Tri-County Planning Body Meeting Summary

Meeting: Supportive Housing Services Tri-County Planning Body Meeting

Date/time: Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Place: Metro Council Chambers, 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland, OR 97232 and Zoom Webinar

Purpose: The Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB) will review regional coordination issue prioritization survey results and make decisions for preliminary recommendations for the Regional Plan.

Member attendees

Co-chair Eboni Brown (she/her), Co-chair Matt Chapman (he/him), Zoi Coppiano (she/her), Mercedes Elizalde (she/her), Yvette Hernandez (she/her), Monta Knudson (he/him), Nicole Larson (she/her), Michael Ong Liu (he/him), Sahaan McKelvey (he/him), Steve Rudman (he/him), Cristina Palacios (she/her)

Absent members

Alicia Schaffter (she/her), James Schroeder (he/him)

Elected delegates

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington (she/her), Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal (she/her), Metro Councilor Christine Lewis (she/her)

Absent elected delegates

Clackamas County Chair Tootie Smith (she/her)

County staff representatives

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

Metro

Liam Frost (he/him), Patricia Rojas (she/her)

Kearns & West Facilitators

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

Welcome and introductions

Liam Frost, Regional Housing Assistant Director, Metro, provided opening remarks and welcomed the Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB) to the meeting.

Co-chair Eboni Brown motioned to vote on approval of the December Meeting Summary.

The TCPB approved the December Meeting Summary.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Update on TCPB's request of landlord engagement research

Liam Frost, Regional Housing Assistant Director, Metro, gave an overview of the research scope and deliverable.

Steve Rudman proposed adding staff recommendations as a deliverable.

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Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington asked how to ensure TCPB efforts are focused and separate from Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Oversight Committee efforts.

> *Patricia Rojas, Regional Housing Director, Metro, responded that it's important for the TCPB and the SHS Oversight Committee to meet and share information to not duplicate efforts. She asked that if anyone notices any overlap, to bring it forward for discussion.*

> *Co-chair Matt Chapman added that the Co-chairs of the TCPB, SHS Oversight Committee, and the Affordable Housing Bond Oversight Committee are meeting regularly to communicate and share information.*

Cristina Palacios asked for the scope to include an equity lens criterium.

> *Liam Frost, Metro, noted that the scope would be completed in collaboration with county staff and that an equity lens will always be applied to recommendations.*

Michael Liu reminded the group to stay focused on the chronically homeless population.

Mercedes Elizalde asked if there is an established equity lens tool that Metro utilizes.

> *Patricia Rojas, Metro, shared that Metro has an equity framework, but not a formal tool. She committed to sharing the framework with the committee after the meeting. She encouraged the TCPB to select a specific equity lens tool for their work and suggested carving time out at a future meeting to select a tool.*

The TCPB approved the amended scope.

Liam Frost, Metro, shared that Metro will hire two additional full-time employees to support TCPB work.

Presentation of survey results

Liam Frost, Metro, presented an overview of the prioritization survey results, highlighting the top four strategies under each category. The four categories are capacity strategies, regional long-term rental assistance (RLRA), data, and systems alignment.

Ben Duncan, Kearns & West, opened the floor for TCPB members to express support for lower ranking strategies.

Co-chair Matt Chapman proposed a system mapping process that can be done concurrently with other work. In his proposal, two systems would be mapped: services for those who are chronically homeless and data collection. He asked if the TCPB could vote on this idea during the dot exercise.

Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal asked if the term "cycles" as used in the TPCB process could be further defined and when do cycles start and stop.

> *Liam Frost, Metro, reminded the TCPB of the workflow document and its creation. A cycle is one round of the workflow.*

> *Patricia Rojas, Metro, added that cycle lengths depend on what comes forward from the TCPB and how long those discussions and recommendations last. She emphasized that it's an iterative process.*

> *Liam Frost, Metro, shared that Metro staff will share with the TCPB the different timelines of strategies and then the TCPB will decide which ones to move forward with.*

Nicole Larson asked if the recommendation cycles will be by category or all together.

> *Patricia Rojas, Metro, responded that it's up to the TCPB to decide what they want to move forward, and the categories are not in competition with each other.*

Cristina Palacios noted that it could be helpful to know what can be funded during the first cycle.

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Mercedes Elizalde asked how to bring forward information on work currently underway to help the TCPB prioritize.

> *Liam Frost, Metro, clarified that they do not want to duplicate work but see if work can be regionalized.*

> *Patricia Rojas, Metro, responded that they can bring back information on work currently underway and if TCPB members want to know about specific areas of work to contact Metro staff.*

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington suggested moving forward with Co-chair Matt Chapman's proposal of system mapping to understand where each county and the region currently is. She said that data could help the TCPB think of how to scale up to a regional system.

Steve Rudman noted that the SHS Oversight Committee will have their first annual report completed soon. He proposed moving forward in some aspect in all four categories.

Co-chair Matt Chapman shared that system mapping is foundational for effective discussion on other strategies.

> *Mercedes Elizalde thought that system mapping is necessary for other steps to occur and should be viewed as part of these strategies, not a separate strategy.*

> *Patricia Rojas, Metro, confirmed that system mapping would be a part of a recommendation.*

> *Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington asked for clarification on the data category and if system mapping is its own strategy.*

> *Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal replied that data would be about how data is collected. She clarified that the systems mapping wouldn't necessarily be a separate strategy, but part of the work Metro staff would do for each strategy.*

> *Patricia Rojas, Metro, confirmed that is true.*

> *Michael Liu reflected that everyone seems to agree that system mapping would happen concurrently and asked if it could be removed from the dot exercise so the group could focus in on strategies.*

> *Patricia Rojas, Metro responded that system mapping could be voted on for the spending of the Regional Investment Fund. At the next meeting, the TCPB could propose and vote on system mapping with a budget as part of a recommendation. After today's voting, Metro and County staff will identify next steps for the voted upon strategies, which would include systems mapping. Metro will bring back a system mapping proposal.*

> *TCPB members concurred.*

Preliminary recommendations discussion and decision

Ben Duncan, Kearns & West, walked the group through a dot exercise for the top strategies in all four categories.

TCPB members voted on the following strategies.

Prioritization of Capacity Strategies

1. Support wages and training for service providers as well as pay compensation for contractors since culturally specific services are often contracted out (17 votes)
2. Build and expand system capacity for culturally specific housing and service providers (4 votes)
3. Expand system capacity for people experiencing chronic homelessness (1 vote)

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    4. Build technical assistance capacity for emerging service providers (0 votes)

Prioritization of Data

1. Coordinated entry needs to be a service matching tool to incentivize co-enrollment rather than being a queue for the bottleneck - several of the issues that were identified include data collection could be improved by having a single coordinated entry system that screens people into services (10 votes)
2. Standardize data collection methods (7 votes)
3. Establish consistency in program evaluation standards and procedures (1 vote)
4. Advise on improved communication of outcomes for public awareness (0 votes)

Prioritization of RLRA

1. Support a region wide landlord recruitment program that also provides wrap around services with leveraged funds from the jurisdictions (10 votes)
2. Create a centralized, accessible, and streamlined process for RLRA. Learn from models in LA (Brilliant Corners) and Seattle (Housing Connector) (5 votes)
3. Program evaluation: strategies to ensure that the vouchers work for participants over time (2 votes)
4. Support the development and implementation of a regional model of a long-term rental assistance program (RLRA) (0 votes)

Prioritization of Systems Alignment

1. Shared priorities and opportunities for alignment with healthcare systems (including behavioral health) (8 votes)
2. Alignment of RLRA funding with Medicaid (2 votes)
3. Strategies to further integrate housing and homeless service systems (e.g. affordable housing construction and rent assistance plus services), as well as other services and systems serving people experiencing homelessness (0 votes)
4. Barriers to employment for people recently housed from homelessness and ready for employment (0 votes)

Liam Frost, Metro, shared that next steps for Metro include taking the top voted strategies and delivering recommendations for the TCPB to vote on in February.

Cristina Palacios expressed her concern for data collection integrity for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and was interested in what methods would be used for data standardization.

> *Co-chair Matt Chapman replied that is a great point to consideration.*

Cristina Palacios expressed her concern for the lack of votes for the "build and expand system capacity for culturally specific housing and service providers" strategy. She noted that she hoped folks would use an equity lens.

> *Zoi Coppiano shared she wanted to support wages and training, and that framework would have an equity lens.*

> *Michael Liu said a lot of these strategies are interrelated.*

> *Patricia Rojas, Metro, replied racial equity will be center for any strategy moving forward.*

Co-chair Eboni Brown thanked Cristina Palacios and Zoi Coppiano for their comments.

Monta Knudson stated that providers can have multiple funding streams and to consider how to ensure equitable wages throughout these sources. He also noted that there can be unrealistic expectations by funders.

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Zoi Coppiano asked how there can be a coordinated regional system if there isn't standardized data collection.

> *Ben Duncan, Kearns & West, replied that would be a question for next month's meeting.*

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington asked if limited staff capacity would limit how many strategies can be pursued.

> *Ben Duncan, Kearns & West, replied that would be included in the analysis Metro and County staff will provide at next month's meeting.*

The TCPB approved for Metro and County staff to provide a high-level analysis of the top voted strategies:

- Support wages and training for service providers as well as pay compensation for contractors since culturally specific services are often contracted out,
- Support a region wide landlord recruitment program that also provides wrap around services with leveraged funds from the jurisdictions,
- Support a region wide landlord recruitment program that also provides wrap around services with leveraged funds from the jurisdictions, and
- Shared priorities and opportunities for alignment with healthcare systems (including behavioral health)

Closing and next steps

Co-chair Eboni Brown and Patricia Rojas, Metro, provided closing remarks.

Next steps include:

- Metro to update landlord engagement research scope to include staff recommendations, a focus on chronically homeless and application of equity lenses.
- Staff to share Metro's 2021 racial equity framework.
- TCPB to select equity lens tools at future meeting.
- Metro to share system mapping proposal.
- Metro to develop high-level analysis and recommendations on the top four strategies for the February meeting.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:15 pm.