

Council work session

Minutes

May 18, 2021

Metro

*600 NE Grand Ave.
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Tuesday, May 18, 2021

2:00 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/471155552> or 877-853-5257 (toll free)

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2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting to

Deputy Council President Craddick called the Metro Council order at 10:30 a.m.

Present: 7 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Bob Stacey, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Mary Nolan

2:05 Washington County SHS Local Implementation Plan

Deputy Council President Craddick introduced Patricia Rojas, Metro, Kathryn Harrington, Regional Housing Director; Washington County Chair; Josh Crites and Jes Larson, Washington County Department of Housing Services to present the Washington County SHS Local Implementation Plan.

Staff pulled up the [*Washington County SHS LIP Presentation*] to present to Council.

Staff provided a summary of the current SHS situation in Washington County, the LIP for their SHS services, how they plan to implement it in an equitable manner, and their expected outcomes.

Council Discussion

Councilor Gonzalez was pleasantly surprised by the focus on equity in Staff's presentations and the specificity of their expected outcomes. He asked what major obstacles Staff will face when trying to scale up their operations. Josh explained that building staffing capacity will be the biggest obstacle when scaling up, which makes cooperation with other organizations very important.

Councilor Nolan praised Chair Harrington for her analysis of the issue and work on this project. They also asked these questions about (though they do not expect immediate answers):

- Pg. 8 of the LIP: Staff commits to maintaining existing general funds. What is that amount?
- Pg. 10, Table B: Could you provide totals for each column?
- Pg. 27, Table C: What % of unhoused households will SHS' long-term rent assistance support?
- What % of Priority A households will be served by the end of Year 1?
- What year does staff believe they will reach Functional 0?

Josh explained as operations scale up they will have a better idea of when they will reach Functional 0. The pandemic and rent moratoriums make predictions much harder. Jens explained that they plan to reach their 1665 units goal around Year 3-4, growing at a rate of 500 households placed/yr. It is very difficult to determine an accurate count of total households in need of SHS, and that is why Staff's goal is a specific number, and not a %. Staff is also focused on their portion of regional SHS obligations and not the entire houseless population.

Councilor Rosenthal commended the county their hard work on a difficult task, in a short time-frame. He commented on:

- SHS' ties to the general health care system
- In the groups that experience the most houselessness, Latinx and White populations, houselessness correlates with poverty, and the current minimum wage is inadequate.
- There are seniors that rely on SHS, and their rents will

soon be returning to market rates. They also cannot physically move, and Councilor Rosenthal hopes Staff will include them in their plans.

Josh reassured Council that they are aware of the issues Councilor Rosenthal brought up. He added that the Housing Department and HHS work very closely together, and they are in daily contact.

Councilor Lewis praised Staff's thorough work and direct answers, since that is not what many others do. She believes they are on track to transform the system. Councilor Lewis brought up concerns around making sure data collected is clear and accurately interpreted. She then asked how Staff is preparing for implementation before receiving funding, and where do they see the Three-County collaborative going.

Chair Harrington explained that, ahead of receiving funding, Staff has taken out a loan with themselves to get things started, and hit the ground running on Day 1. She also added that, moving forward, it is incumbent that the three counties make decisions based on facts, not politics.

Deputy Council President Craddick asked two questions:

- How will Staff find the people in need of SHS and get them in the door?
- What kind of data should be collected?

Jens explained that they have many outreach workers and can register houseless people. However, they lack a bridge between outreach and getting those services to people. That is part of this LIP's purpose, building a system that's worth reaching out to. Josh added that the big difference from past efforts is they actually have the resources to provide services.

Regarding data collection, Jens mentioned: Number of houseless days experienced, number of days housed, and returns to homelessness. She added that, though the system is complex, the solution to houselessness is simple:

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housing units.

Council President Peterson thanked Staff and presenters for their hard work, and appreciated how they went about doing the work.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Deputy Council President Craddick moved on to the next agenda item.

3:05 2030 Regional Waste Plan and introduction to the FY 20-23 3-year work plan

Deputy Council President Craddick called on [Pam Peck] [she/her], Metro, Holly Stirnkorb [she/her], Metro, and Roy Brower [he/him], Metro, to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the [*2030 Regional Waste Plan and introduction to the FY 20-23 3-year work plan*] to present to Council. Staff introduced the FY 2020-23 RWP work plan.

Council Discussion

Councilor Rosenthal asked multiple questions:

- Where Staff will get the extra 100 people to get it all done.
- He also asked for more specific about the programs outlined in the work plan, any plans for textile recycling, and commented on some possibly redundant language.
- He then asked for a list of the biggest waste issues “by weight.”

- He asked about a policy goal around illegal dumping,
- and finally asked for some clarity around term definitions.

Holly encouraged to seek information about specific programs from local jurisdictions. She explained that textiles are a high-impact material, and this RWP's focus will be on food, another high-impact material. However, Clackamas County and OR DEQ have done work around textile recycling.

Pam also explained Staff's use of the term, "materials management." Roy added that the RWP was written pre-pandemic.

Councilor Gonzalez commended Staff's attention to detail, and their use of ambitious language.

Councilor Lewis praised Staff for their work, and noted that all of her major waste management concerns are listed in the work plan. She raised one point of criticism: the plan, as of now, seems to lack contingencies in case of headwinds and/or failure, and encouraged Staff to reach out to Council if they require extra support. Councilor Lewis also wished to see more in terms of cooperation with the private sector.

Council President Peterson agreed with Councilor Gonzalez and Councilor Lewis, and reiterated the importance of coming to Council for guidance in case of setbacks, so they may make decisions together. She also proposed creating a transparent rate setting methodology. Does the work plan include anything like this, or is this internal work that has yet to begin?

Pam explained that an assessment of the rate setting process is part of the work plan, and Staff is working with the COO's office on this matter.

COO Marissa Madrigal added that rates are dependent on

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WPES' overall budget, so there needs to be transparency around WPES' budget too.

Deputy Council President Craddick had a question and comment:

- When will Staff return and update Council on the work plan, and will there be opportunities to update the work plan itself?
- Deputy Council President Craddick also believes this is an opportunity for SHS and RID Patrol to collaborate.

Staff will return this fall.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Deputy Council President Craddick moved on to the next agenda item.

3:50 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following events or items:

- Andy Shaw provided Council with an update on Senate Bill 582, the Recycling Modernization Act.
- Today marked the 500,000th COVID vaccine dose administered at the All for Oregon vaccination site.
- Metro has begun recruiting a new Zoo Director, and interviews are expected to begin around mid-late June.
- Metro will soon close the job posting for a new Communications Director. Interviews will begin on the first week of June.

3:55 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- **Councilor Rosenthal** updated Council on the

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Washington County Coordinating Commission voted on nominations for the Washington County stakeholder seats for the Region 1 ACT.

- **Councilor Lewis** updated Council regarding her and Councilor Gonzalez's meeting with Reimagine Oregon.
- **Councilor Gonzalez** added to Councilor Lewis' update about their meeting with Reimagine Oregon.
- **Councilor Lewis** also updated Council about 2 tours she recently took of Rosewood Station and the Jennifer Street site, a potential site for the new Metro South.

4:00 Adjourn

There being no further business, Deputy Council President Craddick adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Kim

Nathan Kim, Legislative Assistant