

Meeting minutes

Meeting: Metro Supportive Housing Services Oversight Committee Meeting
Date/time: Monday, November 23, 2020, 1 PM – 3:30 PM
Place: Zoom Virtual Meeting
Purpose: Launch the oversight committee process and welcome members.

Member attendees

Gabby Bates, Heather Brown, Susan Emmons, Dan Fowler, Armando Jimenez, Ellen Johnson, Jenny Lee, Seth Lyon, Carter MacNichol, Felicita Montebianco, Jeremiah Rigsby, Roserria Roberts, Mandrill Taylor, Kathy Wai

Members absent

Jahed Sukhun

Elected delegates

Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal, Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington, City of Portland Commissioner Dan Ryan, Clackamas County Commissioner Sonya Fischer, Councilor Christine Lewis

Metro

Jes Larson, Emily Lieb, Shane Abma, Diadira Pedro-Xuncax, Ash Elverfeld, Craig Beebe, Anneliese Koehler

Facilitators

Allison Brown, JLA Public Involvement

Note: The meeting was recorded via Zoom and therefore details will be focused mainly on the discussion, with less detail in regards to the presentations.

Welcome and introductions

Allison Brown, facilitator, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Co-Chairs, Susan Emmons and Kathy Wai, welcomed the group, spoke to the importance of this work and thanked everyone for being present.

Allison called role.

Supportive Housing Services overview

Jes Larson, Metro, provided a high level overview of the program, explaining that the group would go deeper into the program details in the next committee meeting. Major points included:

- Racial disparities in rent burden and homeownership
- Data points illustrating the regional need for supportive housing services
- New tax code changes
- Goal of 5,000 supportive housing units
- Work Plan is on the Metro website and is open for public comment through 11/29/2020

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Values workshop

Jes introduced the values that the Supportive Housing Services Stakeholder Advisory Table created during their stakeholder process over the course of summer 2020.

Allison introduced the group to Jamboard, an interactive visualizing tool, where we posted committee member responses to the question, "Is there a value that resonates deeply with you? Is there anything you would want to add as a value that you approach this work with?" Responses are attached to the meeting packet.

Committee onboarding, part 1

Emily Lieb and Shane Abma of Metro began presenting. Emily mentioned the points of consideration while selecting the members of the committee, and they included: broad personal, professional and lived experience represented; reflection of the diversity in the region; five members per county, two Chairs included; term lengths amongst members are different so that we minimize the risk of the entire committee resigning at once.

Emily reviewed the committee charge, which is to serve as independent and public officials, ensure transparent oversight, evaluate Local Implementation Plans, review counties' annual reports, monitor financial performance and expenditures, and to provide annual reports to Metro Council and County Boards of Commissioners. Additional oversight roles include the Metro Council, Metro staff, and the elected delegates.

Shane explained what it means to be an independent public official. As part of Oregon's ethics laws, everyone on a public committee is a public official. Also under Oregon's ethics laws you are personally responsible for violations. Members can consult with Metro staff attorneys or Oregon's Ethics Office with questions.

He asked that as members serve on this committee they consider how it affects them, their family members, or members of their household and associated businesses. Gifts are not allowed if the person giving it has an economic interest in this program. The exception is if it's cumulative of fifty dollars for an entire year, but Shane suggests to generally avoid that.

In regard to conflict of interest, members have a duty to disclose any actual conflict of interest. If decisions you make will have a direct benefit to you, members of your household, family or associated businesses you must alert the committee. In that case, you cannot vote or participate on the relevant topic. If you have a potential conflict of interest, it means you might have a financial benefit. For potential conflicts you can still participate in votes for a topic. Conflicts of interests appear situationally, not by virtue of being on the committee.

While in meetings, sending things on behalf of the committee or conducting committee business, you may not do any advocating on a political position.

The committee is subject to public records and meetings law.

Be careful about gathering outside of the committee with other members because it could create a quorum.

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Shane recommended not to reply all to an email, it could be the same as creating a new meeting. In addition, do not engage in serial meetings- talking with a couple of people on a topic and then going to another couple of people. Historically, in some situations in our state, public officials would have serial meetings to avoid having to disclose them as public meetings, hence the law.

Anyone from the public may be present at these meetings to listen and watch but it doesn't give them the right to participate.

Committee member, Gabby Bates, asked a question regarding how members are able to be on social media. Shane gave the example of not using Facebook to meet with people or it may turn into official committee business. At the next meeting staff will be sharing information about best practices as a committee member, some of that relates to interacting with the public.

Committee member, Dan Fowler, recommended that if someone thinks there's a conflict, just declare it. Always ask, always bring it up and just be transparent.

Committee member, Ellen Johnson, spoke to the serial communications issue. She said that often people who seek to avoid conflict will go to people who they think will be receptive. For this committee to work well and avoid that sort of legal issue, presume everyone is innocent and bringing different perspectives, and that conflict is not a bad thing. If we can bring the conversation to the group as a whole, we can avoid that backroom conversation.

Committee member, Carter MacNichol, asked about how testimony works in this committee and public comment.

Allison answered that the meetings will always be open to the public, we allow about ten minutes on the agenda and about three minutes per person. Verbal testimony is welcome and we encourage written testimony.

Kathy encouraged the members to reach out to staff whenever there are questions because she's found them to be quite helpful with their response rate and expertise.

Public Comment

Allison Brown, facilitator with JLA Public Involvement, opened the floor for public comment.

- Peter Rosenblatt
 - Works at NW Housing Alternative, also a part of Clackamas County LIP Committee. Asked about the connection and interplay between the three implementation committees and the regional oversight committee.
 - Jes responded: The Local County Committees will be creating the implementation plans specific to their area. This committee will receive the work of the local implementation plan committees, review the plans, advise, and provide oversight and accountability of those plans into the future.
- Bianetth Valdez
 - Works at HomePlate Youth Services, she/her/ella. Thanked all for the various perspectives on the committee and appreciates the lens of equity being used. She works with houseless and unstably housed youth, sometimes the youth population isn't brought into the conversation. Please keep them in mind.

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- Diana Strassmaier
 - Resident of Multnomah County and is a CPA in public practice. What's the measurement of success other than having affordable housing and getting rid of the homeless crisis? How will we measure that as being successful from a numbers perspective?
 - That work, the outcome metrics were created by the Stakeholder Advisory Table this summer and is addressed in the Work Plan listed in the section around accountability. This is largely what will be reviewed at the next meeting. Public comment period is open and needs to be received by Monday, November 30.

Next steps

- Next meeting December 14th, 9-11:30 AM

Kathy Wai and Susan Emmons closed the meeting with thanks, recognition of the diverse perspectives, reminder that this is going to be a big lift going forward, and feelings of hope and looking forward to the future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 PM.