**Minutes**

**Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Friday, August 11, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting: in-person option (Tacoma Municipal Building, Conf. Rm. 248) and

virtual attendance option via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER**

JMAC Vice Chair Ryan Mello called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

**ROLL CALL – JMAC COMMITTEE**

Andrea Smith, Board President, Metro Parks Tacoma

Deanna Keller, Port Commission President, Port of Tacoma

Elizabeth Bonbright, President, Tacoma Public Schools

Joe Bushnell, Councilmember, City of Tacoma

Marty Campbell, Councilmember, Pierce County

Rosie Ayala, Parks Commissioner, Metro Parks Tacoma

Ryan Mello, Pierce County Council, Vice-Chair JMAC

**JMAC Chief Executives**:

Hyun Kim, Deputy City Manager, City of Tacoma

Josh Garcia, Superintendent, Tacoma Public Schools

Cindan Gizzi, Interim Director of Health, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Ryan Wheaton, Executive Director of Planning and Community Development, Pierce Transit

Shon Sylvia, Executive Director, Metro Parks Tacoma

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Alex Mather, Pierce Transit

Caleb Carbone, City of Tacoma

Chelsea Talbert, City of Tacoma

Christina Caan, City of Tacoma

Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma

Deborah Trevorrow, City of Tacoma

Delmar Algee, Pierce County

Gabe Moaalii, City of Tacoma

Jeff Robinson, City of Tacoma

Jenn Halverson Kuehn, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department

Jennifer Bowman, Metro Parks Tacoma

John Barbee, City of Tacoma

Kacee Woods, City of Tacoma

Kaitlan Ohler, Imagine Justice

Len Adams, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department

Melanie Harding, City of Tacoma

Rosa McLeod, City of Tacoma

Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions

Shannon Shea, Tacoma Community Boat Builders

Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma

Tory Green, City of Tacoma

William Bridges, Pierce County

**INTRODUCTION**

Vice Chair Mello welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Vice Chair Mello made a tribal land acknowledgment.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of July 14, 2023 be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

**PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP / DIRECTION**

* Previous Meeting Recap / Direction
* Behavioral Health Alternative Response Models: Representatives from the City of Tacoma’s HOPE team, MultiCare (in partnership with Pierce County) and its Mobile Outreach Crisis Team, and Pierce Transit’s HEART program shared their efforts on community behavioral health crisis response and outreach that is staffed by civilians. The following question was then asked of JMAC Members:

**How can JMAC members support these efforts, including educating the community about this alternative approach to crisis response?**

Commissioner Ayala commented that taking these resources out to the public is critical and a great opportunity to give credit to service staff members in these agencies. She added that policy makers can assit in what can be operationalized as well as its coordination. Commissioner Ayala highlighted that there are nuances with these programs, and they are all a bit different.

Vice Chair Mello commented in agreement with the comments made by Commissioner Ayala, that all these programs may serve community members in slightly different ways.

Councilmember Bushnell commented that a co-produced video to introduce these teams and services as a means of providing education to the public about these services could be helpful.

Dr. Josh Garcia suggested a *JMAC corner* in all agency websites to help educate and provide and understanding of these services.

Cindan Gizzi commented that it would be helpful to perhaps facilitate future conversations with leadership as a way of addressing coordination in filling gaps in the system. She also noted her conversations with those with lived experience.

Hyun Kim, Deputy City Manager, City of Tacoma was introduced to the Committee.

* Public Safety Alternative Response Models: Representatives from the City of Tacoma, Metro Parks, and Tacoma Public Libraries shared updates on their programs for addressing public safety issues that do not require involvement of a commissioned law enforcement officer.

**Public Health and Safety: Homelessness Strategy Update**

The City of Tacoma's Homeless Strategy, Systems and Services program along with the Pierce County Human Services department gave an update on their collaborative work addressing homelessness in Pierce County.  Delmar Algee, Pierce County Community Services Program Manager, and Caleb Carbone, City of Tacoma Homeless Strategy, Systems, and Service Manager, were introduced to present their jurisdictional partnership related to homeless services and programs, sheltering, and funding considerations in their work towards Functional Zero. Caleb Carbone opened the presentation by acknowledging that functional zero is a goal; noting homelessness will never fully disappear, but it will be rare and brief.

Caleb Carbone commented on the partnership opportunities and joint planning efforts of this work. He commented on the recent presentation to the City Council on alignment of strategies between the City and the County. JMAC Members were the informed of the 5 goals outlined with specific implementation strategies and actions as follows:

* Ensure affordable housing is available and accessible to Tacoma residents.
* Everyone experiencing homelessness in Tacoma, or impacted by homelessness, can access services and support.
* The shelter system in Tacoma offers all people a safe and dignified experience that is easy to access.
* Tacoma’s homeless service system provides individuals and families with access to a continuum of tailored supports to prevent and end homelessness.
* Tacoma’s homeless service system provides individuals and families with access to permanent, stable housing in order to end the cycle of homelessness.

Delmar Algee representing Pierce County commented positively on the collaboration

and noted the goals of the County’s program as follows:

* Create a Unified Homeless System.
* Ensure interventions are effective for all populations.
* Prevent homelessness.
* Ensure adjacent systems address needs of people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.
* Meet immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness.
* Expand the Permanent Housing System to meet the need.

Delmar Algee stated that in order to meet these goals, actions to be taken include: homeless interventions by providing emergency shelter, coordinated entry and outreach; and permanent housing and rapid rehousing and eviction protection.

Board Member Bonbright commented that the presentation contained useful information and suggested that JMAC work to increase awareness of what was discussed.

Councilmember Bushnell suggested approaches, such as MOUs, of each agency to support these larger strategies.

Delmar Algee commented that formal, synchronized communication of the implementation of a unified regional approach remains important.

Brief discussion ensued related to the data of the number of unhoused individuals in both the city and the county.

Commissioner Keller commented that the Port is also supportive of these efforts as it is providing resources for programs supportive of the Port’s mission of job creation.

Vice Chair Mello noted that the County Council recently created a select committee on homelessness chaired by Councilmember Campbell, which meets twice a month with a workplan now in place.

Vice Chair Mello commented that he is working with Mayor Woodards to plan a joint study session in the near future to focus on homelessness.

**Public Health and Safety: Peace Point Strategic Plan Update**

This briefing summarized the Peace Point Collaborative’s efforts to develop a community-driven plan for youth safety in Pierce County, including the approach, key findings, recommendations for action, and next steps.

Kaitlan Ohler, Imagine Justice Project Coordinator was introduced. Kaitlan commented that the Peace Point Initiative is serving as a reference point for community needs, wants, and priorities, and as a call to action for Pierce County providers, funders, and decisions makers. Kaitlan then described the project team organization noting the three main leads are Imagine Justice Project, Tacoma Boat Builders and Big Homie Program. The planning team for this initiative includes representation from youth and young adults with lived experience, those disproportionately impacted, service providers, and institution representation. Kaitlan then described that the community-focused research project included structured interviews, conversational interviews, focus groups, and listen & learn meetings. It was noted that the conversations were centered around hearing from voices of those most impacted by violence in the community. The timeline and milestones of the project were then reviewed, noting it began in October of 2022 and resulted with a final plan/report in June of 2023. JMAC was then informed about the root causes of the youth violence problem which stem from interconnected and intergenerational cycles of oppression, poverty and trauma. Kaitlan highlighted several other factors contributing to youth violence in the local community as mental health, hopelessness, social media, and access to firearms. The committee then learned that as a result of the study essential characteristics need to reduce youth violence have been identified as:

* Many different services offered by many different providers
* Anti-racist, multicultural services and providers
* Services for youth and families
* Systems change
* Innovation & risk

Kaitlan then spoke of the priorities for action needed in the Peace Point final report as follows:

* Improve communication, coordination and collaboration across service providers.
* Improve school environments by end exclusionary practices, and by increasing on-site supports for students.
* Break down access barriers for youth and families.
* Provide more activities for youth, with a focus on safe and unstructured spaces.

 Kaitlan then shared how the accountability for action is rooted in agency practices. She shared that continued input from youth and families remains important. Next steps for this project include:

* Identifying strategies for highest risk intervention
* Extending and deepening community outreach
* Engaging in continued conversations

Board Member Bonbright encouraged all JMAC members to support this work. It was suggested that agencies use websites to make this information available to community.

Shon Sylvia thanked the team for their work and presentation as this collective work is important to support youth in Tacoma.

Cindan Gizzi commented on the great process and methodology followed for this work.

Vice Chair Mello thanked Kaitlan for the work and presentation.

**STAFF WORKGROUP UPDATE**

There were no updates.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

Board Member Bonbright commented that “Summer Teen Late Nights” now has over 1,000 individual participants.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting is Friday, September 8, 2023, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Next meeting will include follow up on today’s topics.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Mello adjourned the meeting at 9:27 am.

\**Minutes taken by Metro Parks Tacoma*