

FACING PIERCE COUNTY HOMELESSNESS: Creating HomeFULLness

April 28, 2018

EVALUATION - RESULTS

Your feedback about this forum is important to the sponsors. Please let us know what you think.

- 1. One purpose of this forum was to educate the community about the homelessness emergency. On a scale of 1 to 5, did you learn something about homelessness that you didn't know before attending this forum?**

1 No, did not learn	2	3 Learned a little bit	4	5 Learned a great deal	No Response
3.8%	5.7%	18.9%	34.0%	32.1%	5.7%

- 2. Do you agree or disagree that homelessness in Pierce County is an emergency?**

Agree	Disagree	No Response
96.2%	1.9% *	1.9%

* Comment added by respondent: This is a situational reality: Discrimination creates barriers to economic, social, racial and gender equity.

Note: In the responses below, a check mark ("✓") is used to indicate that the comment was made more than once.

- 3. What do you think government should do to reduce the impacts of homelessness?**

City Government	<p><u>Policies:</u> 10 people specified policy changes that will relax or remove barriers to new housing solutions (zoning, tenant rights primarily)</p> <p><u>Funding/Housing:</u> 7 people listed community trust fund, transitional housing with support services, funding for creative neighborhood solutions, and shelters</p> <p><u>Community Involvement:</u> 4 people listed public involvement campaigns; one listed creating a citizen advisory board on housing in each city.</p> <p><u>Services:</u> 3 people mentioned additional services for people experiencing homelessness</p>
County Government	<p><u>Policies:</u> Same as for cities; plus improved transportation access and enforcement of health policies</p> <p><u>Funding/Housing:</u> 14 responses related to housing trust fund, pass 1/10 of 1% sales tax for housing (with campaign), creating housing from empty buildings, changing code for additional infill (tiny houses, etc.), and funding additional permanent supportive housing, and adding affordable housing</p> <p><u>Services:</u> 5 responses, same as cities plus improving bus service</p>

<p>State or Federal Government</p>	<p><u>Health Care</u>: 4 suggestions related to single payer health care, use HCA to create new ways to “prescribe” assistance. (Doctors write prescriptions for fresh food)</p> <p><u>Housing</u>: 3 responses re: change HUD funding direction, cutting red tape</p> <p><u>Federal Funding</u>: 8 responses suggesting better information about federal funding, increasing rather than cutting federal funding, reallocate military spending to housing and overhaul the tax structure.</p> <p><u>State Funding</u>: 4 suggestions about new revenues and increased expenditures for housing</p> <p><u>Other</u>: 9 miscellaneous</p>
<p>All Levels</p>	<p><u>Policies</u>: 7 comments about coordination among all three levels of government to increase funding, support alternative housing and reducing stigma of homelessness and its causes</p> <p><u>Housing</u>: 12 comments that all three levels of government should increase housing funding, use best management practices, and require banks to finance homes at lower rates.</p> <p><u>Other</u>: 8 comments related to better representation, listening to those affected, stepping up to help and improved communication</p>

4. Another purpose of this forum was to inspire community action to mitigate the effects of poverty. On a scale of 1 to 5, did you discover what you can do to help solve this problem?

1 No, did not learn	2	3 Learned a little bit	4	5 Learned a great deal	No Response
8.0%	8.0%	42.0%	16.0%	20.0%	6.0%

5. What do you think the community should do to reduce the impacts of homelessness? And who should do it?

- Faith community (2)
- Individuals (4)
- Neighborhoods (3)
- NGOs
- Other:
 - City and County (1);
 - Funders
 - Immigrant communities, e.g. Central Latino
- All: vvvv vv vvv vvvvvvv
- See checkmarks above and ranking by one respondent.

All are Responsible: 17 comments with suggestions for volunteer data base, creating commission, and being a complete community

Other: 20 comments focused primarily on the faith community and some suggestions for community groups,

political action, etc.

6. What will you do differently as a result of attending this forum?

Advocate: 10 people will advocate more.

Volunteer: 4 people will volunteer more.

Donate: 3 people will donate more.

Be More Attentive: 16 people will be more attentive to racial disparities, self-education, networking and being positive.

Don't Know: 4 people not sure what to do or are already involved.

7. What did you hope to learn at this forum that you did not learn?

- Molina has 50% of Medicaid in Pierce County and reports 15,000 reported homeless in 2017 in Pierce County. Why does that number differ from the Point in Time information?
- How to mitigate the different political opinions of socio-economic levels to solve problems.
- Where housing can be built.
- About other programs.
- Resources: investors, grant writing information, other successful programs.
- Historical aspects presented by Dr. Dexter Gordon as it relates to causes for racist-based disproportion in homelessness statistics.
- Network to build units with support services. Bring design units that work in other parts of Region X.
- Had no expectations.
- Be able to provide HMIS assessments.
- Exactly who are the homeless? Not just racial divisions, more studies, testimonials.
- Strategies; only hard about activities.
- Legal advocates. Issues of liability.
- What are we doing to help.
- How many shelters are there and how do you help the homeless.
- There are "attitudes" in this community that I don't understand.
- How I can help.
- The effect of drugs and crime on the homeless community. What ratio it really is.
- Tiny house communities as an option for affordable housing.
- Experiences of housing people – challenges facing "now housed" people, agencies, their neighbors.
- I came for the homeless of today and projected loss of the middle class of tomorrow.
- More direct actionable steps individuals can take to help.
- How to expand community awareness.
- What we can do to help now in a practical way.
- Solutions – though there I movement forward.
- What is Tacoma doing regarding prevention?
- How to get more square footage of housing built to meet the demand on housing. We need to build more before we'll even have room to meet the need.
- Who can we turn to, to get more houses built?
- More specific ways to volunteer.

- What Tacoma/Pierce County are doing to address the problem.

8. What went well at this forum?

Panels: 27 people complimented the panels, speakers. Others mentioned Road to Nickelsville, coordination of services and Hard Times in Hooverville specifically. Compliment to James Pogue and Jill Severn. Appreciation for the three elected officials.

Organization: 14 people articulated appreciation for how the forum was organized and ran on time.

Ideas/Learning: 5 people mentioned appreciation for new, helpful ideas and many points of view.

Networking: 3 people mentioned networking opportunities and open dialogue, speaking freely.

9. What could have been improved at this forum?

Lunch: 8 people mentioned sack lunches, more time for lunch break, paying more to include lunch.

Engagement: 6 suggestions for increasing interaction and later engagement.

Audience Participation: 3 comments about one particular participant; 3 comments about not cutting people off when they are asking questions; 2 comments about needing more input from participants.

Topics: 3 suggestions about topics that were not included.

Facility: Several comments about cold room.

Other: 14 miscellaneous comments, including needing more publicity, lack of elected officials participation, agenda not sufficiently inclusive, plus compliments.

10. What else do you think we should know?

40 comments, many repetitive of comments mentioned above. Additional comments included more opportunity to hear all the panels, doing it again, specific suggestions for next time, and specific comments about specific panels, which will be shared with those individuals.