

From Homeless to Housed

Housing is The Foundation for Wholeness.

Welcome

to *your* Community Quarterly
Meeting

Introductions:

What is your name?

What is the church you attend, if any?

What is your role at your church? (e.g., Pastor, staff member, Deacon, Elder, member).

Purpose of the Community Quarterly Meetings.

Associated Ministries convenes these meetings in partnership with other homeless and housing service providers working in Pierce County, with the goal of creating an energizing space to gather regularly to learn about, discuss and take action on the crisis of homelessness in our community.

What will be achieved at these meetings?

1. Bring people together!
2. Inform and educate attendees about homelessness in our community.
3. Seek understanding of effective interventions
4. Discuss potential projects and solutions to positively impact homelessness.

The Road Home Homeless Response Plan

Associated Ministries: Community Quarterly Meeting
December 5, 2017
Tess Colby

Manager, Community Services Division
tcolby@co.pierce.wa.us



Homelessness in Pierce County is a crisis anyone can face

Context: 2016 client data

10,962*

Homeless persons



10%

Chronically homeless



55%

Households with children



49%

Female



11%

Victims of domestic violence



8%

Unaccompanied youth & young adults



8%

Veterans



59%

People of color*

*However, people of color make up only 32% of the Pierce County population. (U.S. Census Bureau 2015)

* 2015: 10,242 persons

* 2014: 9,099 persons

Our homeless system responds to a growing housing crisis

In Pierce County, over the past two years:

- ✓ Rents increased by **23%**
- ✓ Median income increased by **5%**
- ✓ Homelessness increased by **20%**

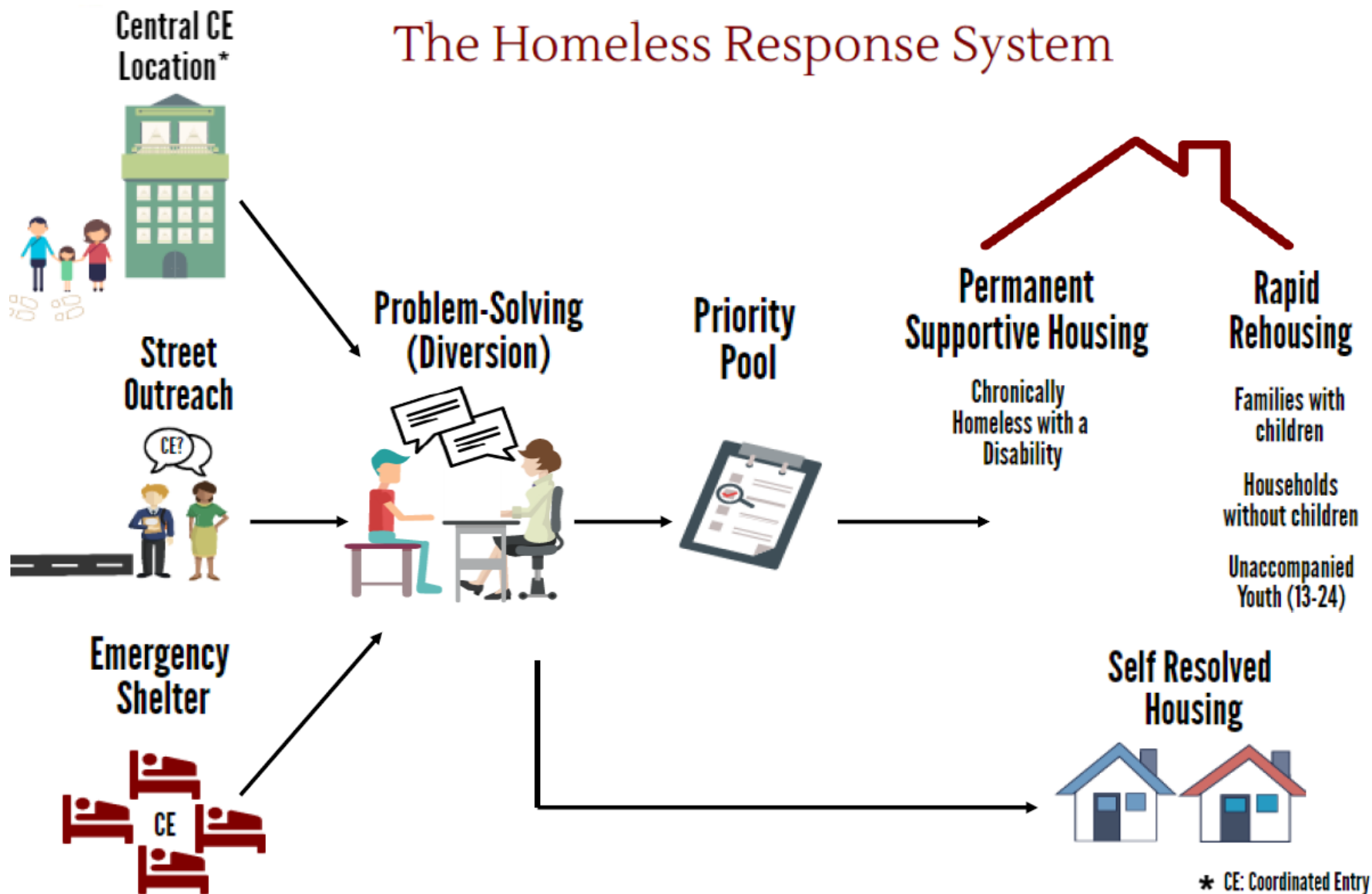
A serious gap between rents and wages in Pierce County:

- ✓ Fair Market Rent = **\$1,150**
- ✓ Housing wage for market-rate 2-BR apartment = **\$22/hr**
- ✓ Rent affordable to extremely low income person (\$11/hr) = **\$559**
- ✓ Rent affordable to SSI recipient (\$780/mo) = **\$234**

The safety net is stretched thin

- **70%** of people experiencing homelessness receive services, largely from emergency shelters
- About **40%** of these people regain housing through programs we fund
- During the last 12 months:
 - ✓ 3,700 persons sleep in shelter
 - ✓ 2,600 persons return to permanent housing
- The number of people our system can help return to housing is constrained by two resources:
 1. Access to **housing** with support services
 2. Access to **funding** for housing and service programs

The Homeless Response System



Road Home Continuum of Care

The COC is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness

Tacoma/Lakewood/Pierce County COC, known as The Road Home, includes cross-sector membership

The COC takes leadership in planning and in reviewing funding requests

Five Year Work Plan

Developed with Subcommittee of COC

Work Plan covers 2018 - 2022

Primary Objectives

- ✓ Increase public will and resources to end homelessness
- ✓ Engage people and agencies across sectors
- ✓ Achieve "functional zero" with target populations
- ✓ Services and outcomes are equitable
- ✓ Make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring
- ✓ Become data driven

Increased Public Will

- **Strong public will to end homelessness exists in Pierce County, as does the will to commit the resources to be successful.**
 - ✓ Organizations and leaders from all sectors recognize homelessness as a symptom of broader issues related to the availability of affordable housing, jobs, and behavioral health support.
 - ✓ Communities receive increased local, state, federal, and private funding to address homelessness and its causes.
 - ✓ Criminalization of homelessness is reduced, resulting in fewer arrests related to homelessness.

Cross-Sector Accountability

- **Multiple sectors share responsibility and accountability to prevent homelessness and to make it rare, brief, and non-recurring, creating an innovative and inclusive system.**
 - ✓ All city and County funders align their work with providers to support a shared homeless response system across Pierce County.
 - ✓ An increased number of organizations from different sectors incorporate improving housing stability into their strategic plans.
 - ✓ No person exits institutions, such as foster care, hospitals, mental health facilities, or correctional facilities, into homelessness.
 - ✓ More people experiencing homelessness gain employment, which leads to their being stably housed.

Functional Zero

- **Pierce County achieves “functional zero” with veterans, families, youth, and people experiencing chronic homelessness.**
 - ✓ At any point in time, the number of people experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness will be no greater than the current monthly housing placement rate for people experiencing homelessness

Equitable Services and Outcomes

- **Services and Experiences across the system are equitable**

- ✓ About 60% of people experiencing homelessness are persons of color, compared to about 30% in the whole population
- ✓ People of color and those identifying as LGBTQ have rates of outcomes, such as placement, lengths of stay, exits to permanent housing and return to homelessness rates, that are comparable to all populations.

Rare Brief Non-Recurring

- ✓ Fewer people experience homelessness year after year.
- ✓ Fewer people become homeless for the first time year after year.
- ✓ Mean length of homelessness is less than 20 days
- ✓ 40% of households coming to the system are successfully diverted
- ✓ 95% of people who exit the homeless system do not become homeless again.

Data Driven

- **Data is used effectively to track progress and evolve our approach**

- ✓ Elected officials, partner sectors and the general public have a better understanding of the causes and impacts of homelessness, and are more engaged and committed to developing a county-wide response.
- ✓ All agencies providing services within the homeless system are using data to drive program development and improvements, and increase resources.
- ✓ Our collective investment in housing and sheltering persons experiencing homelessness is decreasing the public cost of the impact of homelessness.
- ✓ Program and system level outcomes improve each year, resulting in more people re-establishing housing and fewer people having recurrent homeless episodes.

Break out group #1

- ✓ Break out in groups of 6 people.
- ✓ One person will report back to the entire group.

What are the aspects of this plan that has you the most concerned?

Share responses from
breakout group #1

10 minutes

Break out group #2

- ✓ Break out in groups of 6 people.
- ✓ One person will report back to the entire group.

What did you hear from Tess's presentation that has you the most excited?

Share responses from
breakout group #2

10 minutes

Jeffrey Boyce from St. Johns
Church in Gig Harbor

Tangible steps to assist local shelters:

Family Housing Network: your congregation can host 5 families overnight for 1-2 weeks per year; create move-in or hygiene kits.

Tacoma Rescue Mission: serve a meal, donate undergarments.

Shared Housing Network: Host a youth or young adult experiencing homelessness; donate gift cards or buss passes. Gather hygiene products.

2017 Data for the Coordinated Entry System (CES)

Reporting Period	Total Screened	Eligible Screened	Scheduled Assessments	Completed Assessments (Priority Pool + Diversion)	Total Referrals
January	865	380	214	98	18
February	794	339	205	139	36
March	869	367	275	163	50
April	765	340	200	141	31
May	1,009	403	273	139	55
June	1,004	345	212	177	49
July	865	378	213	134	63
Aug.	1,140	587	262	176	55
Sept.	983	480	200	138	25
Oct.	1,290	502	315	162	62
Nov.					
Dec.					
Reporting Period	Total Screened	Eligible Screened	Scheduled Assessments	Completed Assessments	Total Referrals
2017 YTD Cumulative	9,584	4,121	2,368	1,467	444

Churches that have endorsed the CQM

Bethany Presbyterian Church;
Bethlehem Baptist Church;
Center for Spiritual Living;
Creator Lutheran Church;
Fircrest United Methodist Church;
First Christion Church-Tacoma;
First Christian Church-Puyallup;
First Lutheran Church of Tacoma;
Great I Am Outreach;

Churches that endorsed meeting continued

Greater Lutheran Church;
Immanuel Presbyterian Church;
Mason United Methodist Church;
St. Andrews Episcopal Church;
St. Charles Borromeo Parish;
St. Patrick's Catholic Church;
Skyline Presbyterian Church;
Tahoma Unitarian Universalist; and
Temple Beth El.

What does it mean to endorse the CQM?

- You and/or a representative(s) attend from your congregation regularly.
- We will add your name and house of worship to lists we circulate to partners, and keep you updated.
- You will circulate information about the Quarterly meetings in your congregation's bulletin, etc.
- You will publicize the quarterly meetings within your network of other pastors or colleagues.

Pastor Hughes from Greater I AM

Q & A

Thank you!



Comprehensive Life Resources