



Supportive Housing Services Oversight Committee Meeting Summary

Meeting:	Supportive Housing Services Oversight Committee Meeting
Date:	October 23, 2023
Time:	9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Place:	Virtual meeting (Zoom)
Purpose:	Metro tax collection and disbursement update; Multnomah County Corrective Action Plan (CAP) update through September; and discussion on FY23-23 unanticipated collections.

Member attendees

Co-chair Susan Emmons (she/her), Dan Fowler (he/him), Jenny Lee (she/her), Seth Lyon (he/him), Carter MacNichol (he/him), Felicita Monteblanco (she/her), Jeremiah Rigsby (he/him), Mike Savara (he/him), Co-Chair Dr. Mandrill Taylor (he/him), Becky Wilkinson (she/her)

Elected delegates

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

Absent elected delegates

Clackamas County Chair Tootie Smith (she/her), City of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler (he/him), Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington (she/her)

Metro

Breanna Hudson (she/her), Patricia Rojas (she/her), Finn Budd (they/them), Israel Bayer (he/him)

Kearns & West Facilitator

Ben Duncan (he/him)

Welcome and Introductions

Ben Duncan, Kearns & West, introduced himself as a neutral third-party facilitator and facilitated introductions between Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Oversight Committee members.

Co-chairs Susan Emmons and Dr. Mandrill Taylor provided opening remarks and welcomed the SHS Oversight Committee to the meeting.

Seth Lyon shared that he accepted a new position and will no longer be a part of the Committee. He recommended his successor as his replacement.

Israel Bayer, Housing Communications Manager, Metro, introduced himself and shared his background in communications. He highlighted that he would be reaching out to set up one-on-ones with each member to inform Metro's strategic communications plan.

Becky Wilkinson, Seth, Co-chair Taylor, and Dan Fowler shared their enthusiasm to have Israel on Metro's team.

Patricia Rojas, Regional Housing Director, Metro, shared that Metro would share additional staffing updates at the next meeting and that Metro is working on answering questions from the last meeting's public comment.

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Conflict of Interest Declaration

Dan Fowler, Carter MacNichol, Becky Wilkinson, and Jenny Lee, all shared potential or perceived conflicts of interest.

Public Comment

Shaun Ireland provided verbal public comment.

Metro Tax Collections and Disbursement Update

Rachael Lembo, Finance Manager, Metro, stated that a detailed report on Metro's tax collections for FY24 through September 2023 is in the packet and that collections were higher than last year. She noted that Metro is on track to meet the forecast for this year and is putting together its five-year forecast.

Multnomah County Corrective Action Plan (CAP) update

Patricia noted that this is the first report received on the CAP. She highlighted that the report looks back so there is a slight delay in numbers, but the information in the notes is current.

Rachael oriented members on how to read the monthly report, defined the three status levels, and detailed the table in the monthly report.

Carter asked if Metro or Multnomah County determines an item's status level.

Patricia replied that Metro does.

Dan Field, Director, Joint Office of Homeless Services, Multnomah County, shared that the tool was developed collaboratively and that determinations of status levels are done collectively to ensure alignment between Metro and Multnomah County. He noted that there are a lot of green items, the yellow items will unfold throughout the year, and that red items are behind.

Kanoe Egleston, Director of Programs, Joint Office of Homeless Services, Multnomah County, presented an overview of the CAP and noted that Multnomah County completed 6 out of 15 items. She highlighted successes including technical assistance investments. She shared that Multnomah County is focused on providers' organizational health and capacity building. She added that Multnomah Now and Move in Multnomah are the two red items.

Co-chair Emmons asked how Multnomah County is imagining capacity building grants will be given, what size they will be, and if they are reimbursements.

Dan Field replied that they are working to define the program, but the goal is to get the funds out quickly and implement grants, not reimbursements. He noted that they do not want to be overly prescriptive since each organization will know how to use the grant best. He added that Multnomah Now has a provider workforce issue and suggested giving an update once the work group meets.

Ben asked to clarify the lag time of when the Committee will be seeing CAP progress.

Rachael clarified that the lag time is in the dollar amounts. She noted that the status report includes information as of September, and the Committee will receive the latest information in the discussion.

Seth stated that it was challenging to see the significant underspending that directly impacts housing. He asked what the barriers were to getting money operationalized, and suggested Multnomah County share more about those barriers since the Committee has observed this pattern

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before. He asked to hear more about the high-impact camping outreach and engagement. He reflected that there seems to be a significant gap in outreach at camps.

Dan Field replied that they've been hearing that each person is requiring more resources. He shared that Multnomah County is currently holding listening sessions with providers to understand challenges. He noted that rising acuity and workforce challenges are making it difficult to get individuals housed and to do outreach. He added that an outreach strategy will be included as part of the Safe County Shelter Strategy and welcomed the Committee's input.

Kanoe noted that outreach shows up in multiple ways and that line item 14 is an expanded navigation team, which is an outreach team focused on high-impact camping areas. She noted that the report doesn't always capture where funds are allocated and expenditures and stated that Multnomah County is getting money to providers. She highlighted that Move in Multnomah has funds allocated and up to 95 households have been retained in housing to prevent eviction.

Ben reflected that outreach has been a common theme in Committee meetings.

Mike stated that while the tool is helpful, it's important to have insight into what is occurring week in and week out. He shared that Multnomah County has work aligned with the CAP and work that's underway that is not the CAP. He noted that the CAP work intersects with Governor Kotek's Order and that all work is moving towards the same goal. He emphasized that spending is important, but it's also critical to think of the larger picture of long-term strategies.

Patricia added that SHS is one part of the bigger picture and that it's important to tell the story of comprehensive funds since SHS funds are not in a vacuum. She stated that it's important to create alignment and efficiencies with funds and that coordination is required for the housing crisis.

Dan Field reiterated that there is not a lack of funds problem, but that there are issues with spending at the provider level. He stated that the challenge is finding a sweet spot for providers to find ways to get funds to the community.

Carter reflected that the challenges Dan Field mentioned are real and are a communications challenge. He noted that the problem is different today than when the SHS measure was voted on and that Israel will need to make that communication connection. He stressed the importance of informing the voters on the issues since the election is close.

Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal stated that the issue of acuity will be a money problem and that providing effective services will be more expensive for acuity. She added that the two systemic issues, wages for workers and services, will have financial impacts.

Mike agreed that acuity drives costs and reflected that when he worked on an Assertive Community Treatment team, the client to staff ratio was 1:10.

Co-chair Emmons reflected that she is now seeing a sense of urgency from Multnomah County. She stated that grants are great and that the Committee is striking the balance between being supportive and asking hard questions. She reiterated that Multnomah County should do everything it can to get funds out the door deliberately and mindfully. She thanked Multnomah County for its transparency.

Ben noted the CAP will be an ongoing conversation.

Discussion: FY23-23 unanticipated collections update

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Patricia stated that each year counties forecast collections to create budgets, and this year, more funds were collected than forecasted for Clackamas and Multnomah Counties.

Adam Brown, Deputy Director, Health Housing and Human Services, Clackamas County, provided background information on how Clackamas County does its budget planning. He shared that when Clackamas County began its budget planning a year ago, they knew they would have carryover funds of budgeted revenue and anticipated that balance. He detailed Clackamas County's plan for the carryover funds including financial stability, expanding capacity, upstream investments, and rent assistance. He added that additional carryover funds occurred, and the plan for those funds is dedicated to capital needs.

Felicita Monteblanco asked if capital needs are guided by providers, the Board, or the SHS County Committee.

Adam replied that they all provide guidance.

Dan Field wished he had more time to present on the additional funds and Multnomah County's process for determining allocations.

Kanoe stated the unanticipated revenue went towards expanding shelter access, shelter-to-housing flow, behavioral health services, stabilization, housing services, and daytime support services.

Carter asked what the timeline is to get the funds out to providers.

Kanoe replied that the process has started and that they are expanding current contracts and other sources will go out for the allocation process.

Co-chair Emmons thanked Multnomah County for their presentation and apologized for the short time.

Next Steps

Co-chairs Emmons and Taylor provided closing remarks.

Ben shared that unanticipated collections can be revisited if there are any remaining questions, and that Metro will send out an email on the next steps.

The next steps include:

- County staff to share slide decks.
- Metro to email an update on next steps, including how to submit any questions regarding Multnomah County's unanticipated collections and if members would like to revisit the presentation.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 11:00 am.