

Tri-County Planning Body Meeting Summary

Meeting: Supportive Housing Services Tri-County Planning Body Meeting
Date: Wednesday, August 9th, 2023
Time: 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 the progress of the healthcare systems alignment goal and learn about the homeless services data ecosystem.

Member attendees

Co-chair Eboni Brown (she/her), Mercedes Elizalde (she/her), Monta Knudson (he/him), Nicole Larson (she/her), Michael Ong Liu (he/him), Sahaan McKelvey (he/him), Steve Rudman (he/him), Mindy Stadtlander (she/her)

Absent members

Co-chair Matt Chapman (he/him), Zoi Coppiano (she/her), Yvette Hernandez (she/her), Cristina Palacios (she/her)

Elected delegates

Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal (she/her), Metro Councilor Christine Lewis (she/her)

Absent elected delegates

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington (she/her), Clackamas County Chair Tootie Smith (she/her)

County staff representatives

Clackamas County – Vahid Brown (he/him), Washington County – Jes Larson (she/her), Jessi Adams (she/her), Multnomah County – Breanna Flores (she/they)

Metro

Abby Ahern (she/her), Giovani Bautista (he/him), Melia Deters (she/her), Liam Frost (he/him), Valeria McWilliams (she/her)

Kearns & West Facilitators

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

Note: The meeting was recorded via Zoom; therefore, details will be mainly focused on the discussions, with less detail regarding the presentations. Presentation slides are included in the archived meeting packet.

Welcome and Introductions

Ben Duncan, Kearns & West, welcomed the Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB) to the meeting, facilitated introductions between TCPB members, and reviewed the agenda. He noted that there was a slight agenda shift and that Staff Updates would become the final agenda item.

The TCPB approved the July Meeting Summary.

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Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Healthcare Systems Alignment Update Presentation – Medicaid and Health Share

Dr. Maggie Bennington Davis, Health Share of Oregon, presented on cross-sector health and housing collaboration. She gave an overview of Medicaid and Health Share and shared details on the Medicaid Waiver and its connection to the health-related social need (HRSN) benefit. HRSN benefit categories include housing, food, and climate. Identified populations, such as those leaving psychiatric facilities, incarceration, or foster care, are potentially eligible for HRSN benefits for up to six months. She noted not all identified populations would be eligible at the launch of the HRSN benefit program.

Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal asked for further criteria definitions on HRSN eligibility.

Dr. Maggie Bennington Davis replied that additional criteria are yet to be defined but could look like an individual transitioning out of incarceration and could be at risk of becoming homeless.

Monta Knudson asked if organizations would be able to buy housing capacity through this mechanism to support multiple individuals rather than one individual buying one unit.

Mindy Stadlander replied that the current rules wouldn't make that a straightforward process as the benefit is linked to the individual and their needs. She noted that there are creative ways to draft contracts to make that a possibility, but funds cannot be shifted to housing from the food and climate categories.

Monta Knudson shared his concern for housing provider funders, such as cities or counties, directing providers to receive payment for individual benefits, which can make housing a risky business.

Michael Liu asked if six months is enough time for an individual to stabilize, or what is the next step for individuals after six months, such as entering another program.

Dr. Maggie Bennington Davis, Health Share, replied that this question emphasizes the need for partners in the work to not perpetuate harm.

Mindy Stadlander noted that Oregon is one of five states to have the Medicaid Waiver housing benefit and the opportunity exists for the TCPB to influence future decisions about prioritization.

Liam Frost, Metro, added that the Medicaid Waiver was a concept from 2015 with a marginal budget, and now with a large amount of Supportive Housing Services (SHS) funding coming in, it's a collective job to leverage both funds.

Co-chair Eboni Brown reflected that it sounds like Health Share is prioritizing individuals in transition and asked if there is any collaboration underway to make housing accessible to those formerly incarcerated.

Dr. Maggie Bennington Davis, Health Share, replied that while formerly incarcerated populations are potentially eligible populations, there is no current work underway.

Mindy Stadlander added that the Health Share Pilot looked at the different eligible populations and that the starting populations with the HRSN benefit will be those with

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significant mental health disorders, substance use disorders, and who are at risk of homelessness.

Jes Larson, Washington County, added that these newly available resources are in addition to current capacity issues and landlords are still needed to expand capacity. She added that additional funding should create system efficiencies.

Vahid Brown, Clackamas County, underscored the importance of being closely coordinated as the region works on increasing landlord engagement and relaxing tenant screening criteria.

Valeria McWilliams, Metro, emphasized the need for reduced tenant screening barriers and noted that the landlord recruitment regional goal is underway and will be shared with the TCPB this fall.

Mercedes Elizalde stated that this work connects to coordinated entry and highlights the importance of a continuum of care. She stated it's important to ensure that individuals don't get disqualified from other housing programs once their six-month housing waiver expires.

Presentation – Health Share's Housing Benefit Pilot

Dr. Maggie Bennington Davis, Health Share, shared information about Health Share's Housing Benefit Pilot which began in 2022. The Pilot provides benefits including short-term rental and utility assistance, housing navigation support, move-in support, and accessibility modifications. She discussed the importance of partner collaboration to leverage benefits across programs and funding and mentioned how Health Share will bridge the pilot to the new HRSN benefit.

Co-chair Eboni Brown asked what the population breakdowns were of those served in the pilot.

Dr. Maggie Bennington Davis, Health Share, replied that the populations were similar to the Medicaid waiver and noted that when the HRSN benefit begins, not all populations will be served at the beginning.

Liam Frost, Metro, added that the outcome is a great system where housing and healthcare are working together. He reflected on the meetings Metro has convened between both sectors for the Medicaid waiver and noted that there is a larger conversation to integrate systems and coordinated entry which ties into another TCPB goal. He added that Metro has convened four workgroup meetings beginning in August to work through key topics, and the work from those groups will be reported to the TCPB in the next three months.

Mindy Stadlander added that the opportunities to leverage both systems expand beyond the Medicaid waiver.

Allie Alexander-Sheridan, Washington County, shared that Medicaid Waiver housing benefits operational work is underway and that the four workgroups Liam Frost mentioned will develop recommendations on population definition, assessment and referral, data sharing and infrastructure, and network management.

Liam Frost, Metro, noted that a lot of this work is directed towards the Oregon Health Authority as they determine rollout.

Mercedes Elizalde asked if there has been consideration of utilizing Measure 110-funded providers for behavioral health and substance abuse clients.

Mindy Stadlander replied that this is a good point and could be maximized. She noted that there is an inclusive definition of behavioral health and substance abuse diagnosis.

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Jes Larson, Washington County, noted the Medicaid work necessitates system integration and that it is important to define populations ahead of time. She reflected that this work will be iterative and won't be perfect the first time.

Homeless Services Data Overview

Presentation

Abby Ahern, Metro, gave an overview of homeless services data and detailed what regulations and funding go into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). She shared the data reporting standards for HMIS and defined Built for Zero and coordinated entry.

Jes Larson, Washington County, shared that coordinated entry is used as a way to manage limited resources to meet community needs.

Abby Ahern, Metro, added that coordinated entry shifts the administrative burden of identifying individual programs and resources from an individual to the services system.

Mindy Stadlander noted that Health Share is aware that these are the same individuals they serve.

Abby Ahern, Metro, detailed the Supportive Housing Services data framework and report.

Heather Skriver, Washington County, shared information on regional coordination work, including the Tri-County Data Team whose purpose was to develop regional definitions and aligned reporting methodologies for Metro reporting.

Lori Kelley, Joint Office of Homeless Services, shared that the Tri-County Data Team is now focusing on coordination for HMIS implementation.

Melanie Pascual, Clackamas County, shared that there are regional coordination around the Point In Time count and Built for Zero.

Staff Updates

Staff updates were moved to the end of the agenda at the beginning of the meeting but were not discussed due to time constraints. Staff committed to sending a written update to the TCPB.

Closing and Next Steps

Ben Duncan, Kearns & West, noted that the September meeting will include further data discussion.

Valeria McWilliams, Metro, added that a single-page progress report will now be included as part of the meeting packet moving forward.

The next steps include:

- Next meeting: September 13th, 4-6 pm.
 - Continued data conversation.
- Metro to send staff updates by email.
- Metro to share landlord recruitment work this fall.
- Metro to share Medicaid workgroup findings in three months.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:00 pm.