

## Tri-County Planning Body Meeting Summary

Meeting: Supportive Housing Services Tri-County Planning Body Meeting  
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024  
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 receive a progress report on the coordinated entry goal and discuss.

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### Member attendees

Chair Eboni Brown (she/her), Mercedes Elizalde (she/her), Yvette Marie Hernandez (she/her), Nicole Larson (she/her), Cristina Palacios (she/her), Steve Rudman (he/him), Zoi Coppiano (she/her), Monta Knudson (he/him), Sahaan McKelvey (he/him), Mindy Stadtlander (she/her)

### Elected delegates

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington (she/her), Metro Councilor Christine Lewis (she/her), Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson (she/her)

### Absent delegates

Clackamas County Chair Tootie Smith (she/her)

### County staff representatives

Clackamas County – Vahid Brown (he/him); Multnomah County – Breanna Flores (she/they), Christina Castaño (she/her), Kanoe Eggleston (she/her), Washington County – Jes Larson (she/her), Allie Alexander Sheridan (she/her)

### Metro

Liam Frost (he/him), Abby Ahern (she/her), Melia Deters (she/her), Chris Pence (he/him)

### Kearns & West Facilitators

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

*Note: The meeting was recorded via Zoom; therefore, this meeting summary will remain at a high-level overview. Please review the recording and archived meeting packet for details and presentation slides.*

### Welcome and Introductions

Ben Duncan, Kearns & West (K&W), introduced himself and welcomed the Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB) to the meeting, facilitated introductions, and reviewed the agenda and objectives.

The TCPB approved the March Meeting Summary.

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### Public Comment

Steve Rudman asked what the result of Community Warehouse's comment was last month.

Ben Duncan, K&W, replied that it is up to the TCPB to incorporate public comment as they see fit.

Ethan Loomis provided public comment.

Shaun Ireland provided public comment.

### Conflict of Interest

No members declared a conflict of interest for this meeting.

### Staff Updates

Liam Frost, Metro, announced that Steve Rudman and Mercedes Elizalde would be TCPB Co-chairs beginning next month and that they are working to fill the three member vacancies by July.

Chirs Pence, Metro, shared that the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Oversight Committee approved the Landlord Recruitment Regional Implementation Plan and provided feedback to develop an overarching outcome and metrics, and provide more background language in the plan to link the strategies together. He shared that the TCPB and SHS Oversight Committee Co-chairs will discuss the feedback and next steps. He added that the four jurisdictions have formed a workgroup and will meet monthly to coordinate and finalize reporting metrics.

Liam Frost, Metro, thanked Ethan Loomis for his comment and for sharing a recommendation. He noted that staff are listening to and incorporating feedback.

Mercedes Elizalde asked when there would be a timeline for the hotline strategy.

*Chirs Pence, Metro, replied that there is no timeline yet, and they will give updates and incorporate feedback regularly.*

Steve Rudman reflected on the Regional Long-term Rental Assistance (RLRA) program and asked if there was portability between counties or if there were other ways to improve the effectiveness of the program.

Cristina Palacios added that it could be good to pilot the program and get feedback from the landlords.

*Chirs Pence, Metro, replied that some of the reporting metrics would be improvement focused.*

*Liam Frost, Metro, added that the jurisdictional work group will consider these comments.*

Nicole Stingham, Washington County, shared that the Opal Apartments have opened and that the Nueva Esperanza building will be opening later this week.

Cristina Castaño, Multnomah County, shared that Oliver's Place has opened and shared out findings from a [Portland State University study](#) that found how small shelters more effectively impact homeless individuals and support pathways to housing in comparison to congregate shelters.

### Coordinated Entry Progress Report

Abby Ahern, Metro, reviewed the coordinated entry goal language and provided an overview of the history of coordinated entry. She defined coordinated entry, Built for Zero, and case conferencing,

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and reviewed the four core elements of coordinated entry: access, assess, prioritize, and referral, with the ultimate goal of move-in. She noted that each county has a Continuum of Care (CoC) Board that would need to approve any TCPB recommendations related to coordinated entry.

Steve Rudman asked if case conferencing was done by county staff or community-based organizations.

*Abby Ahern, Metro, replied that will be answered later in the presentation.*

Cristina Palacios asked if the TCPB and the CoC Boards were to approve this, what would the timeline be for the program to begin. She reflected on her work with immigrants and refugees who have difficulty reporting incomes.

*Abby Ahern, Metro, clarified that coordinated entry programs have been running for many years and this work would identify ways to create a regional coordination system. She shared that staff would return in early fall with an implementation plan that has details like timelines. She added that The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) doesn't have an income requirement and SHS is lenient with income.*

Mercedes Elizalde asked for counties to address in their presentations how long assessments take.

Ben Duncan, Kearns & West, asked to clarify how the CoC Boards would engage in this conversation.

*Abby Ahern, Metro, clarified that each county has its own CoC Board as mandated by HUD, which generally meets monthly. She noted that nothing can change until the Boards approve it and imagined it would look like touch points with the Boards as implementation plans are developed and including their process in the implementation plan.*

Sahaan McKelvey reflected that every reason and barrier that existed for coordinated entry in 2012 exists now and highlighted the importance of moving the work forward.

*Abby Ahern, Metro, affirmed that the goal is to identify opportunities for regionalization to enhance participant and service provider experience.*

Lauren Decker, Clackamas County, provided an overview of Clackamas County's coordinated entry process called "Highway to Housing" and shared that screening begins when participants call the program or connect with an outreach worker. She noted that the assessment could take anywhere from 20 minutes to over an hour depending on participant needs. She shared that there are immediate programs for some participants, and other participants get added to a waitlist. She detailed the eight components of Clackamas County's process.

Monta Knudson asked how medium and lower-priority folks receive care.

*Lauren Decker, Clackamas County, responded that they are trying to address that with the implementation of the Rapid Rehousing Program and hiring engagement specialists.*

Katherine Galian, Washington County, detailed Washington County's six-step coordinated entry process called "Community Connect." She noted that assessments are completed over the phone, with outreach workers, with providers, and there are liaisons in the health care and justice systems. She noted that households that are experiencing chronic homelessness are prioritized and went over the three types of case conferencing.

Monta Knudson asked why a strong tie to Washington County is needed for eligibility purposes as part of the assessment.

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*Katherine Galian, Washington County, replied that is to ensure folks want to live in Washington County.*

*Abby Ahern, Metro, added that HUD funding is county by county and requires funding to be spent on the community.*

Katie Dineen, Multnomah County, presented an overview of coordinated access in Multnomah County and noted that there are five different systems for each population and that resources in each system vary. She shared that Multnomah County is reevaluating its assessment tool and testing a new shorter one. She noted that there are centralized and decentralized access points in each system, and that case conferencing is facilitated by the county.

Mindy Stadtlander asked to discuss the relative value of using HUD tools since SHS is locally funded.

*Abby Ahern, Metro, replied that HUD requires coordinated entry, but not a particular tool. She noted that the counties have expanded on the basic requirements from HUD.*

Mercedes Elizalde asked if assessments are updated if the household status changes or if the process would have to start from the beginning.

*Chair Eboni Brown, Lauren Decker, Clackamas County, and Katie Dineen, Multnomah County, replied that the assessments can be updated in each county.*

Sasha Caine and Joy Balinbin, Homebase, presented Homebases' consulting work to complete a national scan to identify similar contexts. They shared that this regional work is unprecedented and shared their current work interviewing communities and providers and facilitating a workgroup and listening sessions. They detailed emerging regional opportunities including advancing equity through prioritization, aligning assessment questions, standardizing case conferencing, and sharing data.

Chair Eboni Brown asked what the budget was for people with lived experiences to provide input.

*Abby Ahern, Metro, replied the same rate they pay TCPB members, \$200 per meeting.*

Nicole Larson asked if counties find aligning assessment questions and standardizing case conferencing doable.

*Abby Ahern, Metro, replied that aligning assessments wouldn't mean the same assessment for each county, but asking the same questions for regional information while still allowing flexibility for county specific questions. She noted that for case conferencing it would be to standardize practices so healthcare system participants can feel that there is familiarity. She added that these are opportunities and they don't know what is doable yet.*

Nicole Stingham, Washington County, added that the CoC Boards are the ones with the authority to set expectations to comply with HUD and noted that Zoi Coppiano is on the Washington County CoC Board.

Washington County Chair Harrington highlighted that this work is innovative and shared that Metro staff should help lift that message.

Cristina Palacios asked what happens if a participant doesn't have a social security number or doesn't want to share it.

*Abby Ahern, Metro, Chair Eboni Brown, and Lauren Decker, Clackamas County, replied that the participant would receive services regardless as questions can be skipped, but they can share other identification numbers if they want to.*

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Steve Rudman shared that SHS funds are separate from HUD and his hope that a system can be created that makes sense to be able to use both funds.

*Abby Ahern, Metro, replied that HUD requirements still need to be met, but there is a lot of flexibility for SHS funds, and they are looking at current systems to see if they were created due to fund scarcity or to fulfill HUD.*

Merced Elizalde stated that amending assessments seems like a way to make systems portable and would like to see if folks are connecting to income resources in the assessments. She noted that it is important to find regional pieces and think about doors that open to SHS-funded services.

*Abby Ahern, Metro, replied that they are thinking about auto-populating mechanisms between the jurisdictions, and other connections like RLRA vouchers and services.*

Chair Eboni Brown stated that there is a provider piece as well since a provider will review the assessment and verify income needs and see if folks can find work.

Mercedes Elizalde stated that income is a large piece that keeps folks in poverty, and this is an opportunity to make a referral during the assessment and lean into connections with providers so that work burden isn't put on providers.

### Closing and Next Steps

Ben Duncan, Kearns & West, adjourned the meeting and noted next steps include:

- TCPB to meet Wednesday, June 12th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

### Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.