



600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting minutes

Meeting: Supportive Housing Services Oversight Committee
Date/time: Monday, September 26, 2022, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Place: Zoom (Virtual)
Purpose: Presentation of quarter 4 reports; presentation and discussion of county work plans and budgets for FY22-23; and updates on committee membership and recruitment for 2023 term.

Member attendees

Co-chair Susan Emmons, Dan Fowler, Armando Jimenez, Ellen Johnson, Jenny Lee, Seth Lyon, Carter MacNichol, Felicita Monteblanco, Jeremiah Rigsby, Dr. Mandrill Taylor, Co-chair Kathy Wai

Absent members

Gabby Bates, Heather Brown, Roserria Roberts, Jahed Sukhun

Elected delegates

Clackamas County Commissioner Sonya Fischer Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington, Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal, Metro Councilor Christine Lewis, City of Portland Commissioner Dan Ryan

Metro

Nui Bezaire, Ash Elverfeld, Breanna Hudson, Rachael Lembo, Patricia Rojas

Facilitator

Ben Duncan, Kearns & West

Details for this meeting can also be found in the final meeting record due to the reliance in the meeting on slide decks that are included in the record. Minutes may include portions of the slide deck material but focus primarily on discussion and questions not found in the slide deck. A summary of County and Metro staff responses to member questions are italicized.

Welcome and introductions

Co-chair Kathy Wai (she/her) welcomed the committee to the meeting and introduced Ben Duncan (he/him), the new committee facilitator from Kearns & West.

Ben shared that he will also be facilitating the Tri-County Planning Body and the Regional Affordable Housing Bond committee as well.

Co-chair Emmons (she/her) introduced herself and also facilitated member introductions to Ben.

Ben discouraged the use of the chat function in Zoom and members gave a thumbs up in agreement to this proposal.

Co-chair Wai reviewed ground agreements briefly and let members know that the group would be revisiting those with Ben in the future.

July meeting minutes were approved.

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Conflict of interest declaration

Jenny Lee (she/her) works at the Coalition of Communities of Color and they are partnering with Unite Oregon to support work of the Housing Authority of Clackamas County.

Carter MacNichol (he/him) is a board member at Transition Projects and they're a contractor with the Joint Office of Homeless Services.

Dan Fowler (he/him) is Chair of the Homeless Solutions Coalition of Clackamas County and they may at some point receive SHS funding.

Public Comment

No verbal public comment was made during the meeting.

A written public comment was received and included in the meeting packet.

Quarter 4 regional summary

Co-chair Wai introduced this agenda item and asked Nui Bezaire (she/her), Supportive Housing Services Program Manager, Metro, to provide a regional overview of quarters one to four based on the progress reports received from the counties.

Carter and Ellen Johnson (she/her) expressed that they felt it was too late to be discussing quarter four progress given that work plans and budgets have already been established by the counties.

Co-chair Emmons suggested moving forward with the agenda as drafted.

Nui used a slide deck to present a brief version of the Q4 summary that was also included in the meeting packet.

Rachael Lembo (she/her), Finance Manager, Planning Development and Research Department, Metro, joined the meeting and provided an overview of the tax collections from last year- a total of \$239.5 million. She also reviewed the disbursement of funds to the jurisdictional partners and the Metro allocation. In FY22-23 the estimated tax collection is projected to be about \$225M.

Clackamas County Commissioner Sonya Fischer (she/her) shared that while Clackamas County didn't use the SHS money until they received it, their overall success in the County using other dollars was significant.

County work plans and budgets for FY22-23

Co-chair Emmons introduced this portion of the agenda. She also shared a brief story of running into a Street Roots vendor at her local grocery store who was housed with an SHS voucher and the vendor shared that it had transformed her life. She proposed that as the group looks at the numbers Nui compressed and the work plans to remember that there are people diligently working on housing problems and having success.

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington (she/her) asked what the goals or criteria that the oversight committee is using to make its oversight judgments or recommendations? Ben replied that this question will be carried forward.

Clackamas County staff members were introduced: Adam Brown (he/him), Deputy Director for Clackamas County Department of Health, Housing and Human Services, and Vahid Brown (he/him), Housing and Supportive Housing Services Manager.



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Vahid used a slide deck to review their annual work plan regional metric goals and budget for FY22-23.

The members then engaged with County staff for a period of question and answers.

Staff responses to member questions will be italicized.

Carter asked about the \$32M total budget and if that reflects carryover funds unspent from last year?

That \$32.2M was based on the most recent projection of collection at that time. It has now exceeded that, as seen in Rachael's presentation earlier in the meeting. They will use the prior year's collections as the cash flow and funding for current year activities, which will be the pattern for Clackamas County into the future. They will be doing a supplemental budget in the near future to account for the additional revenues over the projected number for the fiscal year.

Carter's second question referred to the work plan having mentioned shifting resources to other parts of the County and using SHS funding to backfill, and if that understanding is correct—doesn't the SHS measure prohibit against that?

Vahid replied that Clackamas County has agreed to not displace any existing funding commitments from local funding to supportive housing services within the county. The reallocation or movement of funds that is being referenced is all resources available to address homelessness in the county prior to SHS measure funding. The bulk of the need in Clackamas was in the rural part of the county and geographically half of the county that the Metro SHS Fund doesn't allow funding to. They are reallocating state and federal funds to where possible to serve the needs of rural folks not served by SHS measure funding. There is no net funding decrease. They're looking at using SHS measure funds for those parts of the county that are in Metro jurisdiction, perhaps redirecting non-geographically restricted funds to those portions of the county. The overall county SHS budget has increased.

Ellen asked if SHS program funds are used in their Continuum of Care (CoC) planning and outlays? Or are the programs run separately? Does Clackamas County run two separate homeless programs? She thinks they should be using their funds in a way that dovetails to coordinate with their CoC planning and that the HUD system analysis is useful to determine how effective their SHS funding is in addressing homelessness.

Vahid replied to the initial question Ellen asked several clarifying questions. None of Vahid's replies satisfied Ellen's line of questioning.

Due to the communication breakdown, Ben asked that they revisit the question in writing given the lack of resolve.

Dr. Taylor liked seeing behavioral health alignment highlights in their plan and hopes to see more funding in the cities for behavioral health specialists and peer supports, because without capacity the efforts breakdown.

Co-chair Emmons said that members have struggled to see baseline funding for Clackamas County prior to SHS and so there's concern that SHS funds are being used to backfill programs in Clackamas County. As a committee they want to see that the county is going forward with new programming.

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Adam replied that he is 100% certain there hasn't been a displacement of funds from the homeless services system of care in the county. They are going through a process of organizational restructuring to consolidate their various housing services system resources to be under one organizational division because they had been administered across the department.

Ben told the committee that staff will follow-up to show documentation of what Adam described.

Felicita Montebalanco asked if they are giving cash to culturally specific organizations and not just technical assistance to increase their capacity?

Vahid said yes.

Washington County staff members joined the meeting to present on their annual work plan and budget through a slide show presentation: Jessi Adams (she/her), Capacity Programs Supervisor, and Jes Larson (she/her), Supportive Housing Services Manager.

The members then engaged with County staff for a period of question and answer.

Staff responses to member questions will be italicized.

Co-chair Wai asked how the County is meeting the needs for folks who need transportation to services, especially those in the more rural areas?

Jessi said they provide transportation passes and also that outreach workers can provide rides. For shelter siting they consider proximity and access to transit.

Jes added that SHS funds are limited to urbanized portions of the county, so they use SHS funds for inside the Metro boundary and outside of that they use other funding.

Ellen asked in relation to the change in their local implementation plan (LIP) in the first year, when they plan to level up spending between Population A and Population B? The concern being that it will be too far down the road and not in alignment with the SHS priorities. Is there a plan to track by population?

Jes said yes, they delayed Population B programming in the first year. In year two they have leveled up for Population B. Their shelter and outreach programs are serving both populations. She said that rapid rehousing was the program that they planned on adding mid-way through the first year but had to delay and launch at the beginning of year two, which they have begun.

Ellen also asked if CoC is separate than SHS and covers both urban and rural areas?

Jes said they see the CoC is a whole system, and that the vast majority is SHS funding but they also have Federal, State, County General and Local Safety Auction Levy funding. In the County, they're in midst of integrating the previous CoC program that was about a \$4.5M budget and making sure that it tells a story of what they think will become a \$70M program when built out fully. They're in the middle of that transformation and their Road Home Plan hasn't been updated to tell this full story yet. They're embarking on a year's worth of work to update that material. In their CoC NOFA application, it references the whole of their investments.

In reply to Jes, Ellen said that she thinks all counties should be following that model of program incorporation.

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Dr. Taylor likes the stories they highlighted in relation to success of mental health and addiction support in the presentation. He said that it's one thing for an individual to find sobriety and it's another thing to see a system help sustain it. Following, he asked what are their goals and priorities around behavioral health alignment? What are their strategies to ensure better alignment with behavioral health?

Jessi said they see that as key to all of their work and it will be integrated into everything they do. Staff will be trained in behavioral health first aid and crisis intervention as well as trauma informed care. Behavioral health services will be co-located, built into access centers.

Yesenia Delgado (she/her), SHS Manager, and Shannon Singleton (she/her), Interim Director, Joint Office of Homeless Services, Multnomah County joined the committee to present their annual SHS work plan.

No questions or comments came from members.

Co-chair announcement from Kathy Wai

Co-chair Wai announced that while she has served as the co-chair since the inception of the committee, she will step down in January 2023 but stay on as a member of the committee. She said they'd be looking to the group for the next co-chair and offered a conversation to whomever may be interested.

Updates and next steps: Member recruitment and October meeting

Staff announced there is a recruitment starting for a member representing Clackamas County and also one for Washington County. Members are encouraged to reach out to networks so there is a diverse applicant pool. Applications open Tuesday, September 26.

In regards to the Regional Long-term Rent Assistance (RLRA) public comment, Patricia Rojas (she/her), Regional Housing Director, Metro, thanked Tom Cusack for submitting it. She said that public comment space is a time for the public to be heard and not necessarily a space for the committee to respond. Staff responded in collaboration with counties and staff involved in developing the RLRA framework. She said that the Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB) is more of a policy recommendation oriented committee and that this is an oversight of LIPs. She said that the TCPB develops a regional plan and long-term rent assistance is specifically called out as a regional area of focus for them.

Ellen proposed recommending the comment to the TCPB.

Co-chair Emmons felt the responses in the packet from staff were sufficient and didn't feel a referral was needed because the commentor has the option to send it to the TCPB too.

Co-chair Wai supports where Co-chair Emmons was coming from and that as co-chairs they need to bring more context into the oversight committee of the charter. Her general sense was that folks weren't ready to entertain an action today. She would like more time and information about the TCPB and charter before determining whether to move forward.

Dan said he is process oriented and wants the public to know they're heard. He said he believes the commenter has been heard and doesn't mean they need to agree or disagree. There's been a response and it doesn't mean it's the last response. He said that even if they recommend the TCPB hears the comment, it doesn't mean they need to take it up. He would like to refer it to them.

Adjourn at 11:59 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ash Elverfeld, Housing Program Assistant