

## Tri-County Planning Body Onboarding Meeting Summary

Meeting: Supportive Housing Services Tri-County Planning Body Member Orientation Meeting  
Date/time: Friday, July 29, 2022 8:00 AM – 11:45 AM  
Place: Virtual meeting (Zoom)  
Purpose: Orient Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB) members to the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) funding program, including an overview of governance/operating structures, and the programs that partner jurisdictions are implementing; orient TCPB members to the committee charter.

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### Member attendees

Eboni Brown (she/her), Zoi Coppiano (she/her), Mercedes Elizalde (she/her), Yvette Hernandez (she/her), Monta Knudson (he/him), Michael Ong Liu (he/him), Sahaan McKelvey (he/him), Steve Rudman (he/him), Cristina Palacios (she/her)

### Absent members

Matt Chapman (he/him), Nicole Larson (she/her), Alicia Schaffter (she/her), James Schroeder (he/him)

### Elected delegates

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington (she/her), Metro Council President Lynn Peterson (she/her)

### Absent delegates

Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal (she/her), Clackamas County Chair Tootie Smith (she/her)

### Metro

Nui Bezaire (she/her), Patricia Rojas (she/her), Valeria McWilliams (she/her)

### Guest presenters

Vahid Brown, Clackamas County (he/him), Yesenia Delgado, Multnomah County (she/her), Jes Larson, Washington County (she/her)

### Kearns & West Facilitators

Ben Duncan (he/him) and Ariella Dahlin (she/her)

### Welcome and introductions

Patricia Rojas provided opening remarks and welcomed the Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB) to the meeting. She apologized for the technical difficulties and delayed start to the meeting.

Ben Duncan introduced himself as a neutral third-party facilitator and facilitated introductions between TCPB Members.

### Committee approval of meeting summary from first orientation meeting

Ben noted that the TCPB had not officially discussed decision making processes. The TCPB Charter states that decision making will be by modified consensus, which the TCPB has yet to define. The TCPB will define modified consensus during the next meeting. Chair Kathryn Harrington asked to be moved to “absent member” in the meeting summary as she was not present during the public portion of the meeting.

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Ben asked the TCPB to give a virtual thumbs up if members accept the June 29, 2022, TCPB Meeting Summary with Chair Harrington as an absent member.

Yea: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

The June 29, 2022, TCPB Meeting Summary was approved.

President Lynn Peterson emphasized the importance of clarifying how the TCPB approves documents and decisions moving forward. Mercedes Elizalde noted that the voting process needs to be accessible for all, and the only way the TCPB voted today was by video. Ben acknowledged that the process was limited today and will be refined in the future.

### **Supportive Housing Services and the transformative impact in the lives of people Presentation**

Patricia Rojas presented on Metro Regional Supportive Housing Services (SHS). Voters approved the Supportive Housing Services Measure in 2020. Metro recognizes that racism is the root cause of homelessness, which leads to an overrepresentation of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in houseless populations. Metro is implementing an approach that improves how they address racial disparities to end homelessness. Each county's Local Implementation Plan (LIP) is rooted in BIPOC community engagement and reports on equity goals and metrics.

Nui Bezaire shared the difference between Metro SHS and Permanent Supportive Housing. Metro SHS is a partnership with Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties (Counties) to provide an array of services that help people access housing and remain housed. Permanent Supportive Housing is a specific housing solution that includes a housing unit, long term rent assistance, and ongoing support services. SHS includes Permanent Supportive Housing.

Permanent Supportive Housing work has been ongoing, and the work completed to date has identified best practices to meet household needs. Each county is in a different LIP stage and has developed their own innovative ideas. The regional program is intended to scale and expand these ideas and approaches. The Counties each presented on how the recent measure has transformed their region.

Jes Larson discussed the Aloha Inn Shelter in Washington County which is currently under construction and will open soon 54 Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units. Before regional investment, this location was a bridge shelter program.

Vahid Brown shared information on Clackamas County's PSH initiatives. Vahid noted that when talking about Population A, they are talking about people who are unique individuals and families. Population A are people who are experiencing long durations of homelessness, live with one or more disabling conditions and have very little to no income. PSH is the best practice for addressing Population A's needs. However, PSH moves slowly since it requires investment.

Yesenia Delgado presented on Multnomah County's behavior health services. Multnomah County has expanded, developed, and launched behavior health services at all levels of the homeless services continuum, from emergency shelters to PSH. Behavior health services are partnered with navigation, shelter, and longer-term housing services.

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Ben thanked everyone for presenting and giving life to concept of SHS. He asked for any questions, reflections, or additional examples from the group.

### Discussion

Mercedes shared appreciation for the Washington County shelter example and noted she would like to see housing connections for dual enrollment across all programs.

Michael stated he was struggling to reconcile how to scale PSH. It seems if a location has 48 units, once those units are occupied, they are gone. He asked how PSH units are scaled up and how PSH residents are transitioning to other housing that is not a part of the 48 units.

Eboni responded that their organization is placing folks where they need the most support. Washington County programs include rehousing and retention programs. If someone is enrolled in the program, they work with a case manager every week. If they transition to housing outside of the PSH unit, they still have services available to them including food security and behavior health services. They also still have their case manager to help them navigate issues with their landlord. Using the analogy of shelters being an emergency room, Christina asked if there is a primary care provider.

Vahid responded that the case manager would be the equivalent of a primary care provider.

Mercedes called in language to use such as creating options for people and creating sustainable and healthy communities.

Patricia reminded the group that PSH is for folks who are living with a disability and have little to no income, so they would need PSH for a long time.

Eboni shared that there would need to be a larger intervention on rent control to make PSH a long-term intervention as there are issues finding low-income housing and that RLRA vouchers are at their limit.

Chair Harrington noted that the TCPB and the Oversight Committee are asking good questions and illustrates the tremendous need for SHS. This is the first commitment in the United States for 10 years of funding for SHS.

Patricia reflected that she is hearing a tension between the work of SHS addressing crisis side of things versus addressing root causes, which are things outside this the TCPB's scope.

President Peterson noted that Metro's role in other groups has been data collection and that Metro has data to create a full story of the work that is being done and why it is needed, including systematic barriers.

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Eboni noted that there has been an investment in Washington County bringing outreach services to housed and unhoused folks to help with job navigation, eviction prevention, youth, and other services. Outreach workers going into multifamily communities, churches, and sharing services and information to both housed and unhoused folks is helpful in disrupting systemic issues.

Yesenia shared a couple of short videos of how this work impacts people's individual lives. These videos can be found at <https://www.multco.us/move-multnomah/move-multnomah-videos-partners-supportive-housing-impacts>

Yvette shared that the videos are great and are helpful reminders to the TCPB about the passion needed to make a difference.

Cristina asked if the videos have been translated so that immigrants and refugees could access the resource.

Yesinia replied that the videos are not translated, but they are working to create culturally appropriate videos in first languages.

### Regional coordination and alignment

Vahid shared that the Counties have been working regionally on the Regional Long Term Rent Assistance Program (RLRA). The policy framework has been developed by the Counties together. It has been ratified and is monitored and adjusted as needed. Federal programs are not flexible and not well suited to address a household's unique needs, whereas the regional framework has tried to maintain and extend flexibility to end chronic homelessness.

Jes highlighted data. The Counties defined data metrics together, so for example, a housing placement point means the same thing across jurisdictions. The Counties meet every week to work out definitions, metrics, and data collection methods. They are also working towards better data collection and practice regarding race, ethnicity, and point-in-time collection.

Yesenia discussed procurement efforts and the Counties commitment to equity. All entities can contract with the City of Portland, but it is not easy to navigate. The Counties have designed a new procurement process for SHS to qualify cultural specific organizations. The RFPQ has increased the number of vendors in the pool. This helps take the burden off vendors since they only have to apply once, instead of going through multiple procurement processes for all three counties.

### SHS governance structures

Nui introduced SHS governance structures and roles. The three key roles are Metro, county partners, and service providers. Patricia covered the SHS Structure and how the structures interact with each other. Metro Council, the SHS Oversight Committee, the Tri-County Planning Body, Metro Staff, and the Counties are the main SHS structures and all work together.

**Break**

### Overview of the TCPB charter

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Ben shared that the purpose of going over the charter today is to get clarity on the authority and identity of the charter. There will be further conversation in the next onboarding meeting.

Nui shared that the regional plan builds off the LIPs. The difference between the regional plan and the LIPs is that LIPs are local frameworks for how to invest funds whereas the regional plan identifies goals and strategies and builds regional systems, capacity, and standards.

Vahid, Jes, and Yesenia presented TCPB responsibilities, purpose and authority, and regional metrics and outcomes. President Peterson asked what SHS data is relevant to regionalize and what the public and stakeholders are interested in. She questioned if the TCPB should do a survey to find answers and analyze additional work that needs to be done in the system. .

Ben reminded the group that nothing requires or prohibits this.

Chair Harrington appreciated President Peterson's comments and that the conversation is focused on the foundational elements of the TCPB and its purpose. She suggested that once the TCPB understands its foundation, then President Peterson's question can be addressed.

Nui shared information about the TCPB Jurisdictional Leadership Team (JLT), elected members, county board and staff, Metro council and staff, and chairperson(s) roles. Nui reminded the group to communicate with the co-chairs on information needs and that charter and committee are reviewed yearly.

Chair Harrington reflected that the Counties need to be present on this journey and while the committee ends at 10 years, ending homelessness doesn't. Counties need to take responsibility and be involved in and trust this process. Ben reminded the group there is space to hold the tensions of politics.

Nui discussed accountability, transparency, and decision making. Ben shared that the TCPB can define what modified consensus is, share power around the table, and center external voices. There is room to define and discuss terms like group agreements, by-laws, public input, and absences. The charter provides direction but not definition. There are lots of items to discuss and decide. Ben asked if there are any questions or additional subjects to discuss.

Cristina asked about the conflict-of-interest policy when making funding decisions.

Patricia shared that at the beginning of business meetings members should disclose any known or perceived conflicts of interest.

Mercedes asked if Metro or the Counties would implement the regional plan.

Patricia clarified that the TCPB would identify initiatives that would help meet regional goals. Then each county will respond with tactics that are reasonable in their jurisdiction. The strategy is regional, but each county will have unique approaches.

Mercedes asked who is monitoring that regional guidance has been adhered to in Counties if they're allowed to have variations.

Patricia shared that TCPB would know what the variations are and that TCPB would have oversight and monitoring function.

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Ben noted that accountability and monitoring are not always the same and asked the TCPB how to create accountability without authority and how to cultivate relationships where there is a path of resistance.

Mercedes wondered how much of metrics and outcomes is limited to the HMIS database. She asked if data would be limited to HMIS or if other data can be incorporated. If the TCPB only looks at HMIS data, stories such as dual enrollment, will be missing.

Jes shared that is the difference between the SHS Oversight Committee and the TCPB. The Oversight Committee can submit data and the TCPB uses this data. Systemic answers won't be found in HMIS and there is work in designing metrics for system performance indicators and data that is separate from what Counties are required to report on.

Ben reminded the Body that they have authority to establish a data report in the charter.

Patricia elaborated saying it starts with identifying said opportunity area to integrate or get data from a particular system.

Zoi reflected how excited she is and that they are ahead of other counties across the nation. She noted the need to embrace regionalism and involve everyone in the homeless community.

Ben shared that many topics were covered and asked if anything is left unresolved or creates tension.

Chair Harrington stated that she would like to have the slides to reference before the next meeting. She asked if staff would send an updated meeting packet ahead of the next meeting.

Ben responded that everything will be posted online and that the hope is to cultivate a space of shared power, influence, and experience.

Mercedes noted how underbuilt the regional housing market is and how market conditions will have impacts for how effective prevention dollars work.

Sahaan shared that being able to work with elected members and the JLT made him excited and worried. He identified a potential for tension in working with Counties and reminded everyone to be intentional about power dynamics and meeting structure. His preference would have been the co-chairs to present the charter as opposed to JLT.

Chair Harrington shared that she appreciates Metro and how they recognize homelessness as a regional problem, and their sponsor of a regional measure. Metro worked with community partners to get voters to approve the measure and Metro is held accountable by voters.

Ben and Yesenia clarified that Sahaan was offering recommendations for how to create an equitable and inclusive culture. Sahaan shared that he respects his colleagues and meant that the meeting structure could have come across as a power play, not that it was one. He stated that it is TCPB members' responsibility to make sure their work could never be misinterpreted that way. He clarified he wants to see the roles of co-chairs having influence and showing that the TCPB members are all doing the work together as a collaborative group.

Ben noted that collaborative partners do the best work and challenged the group to rise to those group values and practice them with intention. President Peterson appreciated the honest

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conversation and that Metro's goal in this was to lay a foundation for everyone to succeed together. There are a lot of questions to answer and coordination that needs to happen, so it was agreed to continue to have honest conversations.

### **Closing, next steps, and gratitude**

Patricia thanked everyone for leaning into the conversation today. She reiterated that this is just the beginning and that this will be an iterative space for the next 10 years. Next steps include:

- Move Chair Kathryn Harrington to "Absent Member" and publish the meeting summary.
- An additional onboarding meeting focused on decision making and framing will occur in September, details to be shared soon.

### **Adjourn**

Adjourned at 11:45 am.