



PCAF

3009 South 40th Street, Tacoma, WA 98409

Media Contact:

Ace Robinson
(206) 931-3853

Chief Executive Officer
ace@pcaf-wa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Thursday, Sept. 8, 2022

PCAF TO LEAD PIERCE COUNTY’S MONKEYPOX COMMUNITY AWARENESS & OUTREACH EFFORTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO HISTORICALLY UNSERVED COMMUNITIES

TACOMA, WASHINGTON — On Wednesday, September 7, 2022, PCAF, the South Sound’s premiere HIV service organization, was awarded \$300,000 from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) to provide culturally responsive and tailored community awareness and outreach to communities greatly impacted by the monkeypox virus (MPV).

Beginning immediately, PCAF, in partnership with TPCHD, will provide education on how MPV is and is not likely to be acquired; how to mitigate impact if one is exposed via vaccination and safer sex health practices; and how to access effective treatment if one is diagnosed. PCAF has provided supportive healthcare services to Pierce County and surrounding areas for over 35 years and has earned the trust of community members.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 90% of people diagnosed with MPV identify as sexual minority men (SMM) or transgender women/gender nonconforming people who have recently engaged in sexual activity with other SMM. Nationally, 31% of diagnosed people identify as Hispanic/Latinx, 31% as Black/African American and 31% as non-Hispanic white people. Pierce County’s match national trends even though Hispanic/Latinx and Black/African American people represent a smaller share of the general population. Furthermore, 41% of MPV diagnoses nationally are people who are living with HIV.

PCAF has 35 years of expertise serving communities which are disproportionately impacted by HIV, including but not limited to transgender/gender nonconforming people, sexual minority men, people using substances, unhoused people, Black people, Latinx people, as well as the intersections of those communities. These are also the communities disproportionately impacted by MPV.

“For over the past three decades, TPCHD and PCAF have effectively partnered to directly address the needs of our fellow residents from a health equity lens,” said Ace Robinson (he/hé), MHL, MPH, chief executive officer of PCAF. *“We commend TPCHD for being proactive in ensuring a community-centered approach to addressing MPV from the start. What we have all learned from over forty years of the HIV response is that the Community knows what’s best for the Community. It is up to organizations like PCAF and institutions like TPCHD to follow their directives.”*

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About PCAF

Through education and service, PCAF prevents HIV acquisition, assists persons impacted by HIV and associated illnesses, and combats HIV-related stigma and discrimination. With offices in Tacoma and Olympia, PCAF serves Pierce, Thurston, Lewis, and Mason counties. PCAF is dedicated to assisting persons living with HIV to meet their whole-person needs for food, housing, healthcare, and personal support that can prevent people living with HIV from thriving. More information is available at www.pcaf-wa.org