



Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2019

Salvation Army – 1110 S Puget Sound Ave, Tacoma, WA 98406

Members Present

Amanda DeShazo, Aff. Housing Consortium
Andy Rohr, TPC Health Dept.
Audrey Goulart, Rebuilding Hope!
Cacey Hanauer, Tacoma Housing Authority
Dana Orr, Pierce County AIDS Foundation
Dr. Eric Jackson, Bethlehem Baptist Church
Erica Azcueta, City of Tacoma
Kari Haugen, Workforce-Central
Jeff Rodgers, Pierce County Human Services
Marilee Hill-Anderson, Sumner School District
Martha Sheppard, Salvation Army (rep. Brian)
Neal Rogers, Community Representative
Nick Bayard, The REACH Center
Patti Spaulding-Klewin, CCS
Rachel Silis, Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Samantha Iverson, Tacoma Public Schools
Tiffany Spier, City of Lakewood
Tonya Tunnell-Thornhill, Exodus Housing
Valorie Crout, Associated Ministries

Members Absent

James Pogue, Comprehensive Life Resources
Diane Powers, City of Tacoma
Ellie Ottey, Pierce County Housing Authority
Haili Crow-Cyr, Tacoma Rescue Mission
Keith Galbraith, Family Renewal Shelter
Sean Raybell, WSD of Corrections
Seth Kirby, Oasis Youth Center
Sydney Screws, Dept of Child, Yth & Fam

Staff

Valeri Knight
Vy Yun

Pyramid

Denise
Alex

Welcome

- The meeting commenced at 9:05 a.m.
- Where is equity in the plan?
 - Denise says there are places in the plan where the subcommittee took everyone's input, feedback, and ideas and incorporated into different strategies.
 - Denise says today is the opportunity to improve on what is there.
 - Denise gives the CoC and guests the opportunity to speak on equity.
- Introductions were made for CoC Members, Pyramid consultants, and guests.

Public Comment

- Lamont believes the CoC is committed to making homelessness rare, brief, and one time, and to eliminate racial disparities. He asks and recommends the CoC to integrate equity and social justice lens in the plan to be truly impactful.
- Evan reinforces the compacity, wisdom, and expertise of the CoC is phenomenal. Working collaboratively to review the plan and to make sure there is racial equity lens exists in each element of the plan.
- Al says the plan needs to have element of community of health.

Discussion

- Erica proposes to allow the Membership Subcommittee to review the proposed plan to take racial equity lens to it and make sure the recommendations are taken into consideration. She ensures they will meet the deadline for the strategic plan to be submitted on time.
 - Denise went over the timeline:
 - Plan needs to be submitted in December 1.
 - 1-month approval process.
 - Benchmarking around the goals.
 - Community engagement meetings held early September.
 - Denise asks if the CoC were to vote yes on allowing the Membership Subcommittee to review the proposed plan, will it be reviewed by September 5 or 6 at the latest. Erica responds it is doable.
 - Dana says she is happy to offer her support to the Membership Subcommittee.
 - Nick also adds his support.
 - Valorie brought copies of the draft that includes comments from Lamont to the CoC to review. She proposes that Lamont come back to the meeting in September to wrap up a few points prior to finalizing. Valorie says we have enough information to work on the draft. She asks Lamont to wrap up the tail end of it. She says they can get started on it tomorrow.
 - Valeri clarifies the first community meeting September 3-4. We need the draft in order to present to the community.
 - Dr. Jackson is confused on why there is no interlacing of the work the CoC has done in the plan. He is concerned that the work is not represented in the produced document. He says reading through the document, it has almost none of the work that has been done. He feels the training is for null if it's not being represented in the document.
 - Denise explains that she was not informed about the parallel processes. She is looking to members that attended the training to let her know if there is something they want to include in the plan.
 - Lamont says the work with equity and social justice piece would happen after the community engagement meetings and then we would utilize that lens to synthesize and ensure we are meeting all the various equity factors for all the special population groups.
 - Nick responds to Dr. Jackson and says a lot of what was completed in the second session addresses many of those things. He says if we are able to move the work that was done at the last meeting into the plan, it will make an impact.
 - Al says the structure in the plan lists population, and that we should include people of color and rural folk as they fall under explicit equity.
 - Denise says if we want to push the timeline, pieces can be handed off to CoC members to work on to get everything accomplished.
 - Amanda says the timeline will be switched for now until we can submit some date.
 - Amanda asks for a show of hands of those who want to include equity work in the plan.
 - 18 votes yes
 - 0 abstain
- We will work with Denise to make sure the timeline is set.
- Jeff says Pierce County has been contacted by Tacoma Housing Authority and Pierce County Housing Authority. They are considering applying to HUD for vouchers and asked the CoC for a letter of support. Jeff motions to support the THA and PCHA by providing a letter from the CoC to support their application to apply for main-steam vouchers and asks for a vote.
 - Yes: 17

- Abstain: 2
- Pierce County Housing Authority send an email asking for support for Family Unification Program (FUP) Voucher for 18-24 family voucher program specific to young adult.
- Erica asks to see the letters received from THA and PCHA. Jeff says we will send out the letters and do an electronic vote since there is a deadline they need to meet.

See attachment for notes on Strategic Plan.

- Denise says the next steps will be to gather feedback from the community meetings. The Membership Committee will be reviewing and making recommendations to the plan using an equity lens. The Planning Subcommittee and Membership Subcommittee will come together look through the feedback and compile it all.
- Denise asks CoC members to list out one or two things that members want to learn more about.

Public Comment Period

- Al says to invite organizations that is not in the room but would be a good fit.

Meeting Adjourned

Adjourns the meeting at 11:00 am.



The Road Home

Tacoma / Lakewood / Pierce County Continuum of Care
In Partnership with Pierce County Human Services

Continuum of Care 5-Year Plan

Feedback on Priority Area Goals and Strategies

Session 3

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA #1: HOUSING

Maximize the use of existing housing while advocating for additional housing resources and more affordable housing.

Goal #1:

The percentage of exits to permanent housing increases to at least 60%.

Strategies:

1. Help people coming to Coordinated Entry compile the necessary documentation for any housing scenario, and strongly encourage participation in Renter Readiness program.
2. Increase diversion resources by engaging the support of non-government funders.
3. Expand how diversion resources can be used—from eviction costs and other housing debts that can serve as a barrier to staff costs required of service providers to administer the diversion program.
4. Increase coordination between service providers and Tacoma and Pierce County Housing Authorities to ensure that people who exit the system with a housing voucher are supported in using it successfully.
5. Conduct an outreach campaign about the Landlord Liaison Project, educating landlords about the program and the resources available when they accept individuals exiting the homeless system.
6. Promote and increase the use of the Foundational Community Support program across the system for individuals with higher needs or barriers to housing.
7. Conduct an assessment to determine the resources or infrastructure needed to establish a countywide universal housing application to reduce costs for individuals applying for housing.
8. Support and expand existing share housing models and programs within Pierce County.
 - a. Create a stronger partnership between the formal homeless system and Share Housing Services to expand housing options for homeless households who come to Coordinated Entry.
 - b. Increase the number of hosted homes across the county and outside of Tacoma and Lakewood.

Commented [AW11]: GETTING INVOLVED

CCS is a huge organization more staff could be involved by strategic population

PCAF – special populations

PCAF– Utilize homeless prevention as a necessary intervention will lend insights as to how to utilize – Dana

Are we missing anything essential?

Goal/Theme of housing being “rare” but no goal for homeless prevention – add a goal for folks to remain housed when crisis happens. Utilize wording / funding with diversion but ensure the 2 are separate (Dana)

A focus on prevention. To end Homelessness, we have to stop the influx.

LLP

- Strategy needs to be easier to access and low barrier with fewer requirements for providers. LLP needs to raise II engagement including negotiating rents helping do rental applications

Is there anything you'd fine tune? If so, WHY and HOW?

People wanting to get involved:

Tacoma PC Affordable housing consortium – Amanda DeShazo – The consortium does advocacy and education for more affordable housing in Pierce County.

Learn more- Foundational Community Support program

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA #1: HOUSING

Goal #2:

380 additional permanent supportive housing (PSH) units are made available through new construction and other strategies.

Strategies:

1. Advocate for the use of local funding from HB1406 and 1/10th of 1% to be put toward the development of new PSH units.
2. Free up PSH units by increasing the use of "move-on" vouchers for residents that are stable and ready to move to non-supportive housing.
3. Engage PSH providers based in other counties to increase their units in Pierce County through master leasing and other creative use of existing unused properties.

Are we missing anything essential?

Is there anything you'd fine tune? If so, WHY and HOW?

Require baseline percent of new permanent supportive housing units to be designed for and exclusively available to young adults (18-24). This percent should reflect the true percent of young adults experiencing homelessness ~25%?

Don't limit funding sources to the ones stated in these strategies – ex. Advocate for funding such as...

LEARN MORE

THA prevention and building PSH AH

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA #1: HOUSING

Goal #3:

450 affordable housing units for homeless households are made available through new construction and other strategies.

Strategies:

1. Advocate for the use of local funding from HB1406 and 1/10th of 1% to be put toward development of new affordable housing units reserved for homeless households.
2. Increase the number of homeless housing set asides in existing affordable housing complexes.
3. Update zoning codes so that affordable housing units can be built within more communities.
4. Advocate for increased multi-family zoning and DADUs/ADUs throughout the county to create more rental units that could be accessed by people exiting homelessness through Section 8 Vouchers, the Landlord Liaison Program, Shared Housing Services, and the Foundational Community Support program.
5. Advocate to expand local governments' developer and landlord incentives (e.g., multifamily tax exemption, low income housing tax credit, etc.) for constructing and providing affordable housing rental and ownership units reserved specifically for homeless families.

Are we missing anything essential?

Is there anything you'd fine tune? If so, WHY and HOW?

Don't limit funding sources to the ones stated in these strategies – ex. Advocate for funding such as...

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA #2: STABILITY

Support the stability of individuals experiencing homelessness and those recently housed.

Goal #1:

All people experiencing homelessness can access emergency shelter on demand, with no wait times.

Strategies:

1. Create a unified emergency shelter system in Pierce County that more efficiently connects people seeking shelter with an open bed and more effectively facilitates their transition to permanent housing.
 - a. Leverage technology to create an online, real-time database of open beds across shelters.
 - b. Develop stronger connections between emergency shelters and coordinated entry.
 - c. Improve collaboration between shelters and stability services.
2. Assess the demand for emergency shelter in locations across the county and increase capacity countywide by at least 100 beds in the geographic areas with the greatest need.
3. Engage additional faith-based community partners in providing shelter, especially in areas outside of Tacoma and Lakewood.
4. Advocate for a portion of local funding from HB1406 and 1/10th of 1% to be put toward increasing shelter capacity.

Commented [AW12]: Andy Rohr – TPCH wants to help here

Are we missing anything essential?

Possibilities for engaging LGBTQ+ providers of shelters (existing or new orgs)

Zoning in the city limits the # of shelters allowed per sector to 1, meaning that the total need can't be met.

Need to address "safe" emergency shelters – what would a "safe" emergency shelter look like?

Is there anything you'd fine tune? If so, WHY and HOW?

2.1.1.a. This exists, people just don't know it's there, or don't have access. The ones that do use it irresponsibly. Don't tell clients when they're added to a program, or provide documentation. Informing clients of programs and implications,

2.1.3 Just shelter, not beliefs

"...Can access equitable and LGBTQ+ affirming emergency shelter..."

1.2 Link with Health department's emergency preparedness planning. Ongoing focus on disaster related resource planning.

People wanting to get involved:

Rebuilding Hope! Sex Trafficking – Populations with trauma are less likely to feel safe in emergency shelters – looking into how we can make this accessible to all populations.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA #2: STABILITY

Goal #2:

The percentage of households that maintain permanent housing for more than two years after exiting the system increases to 90%.

Strategies:

1. Implement a "care coordination" model for the homeless system, similar to the one in healthcare, that provides wraparound services starting when a household first enters the system up through the initial period following a move to permanent housing.
 - a. *Expand CTI systemwide and to all populations after the current pilot with homeless families ends in 2020.*
 - b. *Establish a system to support individuals participating in diversion and who refuse CTI, following up with them at 30 and 90 days and offering connections to services that could help them maintain housing long-term.*

2. Coordinate with private funders to create an emergency fund with small grants for previously homeless households facing minor crises that could lead to a return to homelessness.

Commented [AW13]: Tonya-Exodus Housing wants to help here

Are we missing anything essential?

Is there anything you'd fine tune? If so, WHY and HOW?

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA #3: SYSTEM AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Create a more responsive, accessible crisis response system.

Goal #1:

The percent of people engaged through street outreach who move to a more positive outcome than their current situation increases to 15%.

Strategies:

1. Engage street outreach providers, including the V.A., in a learning collaborative to coordinate data, improve street outreach practices, and ensure the entire county is being covered.
2. Create standard operating procedures for street outreach teams across the county.
3. Advocate for a reduction in the documentation required to access services.

Commented [AW14]: Kari Haugen Workforce Central wants to help here

Are we missing anything essential?

Is there anything you'd fine tune? If so, WHY and HOW?

3.1.1 Not sure we need to specifically say "including the VA" This should be implied that we are talking about all street outreach.

- Funding to increase street outreach and connecting to services
- How does this tie to CTI?

QUESTIONS / WANT TO KNOW MORE

Does this include youth/young adults?

Street Outreach

- List all providers performing work
- Understand process to connect
- Next steps after engagement once identified

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA #3: SYSTEM AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Goal #2:

Reduce the wait time for a housing solutions conversation to one day or less.

Strategies:

1. Create and sustain a system where all people coming to coordinated entry can participate in a housing solutions conversation on demand.
 - a. *Appropriately staff coordinated entry sites so that all people can be served the same day.*

Are we missing anything essential?

Is there anything you'd fine tune? If so, WHY and HOW?

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA #3: SYSTEM AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Goal #3:

There is equitable distribution of and access to homeless services throughout Pierce County.

Strategies:

1. Conduct a needs assessment to determine where the greatest unmet needs exist in the county, and develop a plan to expand distribution of homeless services accordingly.
2. Increase the number of Coordinated Entry points in Key Peninsula and East Pierce County communities.
3. Expand the presence of outreach teams in Key Peninsula and East Pierce County communities.

Commented [AW15]: Andy Rohr – TPCH wants to help here

Are we missing anything essential?

Is there anything you'd fine tune? If so, WHY and HOW?

3.3.1 Partner with Tacoma Pierce County Health Department for access / Help with needs assessment work for expertise in areas of assessment and equity in health policy.

How will the need assessment be done? Are there structural barriers that would lead to inaccurate results in outlying communities? (Outside of Tacoma – Lakewood – Puyallup) How to address?

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA #3: SYSTEM AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Goal #4:

The homeless system is responsive, equitable and well-trained in cultural competency and best practices, and reflects our communities.

Strategies:

1. Increase the cultural competency of providers and push organizations to learn about and work from an equity/anti-racist framework by undergoing trainings as detailed in WAC 388-61A-1080.
2. Ensure translation services are available to people accessing Coordinated Entry.
3. Maintain resources for Provider Academy after 2020 to continue building capacity of providers.
4. Develop a "homeless system 101" training, and require all new service-provider staff to participate in it.
5. Recruit organizations operated by Black, Indigenous, or People of Color, and LGBTQ people to apply for funding to be CE organizations or service providers within the homeless system.
6. Require all organizations that receive CoC funding to have an equity plan in place.

Commented [AW16]: Rebuilding Home wants to help here "Trauma informed for CE best practices – don't want to retraumatize folks."

Are we missing anything essential?

Adding "trauma informed" practices – not having DV / Sex trafficking have to re-tell stories in coordinated entry appointment.

Need a housing 101 video for ancillary service providers – need to better understand the entry to coordinated service system as it exists now with new funding/ initiatives

- Intrigued about "homeless system 101" training who will hold it and how will it get to everyone?

Is there anything you'd fine tune? If so, WHY and HOW?

3.4.4 – Consider changing working from "push" to "require" (4 votes for this)

3.4.3 – And offer training

Is there such thing as true and full cultural competence? Perhaps wording could change to culturally informed, culturally aware, or culturally humble.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA #4: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Optimize and leverage internal and external partnerships to better prevent and address homelessness.

Goal #1:

Homelessness funding throughout the county is aligned towards a shared set of goals, measures, and overall strategies and centered around a commitment to equity.

Strategies:

1. Convene homeless-funder leadership from cities, the County, and philanthropic organizations to work toward increasing alignment and explore solutions where alignment is not possible.

a. Focus on aligning funding timelines, measures, data collection, and definitions of homelessness (where possible), and uniting around a shared commitment to equity.

Commented [AW17]: Andy Rohr – TPCHD wants to help here

Are we missing anything essential?

What does convening group? Invite to participate? Shared conversation to align stakeholder needs / priorities

Is there anything you'd fine tune? If so, WHY and HOW?

Specifically include Tacoma Pierce County Health Department for community convening and data/assessment expertise – will help with equity and health impact lens.

Please include schools / education systems who fund transportation and who are housing stability site grantees through OSPI.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA #4: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Goal #2:

Intersecting systems, coalitions, and organizations are collaborating effectively to prevent and address homelessness.

Strategies:

1. Identify and coordinate with existing efforts in other relevant sectors—e.g., healthcare, criminal justice, foster care, education—that are focused on working with individuals experiencing homelessness or working to address homelessness.
2. Work with healthcare, mental healthcare, criminal justice, and foster care system leaders in Pierce County to develop a discharge planning strategy to prevent people from being released into homelessness.
3. Begin dialogue with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and the Nisqually Indian Tribe to identify their goals, points of collaboration, and opportunities to work together.

Commented [AW18]: Andy Rohr – TPCHD wants to help here

Commented [AW19]: Kari Haugan – Workforce Central wants to help here

Are we missing anything essential?

Define “work with” how will work be funded (mandated)

Could we get coordinately entry to do a video to help our school staff understand how to refer families? While families receive vouchers, there can still be an emphasis on housing students closer to school. Align through case manager – advocacy – negotiation and relationship building.

Is there anything you'd fine tune? If so, WHY and HOW?

Specifically include Tacoma Pierce County Health Department for community convening and data/assessment expertise – will help with equity and health impact lens.

4.2.2. Include education system. It's a natural add on – all districts have a foster care liaison and would be another opportunity for partnership.

Work with schools on PIT count. We need to develop LEGAL strategies for school districts to give you info and have that info be considered as valid for needs assessment purposes.

Define Healthcare – inpatient and outpatient providers of services

People who want to help here:

Rebuilding Hope – Sex Trafficking – Educating all housing on grooming/recruiting behaviors – especially youth and young adults.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA #5: THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

Grow awareness of the CoC's purpose and 5-year plan, and serve as a central advocacy and coordinating body for addressing homelessness in Pierce County.

Goal #1:

The CoC's 5-year plan is broadly supported by those who could further the plan's successful implementation.

Strategies:

1. Develop and implement a communications strategy to increase awareness of Pierce County homelessness, the CoC, and the goals and activities of the 5-year plan.
2. Maintain ongoing communication with elected leaders at local, county, and state levels about Pierce County homelessness and the 5-year plan.

Are we missing anything essential?

Is there anything you'd fine tune? If so, WHY and HOW?

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA #5: THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

Goal #2:

CoC membership reflects the sectors needed to solve homelessness and the demographics of the people served by the homeless system.

Strategies:

1. Become a welcoming place to all people and brand CoC communications to reflect this culture.
2. Develop a membership recruitment strategy that invites participation from a variety of sectors and leads to having diverse representation that reflects those who are served by the homeless system.

Are we missing anything essential?

Populations – need some additional goals around speed of interventions, early interventions, and prevention

Create historical packets of CoC work for new members, to bring participants up to speed, provide context for past work and decisions. Eliminating gatekeeping and fostering shared environment.

A point about coordination of services, with REACH center as central HUB.

Is there anything you'd fine tune? If so, WHY and HOW?

Needs more detail as to what a welcoming place means – inclusive?

5.2.2 Having incentive / paying for time individuals to come and represent specific groups

I think these are actually for a population:

- Let's clarify definition of homeless – ideally a broad (McKinney vento) definition for youth and young adults.
- How to track 2 year status of formerly homeless YYA other than “no returns to system?”
- Can we add a strategy for better linkage between schools throughout county and prevention and housing resources? Especially with cuts to mckinney vento and rural schools being disconnected from info and resources?
- Would like a better sense of homelessness support resources available in all Pierce County and Tacoma schools
- The REACH center can inform goals and priorities regarding youth and young adults

People who want to help:

Tacoma PC affordable housing consortium – Amanda Deshazo