

Suggested Topics for Coalition Discussion

Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 3.22.24

Miracle Fair

The commonplace miracle:
that so many common miracles take place.

An ordinary miracle:
Invisible dogs barking
in the dead of night.

One of many miracles:
a small and airy cloud
is able to upstage the massive moon.

Several miracles in one:
an alder tree reflected in the water,
And is reversed from left to right
and grows from crown to root
and never hits bottom,
though the water isn't deep.

A run-of-the-mill miracle:
winds mild to moderate
turning gusty in storms.

A miracle in the first place:

cows will be cows.

Next but not least:
just this cherry orchard
from just this cherry pit.

A miracle minus top hat and tails:
fluttering white doves.

A miracle, (for what else can you call it):
today the sun rose at three-fourteen a.m.
and will set tonight at one past eight.

A miracle, that's lost on us:
the hand actually has fewer than six fingers,
but still, it's got more than four.

A miracle, just take a look around:
the inescapable earth.

An extra miracle, extra and ordinary:
the unthinkable
can be thought.

By Wislawa Szymborska, From View with a Grain of Sand, Selected Poems, Translated by Clare Cavanagh and Stanislaw Baranczak

Suggested Topics

- Education session on social housing.
- How do we advertise community resources to the community more effectively.
- How to make sure that people experiencing homelessness know what's available.
- Need a common data source to share information and communication.
- How do we get reluctant or punitive localities to engage with regional plan? How do we end the locality driven "punitive sweeps arms race?"
- Sharing what resources are we reading –websites, books, articles.
- We can just do check ins with each other if there is no topic. It would be good identify what each of us needs for a MH checkin with each other.
- Lets talk about innovations in homeless services and facilities—where is the new thinking?

- Recruit and train caregivers to go with people with disabilities to shelter so that they can be successfully sheltered. Sarah has more info about this.
- We are reactive because we are all always picking up the pieces from the harm done by the sweeps.
- The City's sweeps, and the resulting damage to the unhoused people and the services system...are designed to undermine, dissipate, and dismantle the advocacy effort and the services system. They are leaving us to pick up so many pieces from the harm being done by the sweeps that it is hard to find time for advocacy or proactive services.
- Kerri Hill: "it is hard to put a puzzle together when someone keeps knocking the table over every day."

Discussion Feedback

- Personally, as a community advocate, not attached to any programs, the break out sessions are a source of education for me.
- Go to once every other week. Week 1 & 3 = break out, Weeks 2 & 4 = review the discussion. Could we use the off week to delve deeper into what was raised at previous week - maybe to look at an area of consensus, revisit highlights and go into more discussion.
- Should we do breakouts as often—great to have but could be perhaps 2 times a month, but on other hand having it each week on agenda makes it flexible when the meeting goes long.
- Most like it the way it is though recognize that quite a few leave the meeting at that time. This is similar though to in person meeting when people who had to go to other work left the site and others hung around to network.
- Continue with monthly social.
- Perhaps discussions could be broken out according to peoples' roles to increase networking potential, but also having variety of roles represented gets more understanding of other challenges and options.
- Good to focus on issues happening in city or county that need our response so we understand what's going on.

Notes and Resources List

New and Notable

Pierce County Homeless Info and Taining Resources:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/4118/Resources>

Contact Avon Curtis at Arms Around You, Acurtis@armsaroundyou.org (206) 430-8416

Community Healthcare/Hilltop Coalition-based food bank (Thurs/Fri afternoons) has very little food and only handing out snack packs. Urgently needs donations

Community Spotlight Opportunity: Please send suggestions for all partner spotlights to Theresa at tpdrutis@nctacoma.org

Common Good Supply Station @ FUMCOT, First United Methodist Church of Tacoma. Open Tuesday's Noon to 2PM, 621 Tacoma Ave S, Tacoma, WA 98402. Go to the back alley and come to the door between the 2 garages. Call Theresa at 253.617.1405 when you are at the door. The number above is a Line2 number; those who have my personal cell # are welcome to use that instead. Both numbers will ring through

Recent press

Orting City Council Homeless Study Session. Advance to 0:50 minute for Todd Gunther testimony: <https://www.facebook.com/cityoforting/videos/1461298211172730/>

Ongoing Resources and Needs

Sign up to receive Action Alerts: <https://secure.everyaction.com/-gZPY8k0qkaHQyrUqmpC5g2>

One pager on Housing Alliance priorities: <https://www.wliha.org/advocacy/2024-public-policy-priorities>

SVdP is willing to store any items for sharing- including massive amounts of socks. We have systems in place so outreach workers can pick up supplies every day between 10am-5pm. Just text Dionne. 253-355-5868

Link for the Coalition's cold weather resources page: www.craft.me/s/f0GVFmAubX8YUg

To be added to the monthly Public Health email newsletter, please share your email here OR email me at: jschoeppe@tpchd.org

Outreach and Supply Need/Share Form:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Kh2OBOLT-SXN8cq7L7Z1Bb04iXxCf6Nfv_RBP-F0SZk/edit?usp=sharing

TPCHD has a webpage for homeless service providers and advocates

<https://tpchd.org/healthy-people/provider-resources/homelessness-providers-toolkit/>

If you are an agency or org that needs COVID test kit support, we still have kits to distribute. Please reach out directly to our testing team at: epitesting@tpchd.org

Free wound care clinic every Friday afternoon, TNE clinic at the STD room at T-PCHD on S 37th & Pacific. Spread the word.

Safe Sites

<https://ss4a.pchomeless.org>

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

Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at

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

Narcan Resources:

<https://www.tacomaneedleexchange.org/naloxoneWA> DOH Free Mail Order Naloxone

Free Narcan Vending Machines: Tacoma Public Library Moore Branch (regular library hours), First United Methodist Church of Tacoma, Recovery Café Orting Valley

WA DOH Free Mail Order Narcan/Naloxone:<https://phra.org/naloxone>

Link to free Narcan resources (and other need and share outreach items):

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Kh2OBOLT-SXN8cq7L7Z1Bb04iXxCf6Nfv_RBP-F0SZk/edit?usp=sharing

Tacoma Needle Exchange, 3716 S. Pacific Ave. Ste. F, Tacoma, WA 98418

Tue. 11:AM – 3:PM, Thu. 11:AM – 3:PM, Fri 1:PM – 6:PM

Central Tacoma, S. 14th 7 S. G Street, Wed. 11:AM – 4:PM

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

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