

## What are best ways to engage those with lived experience?

Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 7.28.23

### Vote

It's not a hug  
Nor mistletoe at Christmas  
It's not a colored egg  
At Easter  
Nor a bunny hopping  
Across the meadow  
It's a vote  
Saying you are  
A citizen  
Though it sometimes  
Is chocolate  
Or sometimes vanilla  
It can be female  
Or male  
It is right  
Or left  
I can agree  
Or disagree but  
And this is an important but  
I am a citizen  
I should be able  
To vote from prison  
I should be able  
To vote from the battlefield  
I should be able  
To vote when I get a driver's license

I should be able  
To vote when I can purchase a gun  
I must be able  
To vote  
If I'm in the hospital  
If I'm in the old folks' home  
If I'm needing a ride  
To the Polling Place  
I am a citizen  
I must be able to vote  
Folks were lynched  
Folks were shot  
Folks' communities were gerrymandered  
Folks who believed  
In the Constitution were lied to  
Burned out  
Bought and sold  
Because they agreed  
All Men and Women Were Created Equal  
Folks vote to make us free  
It's not cookies  
Nor cake  
But it is the icing  
That is so sweet  
Good for the Folks  
Good for Us  
My country 'tis of thee.

— Nikki Giovanni, *Make Me Rain*, 2020

### *What Would Maureen Howard Do (WWMHD?)*

#### Ways to encourage and promote LE participation

- Offer compensation.
- Provide funds to pay homeless for their feedback or for staff to do outreach.
- Creating an environment and culture where everyone feels comfortable sharing ideas and experience.
- That trust piece really needs to be solidified. Sometimes people wont necessary share everything or be forthcoming because they're not feeling safe or trusting the system.
- People should speak to greater needs of group through personal experience.

- Power of peers is amazing. Because if they're a peer (also have lived experience) they trust them a lot more. Make them feel heard and seen.
- Importance of those within a committee/group with a mix of those with lived experience and lived expertise, elected, officials, members of the community at large to have their voice heard and respected and to have specific protocols to ensure respect, tolerance, and gratitude.
- Importance of drawing a distinction between those with lived experience (can be years ago, and for brief periods) as compared to those with “Lived Experience Expertise”. Need feedback from both, but it is important to have that distinction based on what is attempting to be completed. Taking a true holistic approach.
- Funders asking for input and involvement of lived experience. What is meant by Lived experience and manifestation of said within an organization?

### **Ways to listen to lived experience**

- Look at our past chats and meetings. Look at the summit sessions.
- About a year ago Pierce did a survey of those who went through coordinated entry, a lot of information as far as what they were unhappy with and additional barriers created unintentionally.
- Need for more foundational support, one size does not fit all we must support a more individual approach.
- The CoC has an MOU with the LEC that has not been fully optimized, esp in re: to a CoC hosted lived experience sub-committee and dispersal of LEC contact info to those entering CE.
- Advocated for by LEC for the last year via the IAB - a survey of those receiving services (crafted with community feedback and serious considerations and ethical administration and collection). This should be partnered with a County Data dashboard and an Ombuds office.
- Build a strategy to end homelessness: The program managers sit up too high and cannot see the issues on the street.
- Good for Pierce County to push for a broader definition of homelessness from HUD, not be so narrowly defined.
- Is there data in HMIS that can be mined for this purpose?
- Can the CoC produce a flyer/questionnaire that agencies or outreach can use to collect data? Check the box questions as well as open fields for unfiltered feedback.
- Strategies need to be holistic. A shelter may mitigate an immediate need, but it does not solve the larger issue. Where does one go from a shelter?
- We need more public education. People are so focused on roofs, but not on what a person needs for stability and growth.
- The public will not help individuals until they see them as people. Where we really have the fight is perception and misinformation.

## Notes and Resources List

### *New and Notable*

**Reminder: The monthly Coalition social will take place Thursday, August 3**, at 4 p.m. at Seven Seas in downtown Tacoma. Info on the Coalition website.

**Your Local Epidemiologist substack blog:** <https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/>

### **Paper on impact of problem gambling on poor.**

[https://www.greo.ca/Modules/EvidenceCentre/files/Hahmann\\_and\\_Matheson\\_\(2017\)\\_Problem\\_gambling\\_and\\_poverty.pdf](https://www.greo.ca/Modules/EvidenceCentre/files/Hahmann_and_Matheson_(2017)_Problem_gambling_and_poverty.pdf)

### **DOH naloxone program update.**

Please refer street outreach programs to apply directly to our Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution Program for kits for agency staff use. Previously, naloxone from DOH's OEND program could only be used for distribution to program participants, clients, and community members. As a result of new funding, staff and volunteers at certain agencies can now receive OEND kits for the purpose of responding to opioid overdoses experienced by your clients or participants. These agencies include syringe service programs; street outreach programs; housing and shelter programs; and community behavioral health agencies.

### **More Narcan resources**

- Tacoma Needle Exchange can do education/training for use of Narcan, so reach out to them if your agency needs training!
- Please refer to our NEW webpage Narcan section:  
<https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/provider-resources/homelessness-providers-toolkit>
- Use this tool to find Narcan throughout the state of WA:  
<https://stopoverdose.org/find-naloxone-near-me-washington-state/>.

**If you are interested in the Hilltop Hive Home** site please contact Rian Booker. If you like to support the **August 5th benefit concert for Golden Goose Homes** or have donation items for the silent auction, please contact me at [rianbooker@gmail.com](mailto:rianbooker@gmail.com)

**Save the date: Fabulous Finds August 11th and 12<sup>th</sup>.** Contact Theresa if you have donations [tpdrutis@nctacoma.org](mailto:tpdrutis@nctacoma.org)

**Community Spotlight Opportunity:** Tell the coalition about your organization's good work. Contact [tpdrutis@nctacoma.org](mailto:tpdrutis@nctacoma.org) to schedule a brief presentation. 😊

### **Recent Press**

**The News Tribune series about people living in vehicles:**

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/matt-driscoll/article277269098.html>

**Elevate Health recently released a podcast about the HOPE team.**

<https://elevatehealth.org/community-engagement/introducing-new-hope-in-tacoma-wash>

**Articles on health impact of abatements and displacement on homeless.**

- [https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2803839?guestAccessKey=f321ceca-78d6-4d55-bcc5-e7a775ce1152&utm\\_source=For\\_The\\_Media&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=ftm\\_links&utm\\_content=tfl&utm\\_term=041023](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2803839?guestAccessKey=f321ceca-78d6-4d55-bcc5-e7a775ce1152&utm_source=For_The_Media&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ftm_links&utm_content=tfl&utm_term=041023)
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667321522000269?via%3Diuhub#bib30>
- <https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/NHCHC-encampment-sweeps-issue-brief-12-22.pdf>

**Links shared on tick-borne disease.**

- <https://www.today.com/video/red-meat-allergies-from-tick-bites-on-the-rise-189466181573>
- <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/04/02/1166431106/ticks-ick-the-latest-science-on-the-red-meat-allergy-caused-by-some-tick-bites>

**Covid on rise?**

<https://www.npr.org/2023/07/27/1190613942/yet-another-summer-covid-wave-may-have-started-in-the-u-s-according-to-the-cdc>

***Ongoing Resources and Needs***

**Outreach Supply Need and Share form:** <https://forms.gle/2zfK8Y5JvC1K5eXLA>

**How to sign up for Coalition listserv:**

You can sign up for the email lists here: <http://pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>

**Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness** can be found here:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7309/Comprehensive-Plan-to-End-Homelessness>

**Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at**

<https://www.pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>