -  
Ned Witting, Puyallup City Council - present  
Rich Berghammer, Faith Community - present  
Rob Huff, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance – present  
Selena Woods, Reach Center (alternate CoC rep) – absent  
Sid Sandstrom, Puyallup Tribe - absent  
Steve O’Ban, Pierce County Executive’s Office - absent  
Tiffany Speir, City of Lakewood - present  
Travaris, Lived Experience Coalition (alternate) - excused

**Staff:** Anika Moran, Special Advisor to the Director  
Ashley Colburn, Data Analyst Supervisor, Pierce County Finance  
Heather Moss, Director, Pierce County Human Services  
Jeff Rodgers, Program Specialist 3, Homeless Programs  
John Barbee, Community Services Manager  
Kari Moore, Public Information Specialist, Pierce County Communications  
Lee Mackey, Data Analyst, Pierce County Finance  
Robert Sheetz, Veterans Assistance Programs Manager  
Becki Foutz, Administrative Assistant, Pierce County Human Services

**Guests:** Cynthia Stewart, Heather Knous-Westfall, Sally Perkins, Sean M, Dana Peregrine, Ed Jacobs,  
Jason Gauthier, Jeffrey Boyce

**MINUTES**

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><b>Labor &amp; Land Acknowledgment</b> Anika Moran</p>	<p>Anika asked those who consider themselves allies to support and advocate for oppressed voices during today’s meeting. To set the stage for this, today and at future meetings, labor and land acknowledgments will be made.</p> <p><i>We acknowledge that we’re on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe. The Puyallup people have lived on and stewarded these lands since the beginning of time and continue to do so today. We recognize that this land acknowledgment is one small step toward true allyship, and we commit to uplifting the voices, experiences, and histories of the indigenous people of this land and beyond. We must acknowledge that much of what we know of this country today, including its culture, economic growth, and development throughout history and across time, has been made possible by the labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants, who suffered the horror of the trans-Atlantic trafficking of their people, chattel slavery, and Jim Crow. We’re indebted to their labor and their sacrifice, and we must acknowledge the tremors of that violence throughout the generations, and the resulting impact that can still be felt and witnessed today.</i></p> <p>Anika asked the group to please be mindful of this acknowledgment and our commitment to equity during the meeting.</p>	<p>Anika asked members to contact her to make future acknowledgments.</p>
<p><b>Roll Call &amp; Agenda Review</b></p>	<p>Anika advised the group that a decision about what to recommend to the Council regarding a URA is needed today. Michael provided a summary of last month’s discussion and the advantages and disadvantages of each path to accompany the Social Change Partners draft.</p> <p>Roll was called per above; a quorum was not present.</p>	<p>Welcome!</p>
<p><b>Recognition of Maureen Howard’s Passing</b> Michael Mirra Rob Huff</p>	<p>Sadly, Maureen Howard passed away yesterday afternoon, at home, surrounded by family. Her life is worth celebrating! Rob added that the work of this Advisory Board and the Coalition were close to Maureen’s heart, and she’d be happy to know that this work’s continuing. Anika invited all to stay after the close of today’s meeting to reflect together on Maureen’s life and passing.</p>	<p>Maureen will be dearly missed.</p>
<p><b>Agenda</b></p>	<p>Anika asked if there were any proposed changes to the agenda.</p>	<p>None.</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><b>Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting</b> Anika Moran</p>	<p>Kirsten noted that the 1/3 event was listed in December’s minutes as 1/23. That change will be made. Courtney moved and Michael seconded to approve December’s minutes. Tiffany reminded the group that there’s no quorum to take action. December minutes will be readdressed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>December minutes approval carried over to next meeting.</p>
<p><b>Veterans Programs Homeless/Resource Center Presentation</b> Robert Sheetz, Veterans Assistance Programs Manager</p>	<p>Robert Sheetz and Laura Rollins gave a presentation on the End Veterans Homelessness Task Force, Unhoused Veterans System.</p> <p>In 2019, the Council passed a Resolution creating the End Veterans Homelessness Task Force. There were eight recommendations; some of them have been implemented. A Resource Center was established at 3602 Pacific Avenue. There are agreements in place for various community agency staff to work out of the Center to help streamline veterans services. A transportation route from the Soldiers’ Home in Orting was developed. Three days a week there’s now transportation to take residents to the South Hill Mall to connect to Pierce Transit, grocery stores, big box stores, dialysis, etc. They initially expected 90 riders a month, but they now have close to 300 riders a month! Funding for it comes from DOT and Quixote Communities. They’re continually looking for more organizations to help partner.</p> <p>They’re working on expanding veterans shelter space and transitional housing programs.</p> <p>Veterans Programs maintains the Veterans By-Name list. All are assigned ranking, based on the Coordinated Entry system. Demographics are collected and used to have a better idea of how many homeless veterans are in Pierce County: 318 as of yesterday; there’s been up to 623.</p> <p>The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) provides four benchmarks on how to reduce veteran homelessness, and those are tracked on a weekly dashboard. At this time there are 94 long-term, chronically homeless veterans in Pierce County (benchmark is zero.) The second benchmark is to have individuals permanently housed within 90 days, average currently is about 238. Laura and Robert are working on how to improve on these benchmarks. The last two benchmarks are around clients added to the list vs. clients housed; there are periods in which more individuals are added than removed, but they’re working towards improvement on those benchmarks as well.</p>	<p>Informational</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><b>Veterans Programs Homeless/Resource Center Presentation</b> Robert Sheetz &amp; Laura Rollins, continued</p>	<p>In May of 2022 the Veterans Housing Options Group (VHOG) was reconvened. The group meets each Wednesday at 1:00 at PCHS, 3602 Pacific Ave. Providers who work directly with veterans attend to discuss options. Partners include the VA, Supported Services for Veteran Families, WDVA, WorkSource, Tacoma Probono. This group helps bring people together to discuss challenges. 173 have participated since May, 109 of whom were homeless veterans. Those who are not homeless are within 30 days of being homeless, so need assistance. This program's had varying success, depending on housing availability. We're not in a turn-key environment. One of the biggest challenges is explaining that people can get on waiting lists, but it may take a very long time to get into housing.</p> <p>Laura Rollins manages the HUD-VASH program that partners with Tacoma Housing Authority and provides over 500 vouchers. They also have Veterans Justice Outreach, Veterans Court, employment coordination, and multi-disciplinary terms, including social workers, occupational therapists, and they're hiring a psych nurse practitioner to help stabilize people to help keep them housed. CCS is their main partner. There's a NOFA out right now for new Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) providers. They also have the homeless program Community Housing and Outreach Services (CHOS), GPD, transitional program and emergency shelter program.</p> <p>With HUD-VASH, they partner a lot using the project-based model, so voucher awards are tenant-based, however, they can choose to set aside vouchers. They've put in a letter of support to set aside 25 HUD-VASH vouchers for the Pierce County Village.</p> <p>Orting Veterans Village has 30 units of tiny houses and 15 of those are set aside for HUD-VASH veterans; the others are project-based vouchers. FOB Hope has a tent shelter funded by Tacoma; they're a big partner as well. Robert added that there are other community-based organizations that help unhoused veterans get blankets and other supplies. Laura and Robert have been focusing on getting the Veterans Steering Committee back up and running.</p> <p>Six or seven months ago they split up their every other week meeting. They now have a steering committee that they co-chair; all are welcome, and they also hold a weekly by-name list meeting, in which they establish case conferencing, and match clients with appropriate housing. They're committed to consistently improve and are currently establishing written standards on how they work together, ensuring that we veterans with lived experience participate. (Thanks, Courtney Love!) They're setting up a transparent, equitable way to use resources. It's a work in progress and they're getting there!</p>	<p>Informational</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><b>Veterans Programs Homeless/Resource Center Presentation</b> Robert Sheetz &amp; Laura Rollins, continued</p>	<p>One notable improvement – the VA requires documenting but not in HMIS. A couple of months ago, with the help of Geoff Campion, they set up a contract in which the County’s paying for quarterly universal data elements. Now Laura can pull up a list of HUD-VASH and they go can update the information to ensure that information’s being captured accurately. Robert added that he and Laura have been working on the by-name list to be sure that it’s complete and streamlined with up-to-date information. It now takes only 5-10 minutes to bring up a master list. This ensures they’re working through the priority pool as quickly and efficiently as possible, working across multiple organizations maintaining the same list.</p> <p>They opened for questions. Data doesn’t go back earlier than 2016, with exception of point-in-time count data. The graph will be updated.</p> <p>Michael asked if there’s a disadvantage in veterans homelessness being disconnected from various other efforts focused on general homelessness? Laura said that what’s happened in a lot of areas, actually. Veterans services were working on homelessness prior to establishment of Coordinated Entry (CE). She’s committed to not have a parallel system; their goal is to streamline use of CE, and get referrals from them. There was an established way of doing things before the VA was engaged with HMIS. Veterans include young adults and families; there’s crossover with many other populations. The people who work on youth homelessness are establishing a list. Robert added that we want to align everything across the board as much as possible so there aren’t multiple systems.</p> <p>Courtney asked if anyone may offer veterans housing and mental health services, or is there a vetting process by the VA? Laura said that if a non-profit applied for the federal NOFA, there are lots of regulations and oversight, and potential support. When someone serves homeless veterans and the fire department comes in and takes their heating source, does the VA have any role in making them whole? There’s different funding available through the County for individual veterans. VA Puget Sound has very limited ability to pay for things. They have funding through American Rescue Funds for specifically-enrolled clients. Courtney asked if anyone’s tracking patterns of homelessness within the veteran community, for example, a certain number of years after returning from war or after a divorce or family crisis, to prevent them from homelessness? Not that Robert knows of; they ask the typical questions that CE asks. After enrollment, when they’re assigned a program, other questions are asked. Their big focus is getting CE to work properly.</p> <p>Laura will share a flyer featuring a national homeless line. When called, clients will receive a call back from a social worker. SSPF does have some money. Their system is no different in that they must be actually homeless in order to get assistance from them. Courtney noted that housing is healthcare, and as a federal arm, she hopes they do more.</p>	<p>Informational</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><b>Veterans Programs Homeless/Resource Center Presentation, continued</b></p>	<p>Robert added that HPAC, the homeless primary team can do referrals for BH, as well as medical needs. They come to VHOG once a month. Anyone may call Veterans Assistance Programs at 253.798.7449 and they will refer to veterans-related programs and/or resources.</p>	<p>Any other questions please email <a href="#">Robert</a>.</p>
<p><b>Unified Regional Approach Summary Discussion of Options</b> Michael Mirra</p>	<p>The plan is to have a discussion here today, take a vote and Anika will follow up with an email to the full group requesting their vote. A deadline of 1/16 was set for all votes to be in, then they'll ensure that a quorum vote is in. . Discussion can be handled through replying all to the email. Per charter, an adequate preponderance of 60% of votes are required to decide on an action, so that will be calculated to be sure the preponderance exists. County staff should abstain from voting. The recording link will be included in the email so that all can see the entire discussion.</p> <p>Anika requested a thumb vote. Twelve votes out of 14 agreed to vote as above.</p> <p>Michael will assume that members took the chance to review the URA document that was shared in advance of the meeting. He presented options:</p> <p><u>Option 1</u> – Council creates a whole new entity, as they did with SSHA<sup>3</sup>P. Advantage - it's new; that's an advantage because the structures in place have not been as successful as they need to be. Disadvantage – took a lot of work and over two years to create SSHA<sup>3</sup>P and with the homelessness crisis it doesn't seem like we have that much time.</p> <p><u>Option 2</u> – <u>2.1</u> Interagency agreement; <u>2.2</u> MOU – Advantage – may not take as much time, but still a lot of work.</p> <p><u>Option 3</u> – <u>3.1</u> Repurpose SSHA<sup>3</sup>P, expanding their mission to include ending homelessness. Advantage – it's already up and running. Disadvantage – would require a reinvention of SSHA<sup>3</sup>P and members may not be able to do that. <u>3.2</u> Use the CoC – Advantage – Federal law requires CoC if we want to be eligible for Federal funds. If we strengthened and repurposed that group, it would not be a redirection of its mission but would make CoC more competitive. Disadvantage – would require a rebuild that would take a lot of time. It would also duplicate what exists elsewhere in the County.</p>	<p>Informational</p> <p>Summary</p>



TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><b>Unified Regional Approach Summary Discussion of Options</b> Michael Mirra, continued</p>	<p>Andrea – how are we working with existing partners? What conversations and vetting have started with them?</p> <p>Michael – Courtney and Erika raised the crucial point of whether all voices will be represented. Federal law requires that CoC has diversity including lived experience, providers, advocates, business, and religious organizations. Kevin added that there are 35 vacancies on the CoC currently, so this is a great chance for diverse reps to become involved.</p> <p>Tiffany – serves on the CoC and their annual hybrid retreat's coming up on 1/30. County staff may want to provide some information at that event.</p>	<p>Discussion</p>
<p><b>Implementation Update</b> John Barbee</p>	<p>\$9M was allocated from the County Council:</p> <p>\$50,000 went into the bus pilot transportation program that's yielded over 5700 trips through December.</p> <p>\$4.5M went towards the shelter hub, an emergency shelter of underserved areas. That NOFA went out two months ago. The allocation committee met today. The NOFA was packaged with some other funding sources and totaled just over \$14M. We had applications for shelter hub for medical respite. Good stuff's coming!</p> <p>Prevention: \$2M is the last of the unallocated, and scheduled to go out this quarter, looking at enhancing CE as well as other preventive measures.</p> <p>\$1.5M went into critical time intervention, a time-limited evidence-based practice for case management, through Inside Passages. They've received those and working on that.</p> <p>Workforce Central has \$300,000 and is in the contract process on workforce development, expecting to start work in the next month or so.</p> <p>\$200,000 went to the Center for Dialog and Resolution for the CE Academy; they're in contract negotiation.</p> <p>The last \$200,000 was awarded to 501 Commons for technical support for smaller agencies. They're beginning work this quarter as well.</p> <p>All on target with exception of the \$2M yet to be allocated for Prevention.</p>	<p>Informational</p>



TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><b>Pierce County Community Village Update</b> Heather Moss</p>	<p>The Pierce County Village proposal continues. A community meeting was held at Sprinker on Tuesday night. Over 200 people, mainly those highly critical of the project. The concerns centered around environmental issues about the wetlands draining into Coffee Creek and Spanaway Lake. Secondly, safety of the neighborhood. There's a lot more education we could be doing around what the homeless population looks like. They're perceived as on drugs and criminally-motivated. Thirdly around the site. Because it abuts JBLM, those living there may be affected by the noise.</p> <p>There was also criticism about not involving the community sooner. The Exec still believes that this project is right for Pierce County needs and are working with Tacoma Rescue Mission to make it happen. There's a community meeting Monday night at 7:00 via Zoom focused on environmental compliance concerns and wetland mitigation efforts.</p> <p>Link to ordinance at top right. We need people to weigh in to support this. Heather asked group members to please take a look at the proposal and, if willing, lend their support by signing on to that ordinance.</p> <p>The Council's aware of the community concerns and added additional conditions to the funding, one of which is asking the team to do work to answer questions about environmental, wastewater, and more, due by 2/1.</p> <p>By 3/1, the Council wants a response from this group. Courtney requested an ad hoc meeting.</p>	<p><a href="#">Proposed Resolution R2022-163</a></p> <p><a href="#">Pierce County Village</a></p> <p>Please forward questions to Heather .</p>
<p><b>Data &amp; Metrics Review</b> Ashley Colburn &amp; Lee Mackey</p>	<p>Lee joined the team this Summer as a Data Analyst. Today's presentation focused on first-time entries to the Homeless system; they make up about 40% of the data. By examining first-time entries, they can determine whether addressing the root cause of homelessness reduces the flow of entries into the system. Homelessness increased in 2021 and 2022, from 616 in December 2020 to 671 in November 2022. The racial composition of first-time entries has generally been stable over time. There's been an upward trend in the number of first-time entries to emergency shelters, transitional housing, and street outreach since 2015. The upward trend's been most pronounced for street outreach, with a significant increase in the last two years, peaking in May 2022 with 143 entries (only 54 in May 2020).</p> <p>Kevin loves the graphs! We have more providers; there used to be only one or two, now there are so many more. Could the argument be made that we're doing more and getting a more accurate count? Lee said that's a great point.</p>	<p>Welcome, Lee!</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><b>Data &amp; Metric Review</b> Ashley Colburn &amp; Lee Mackey, continued</p>	<p>Fred asked if this data's posted on the website yet? Not yet. They're working towards it. Fred asked how it's decided what programs receive funding? Delmar explained about funding allocations: once a NOFA goes out, applicants apply. Staff reviews and evaluates applications and puts forth funding recommendations. Recommendations then go to another group who makes the final decision. Fred asked how much goes to housing vs. other projects like MH? Is there a percentage basis? Some funding from the State and Federal government is specifically earmarked for homelessness. John added that funding decisions are based on community feedback as far as what's needed, and also on funder restrictions. For example, HUD will only fund chronic homelessness. During the pandemic they put a huge chunk into outreach. Can the public see what the interventions cost, compared to what they achieved? Ashley and Lee are still working towards that.</p>	<p>Discussion</p>
<p><b>2023 Homeless Point in Time Count</b> Jeff Rodgers</p>	<p>Jeff's leading the 2023 Homeless Point in Time Count. It will take place from Thursday, January 26 at Noon, to Friday at Noon. The PIT count is basically a count of all people experiencing homelessness on one night. Its data informs us about the number of homeless people and their needs. HUD requires a count every two years, however, our State Department of Commerce requires it annually.</p> <p>Delmar said that we want to focus on racial equity this year. They've reached out to by and for agencies and churches to get the right people involved.</p> <p>Volunteers are recruited annually and the number varies – we have approximately 180 this year. Registration's still open! The only requirement is access to a cell phone so you can use the Counting Us app, which is free and meets HUD requirements.</p> <p>There are two counts – a sheltered PIT count using HMIS, and an unsheltered PIT count of those sleeping in cars, parks, bus or train stations, abandoned buildings, camping grounds, parking lots, 24-hour businesses, restaurants, convenience stores, casinos, and Walmart. Those interviewed will receive food, drinks, and hygiene kits. Volunteers work with those they interview to identify other homeless individuals.</p> <p>Courtney asked how location data is used and who has access to it? Three Pierce County Human Services staff have access. They've used the app for four years and the data's never been released. Heather said that the data used for zip codes is super handy when we make policy decisions, and also with funders.</p>	<p>Informational</p> <p><a href="#">Point in Time Count</a></p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
-----------	------------	--------

	<b>Date of Count</b>	<b>Sheltered</b>	<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>1/27/2022</b>	1,184	667	1,851
	<b>1/28/2021</b>	1,005	0	1,005
	<b>1/24/2020</b>	983	914	1,897
	<b>1/24/2019</b>	857	629	1,486
	<b>1/25/2018</b>	878	750	1,628

  

<b>Meeting Review-</b> Anika Moran	How did we do with racial and geographic equity during this meeting? Thumb vote – lots of ups a couple of sideways.	Discus- sion
<b>Public Comment &amp; Good of the Order</b>	<p>Fred asked why there was a 45 second limit to questions on the most important decision this Board will make (the URA recommendation). Anika said that request came from another Board member. There will be more discussion via the email thread per the Executive Committee: Erika, Rob, Faatima, Courtney &amp; Tiffany.</p> <p>Delmar reported that SSHA3P is now putting together an Advisory Board. If you're interested, please consider applying (<a href="#">link at right</a>).</p> <p>Kevin asked when the Council will expect a recommendation from us? If we need more discussion about it, should we have an extra meeting next Friday with that as the sole topic? John said that we're scheduled to report at the February 7 meeting with Council when Reed will be presenting to them. John recommended that this group have a recommendation by then. Will that be a back and forth with the Council? Kevin noted that someone from the group should be present to explain the recommendation.</p> <p>Tiffany said that it's appropriate to have another two-hour meeting. Erika agreed. Anika will confer with the other Board members to determine a meeting time.</p>	<a href="#">SSHA3P Advisory Board</a>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><b>Public Comment &amp; Good of the Order,</b> continued</p>	<p>Sally Perkins said it was frustrating that the agenda didn't allow for adequate discussion on the URA recommendation. She said that CoC is so large that it may be unmanageable. It has vacancies for philanthropy, business and regular people, especially Freds. There's a crisis of confidence around the response to homelessness is from business people, the philanthropic community and regular people looking at government, saying it's not happening fast enough, well enough, and just not working. So giving the URA responsibility to the government is going to cause a whole round of very cynical reaction. So when you restructure, if that's please build it out. Sally thinks that people don't think that homelessness is an emergency, because if it was, there would be a greater sense of urgency. What should be an emergency is that 28% of those in homelessness are black while only 8% of the population's black.</p>	
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.</p>	<p>Thanks to all!</p>

The next meeting of the Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness Advisory Board is scheduled for Friday, February 3, from 1:00 to 3:00 on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Becki Foutz  
Administrative Assistant