

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

10:30 AM

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or
929-205-6099 (toll free)

Council work session

Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Work Session to order at 10:30 a.m.

Work Session Topics:

10:30 Supportive Housing Services Program Data

Attachments: [Worksheet](#)
[Attachment 1](#)
[Attachment 2](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Patricia Rojas (she/her), Dr. Marisa Zapata (she/her), and Jacen Greene (he/him) to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the Homelessness Programs: Data, Monitoring, and Evaluation Presentation to present to Council.

The slides provided information on the state of homelessness in the Metro area, analyzing homelessness inflows and outflows and giving regional context to the crisis. The presentation shifted to discuss the best evaluation practices for homelessness, answering how to effectively use data collection and statistics to improve Metro programs and policies. Dr. Zapata concluded the presentation by highlighting key metrics or datasets that Metro may be able to utilize to evaluate the Supportive Housing Services program.

Council Discussion

Councilor Nolan was curious to Metro's progress in defining the outcomes and goals that we would like to measure.

Patricia Rojas noted that Metro has already established

several goals, such as moving at least 5,000 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness into housing, as well as assisting an additional 10,000 households with homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing services. Outside of these, Metro is working with the tri-county planning body to help further define these desired outcomes and metrics.

Councilor Nolan noted that they are interested in defining goals in terms of the absence of homelessness as an issue. They asked the presenters if policy plans to solve homelessness are being worked on.

Patricia Rojas commented that collaborating with the tri-county planning body will work to ensure that Metro's promises are upheld and that goals are met. Dr. Zapata clarified that Metro as a regional body does not have the capacity to address all the factors that results in homelessness, and therefore we should create goals around supporting people into secure, long-term housing.

Councilor Craddick spoke to the breadth of the HSIS dataset. She asked if there is a metric tracking the number of teams are actively on the streets working to support individuals into housing, as well as what regions are receiving the most support from the program.

Dr. Zapata noted that the data Councilor Craddick is requesting likely exists, but that the counties might not want to publicize this information. She explained that information regarding the regionality of homelessness and outreach teams has the potential to be used to perpetuate violence on homeless individuals. Ultimately, Dr. Zapata concluded that while data collection can help us better understand the homelessness crisis, the largest barrier to a long-term

strategy is the lack of housing in the region.

Councilor Gonzalez questioned how Metro can engage with this conversation about data effectiveness and statistics without sounding tone-deaf with the public.

The presenters highlighted that these discussions need to be conversations, as this is the strongest method to communicate knowledge and address misinformation. Dr. Zapata stated that it is much easier for the press and community members to talk about unsheltered homelessness than it is to discuss the housing market, creating a disconnect in the conversation.

Councilor Lewis spoke to the difficulty on quantifying softer support services such as mental and behavioral health assistance, asking the presenters if there is a method for measuring the effectiveness of services like this.

Dr. Zapata commented that the flexibility of the Supportive Housing Services fund is a great strength of the program, noting that it provides Metro with a broad toolset for addressing homelessness. She brought up several potential evaluation strategies for softer services, but ultimately noted that a specific program should be discussed in terms of quantification.

Councilor Hwang asked the level of integrity of the homeless data that we have and if it is actionable enough to frame policy decisions.

Dr. Zapata stated that there are control mechanisms in place to ensure that the data is valid and that mistakes are minimized. However, she mentioned that it can be best to keep a dataset limited and focused solely on key metrics

that are necessary to inform policy direction, as continuing to push for larger, more encompassing datasets may result in poorer clarity.

Councilor Hwang questioned if we are spending enough on capacity building in the initial years of the Supportive Housing Services program to establish the systems that we need.

Council President Peterson commented that Metro is struggling with balancing evaluating the effectiveness of the SHS program with evaluating the general livability of the region. She spoke to the necessity of including community members in helping define what qualifies as success in regards to the homelessness crisis.

Dr. Zapata remarked that SHS program is a funding-stream, not a specialized service, and therefore it can be difficult to accurately evaluate.

Councilor Craddick asked for the next steps moving forward for data collection.

Patricia Rojas provided the council with a timeline of data reporting and program evaluation. She highlighted that cooperation with local jurisdictions will need to continue in the future to continue developing strategies.

Councilor Rosenthal sought clarification that the key factor regarding homelessness is the vacancy rate and the cost of housing relative to wages, and that as long as there is not sufficient housing in the area Metro will struggle to find long-term solutions for the crisis.

Dr. Zapata confirmed that the vacancy rate and cost of

housing are the primary drivers, however, she stated that this does not mean Metro will struggle as the SHS fund can be used to directly pay for people's housing.

Councilor Gonzalez questioned the possibility of convening county partners in a data forum about evaluation.

Council President Peterson stated that there has already been discussion on creating a summit about the barriers to housing and that this idea could be incorporated into this forum.

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

11:30 Tribal Affairs Legislative Agenda Update

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Tyler Frisbee (she/her) and Katie McDonald (she/her) to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the Tribal Affairs Agenda and Work Plan Presentation to present to Council.

The presentation discussed the new Tribal Affairs Program, a GAPD program with the goal of creating common practice and understanding to advance government diplomacy and relations with interested sovereign Tribes. Katie McDonald spoke to the agency goals in this program, principally building Tribal relationships, addressing Tribal interests, enhancing opportunities for traditional lifeways, improving Metro's work, and supporting public awareness. She noted that the program emphasizes foundational work, stating that strengthening the underlying relationships between

Metro and the Tribes is the key for the project's long-term success. A timeline discussing the next steps for the program was provided.

Marissa Madrigal and Council President Peterson thanked McDonald for the presentation and work towards advancing the Tribal Affairs program.

Council Discussion

Councilor Rosenthal spoke to the importance of introducing legislation at the state level to support Tribes.

Councilor Lewis remarked that as this is Metro's first step into the Tribal Affairs landscape that we should proceed intentionally and lay a strong groundwork for future cooperation. She highlighted consultation as something Metro has not done historically well and thus, we should place focus on it. The councilor stated that she is particularly excited to see development of cultural and historic resource protection policy.

Councilor Gonzalez commented on the importance of Metro supporting local partners and working cooperatively with other jurisdictions to improve the accessibility and equity of these programs.

McDonald thanked the councilors for their comments, stating that the Tribal Affairs team will use this conversation to direct their agenda moving forward.

Seeing no further discussion, Council President Peterson moved onto the next agenda item.

12:00 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following

events or items:

- The faulty microphones being used in Council Meetings have been addressed.
- The City of Portland is incentivizing workers to return to the office.

12:05 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Craddick discussed the events of the monthly Region 1 Commission on Transportation meeting.
- Councilor Rosenthal asked for Councilor Hwang’s thoughts on the Asian Pacific Islander Community Coalition Gala. Councilor Hwang commented on the events of the gala, discussing the speakers and the plans of the coalition moving forward.
- Councilor Craddick highlighted the success of Metro’s racial equity strategy in influencing events such as the Asian Pacific Islander Community Coalition Gala.

12:10 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey Kain, Legislative Assistant