

Tri-County Planning Body Meeting Summary

Meeting: Supportive Housing Services Tri-County Planning Body Meeting
Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2024
Time: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Place: Metro Council Chambers, 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland, OR 97232 and Zoom Webinar
Purpose: Regional housing funding recommendation presentation and discussion; and presentation and discussion on the committee's work to date and future work.

Member attendees

Eboni Brown (she/her), Co-chair Mercedes Elizalde (she/her), Co-chair Steve Rudman (he/him), Zoi Coppiano (she/her), Yvette Marie Hernandez (she/her) Sahaan McKelvey (he/him) Monta Knudson (he/him),

Absent members

Nicole Larson (she/her), Cristina Palacios (she/her), Mindy Stadtlander (she/her)

Elected delegates

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington (she/her), Metro Councilor Christine Lewis (she/her)

Absent delegates

Clackamas County Chair Tootie Smith (she/her), Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson (she/her)

County staff representatives

Clackamas County – Vahid Brown (he/him); Multnomah County – Christina Castaño (she/her), , Washington County – Nicole Stingham (she/her)

Metro

Valeria McWilliams (she/her), Ruth Adkins (she/her), Liam Frost (he/him), Patricia Rojas (she/her), Craig Beebe (he/him), Andy Shaw (he/him), Michael Garcia (he/him), Lo Miranda (they/them), Abby Ahern (she/her)

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.

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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.

Co-chairs Mercedes Elizalde and Steve Rudman provided opening remarks.

The TCPB approved the July Meeting Summary.

Public Comment

Molly Hogan, Welcome Home Coalition, provided public comment.

Conflict of Interest

Yvette Hernandez noted that she works for Home Forward which receives SHS funding, but she participates on the TCPB as a community member.

Sahaan McKelvey shared that he works at Self Enhancement Inc (SEI) which receives SHS funds. He noted that providers are not the only groups that benefit from SHS funds, and that the whole region benefits from SHS funds.

Zoi Coppiano asked if individuals would need to declare at every meeting.

Ben Duncan, Kearns & West, responded that it should be declared at every meeting for transparency, but the obligation is to only declare during meetings that have decision making items. He suggested for members to connect with the Metro Attorney for details.

Valeria McWilliams, Metro, added that she will ask the Metro Attorney for guidance and reshare with the TCPB.

Zoi shared that she works for Community Action which receives SHS funds.

Regional Housing Funding Recommendation

Andy Shaw, Metro, reviewed the Metro Chief Operating Officer (COO) recommendation issued in July and discussed next steps. He reviewed the major findings regarding the engagement process, which indicated a majority support for continued investments in housing and services, expanding allowable uses to include affordable housing creation, and extending or elimination the tax sunset with improved oversight and tax changes. He reviewed the recommendation timeline and Metro Council work sessions.

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington noted that the Metro correspondence that linked to the Metro Council work sessions were initially incorrect. She asked for meeting packets in addition to links to recordings to be provided. She highlighted that a May 22, 2024 Finance Memo was in the meeting packet which is important for the TCPB to review. She encouraged the TCPB to review the Finance Memo and the Washington County Board of Commissioners August 5 meeting packet for information on how the county would respond to the revenue cut.

Metro replied in the chat with links to the [July 25 Work Session](#) and the [August 1 Work Session](#).

Andy reviewed the COO recommendations which support efforts to reduce housing production costs, strengthen oversight, index the personal income tax threshold, and refer a measure to voters in May 2025. He reviewed the feedback Metro received from the SHS Oversight Committee, including lack of authority and timing concerns.

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Ben asked the TCPB to share feedback with Metro. TCPB members shared the following thoughts:

- **Metrics:** Support for metrics conversations. Suggestion for performance metrics to be at a system level such as length of time from when an individual calls 211 and is placed in housing, rather than counting how many individuals have been served. Support for updated goals to match performance metrics.
- **Funding:** Concern about reducing the tax rate as that reduces the option to do more. Support for having conversations on repurposing the surplus amounts but reducing the tax rate would reduce the surplus. Support for the index threshold as long as it does not limit the dollars.
 - Note that there is no surplus, but carryover funds which are being spent.
 - Note that the proposed level of funding would reduce progress.
- **Affordable Housing:** Recognition of the need for affordable housing development and support for using additional funds for development of optimal living experiences. Support for extra funds not to be repurposed solely for sticks and bricks but adding flexibility for individual counties to choose investments.
- **Oversight:** Support for improving oversight and accountability. Reflection that community providers and those with lived experience with homelessness should be included on the oversight body. Reflection that the only way to eliminate conflict of interest would be to have a body void of experience and knowledge in the region, and that the counties also benefit from SHS funds. Reflection that the RIF should not have gone to the counties in first place. Reflections regarding the SHS Oversight Committee process including ex-officio membership and SHS reporting requirements.
- **Regional alignment:** Reflection that there is more alignment with the COO recommendations than misalignment. Concern about having Metro put 5% back into the pot due to the need to work together as a regional system. Reflection that the jurisdictions, TCPB, and SHS Oversight Committee have just begun to hit their strides. Concern about the loss of the TCPB's regional lens and statement that TCPB functions are important to keep.
- **Implementation:** Reflection that there are issues with SHS funds that need to be remedied and counties need to build out their systems before more money is invested and housing development is added. Concern about missing partnering dollars with behavioral health services. Note that recovery is not a quick solution, it takes at least 6 months to do successfully. Support for more cross-county programs, recovery support programs, and programs that support individuals through the continuum of care.
 - Washington County shared they have posted a [NOFO](#) that partners recovery, transitional housing, and behavioral health care.
- **Ballot measure:** Concern about the ballot measure and lack of clarity on what problem Council is trying to solve. Reflection that the need for services is greater now than when the measure was first passed. Reflection that the parties that originally drafted the language has stayed the same, so conversations on repurposing or reducing the measure or the original intended amount do not make sense.

Andy thanked TCPB members for sharing their feedback and noted that all the feedback requires changes to extend the life of the program and make it better.

TCPB FY25 Presentation

Due to time constraints, the TCPB omitted the presentation as the slides were in the meeting packet and were split into three small groups to discuss the following questions:

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- What does the committee want to accomplish for the next year?
- How could the committee wrap up in timelines and produce something to hand off to staff and the iteration of a potential new committee?
- What recommendations does the committee want the COO and Council to keep in mind as they figure out details?

Ben facilitated the large group report out.

Valeria shared that additional feedback can be shared via the post-meeting survey.

The small groups shared the following themes:

- Support for TCPB continuing its work through December 2025. Support for moving regional work and implementation plans forward. Ask a new oversight body to continue the work, not start at the beginning.
- Support to understand the RIF in greater detail and discuss in September.
- Concern about the large amount of information shared between the two committees and ask for Metro to organize materials in a more efficient way. Suggestion to restructure reporting and information sharing.
- Suggestion for TCPB to talk about and reflect on work and hear about what has been completed and what has permanently changed.
- Suggestion for sub-committees to allow for in-depth engagement. Suggestion to merge the SHS Oversight Committee and Affordable Housing.
- Suggestion to clarify the approval process of implementation plans between the TCPB and SHS Oversight Committee. Ensure those at the table have direct experience of homelessness and research. Ask for TCPB work to include a timeline of completion.
- Concern that too much TCPB time is spent on reports and presentations. Concern on timing between consultant research and implementation plan review.

Closing and Next Steps

Meredes provided closing remarks.

Washington County Chair Harrington noted that the TCPB meeting series is no longer on calendars.

Valeria responded that there will be a meeting in September and the Committee will review the work plan in October. She shared that the work plan and calendar invites will be sent out as soon as possible. She noted that the breakout room notes will be shared in the summary.

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

- TCPB to meet Wednesday, September 11 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.
- Metro to share conflict of interest guidance from the Metro Attorney.
- Metro to share a post-meeting survey. *Valeria McWilliams, Metro, added that she will ask the Metro Attorney for guidance and reshare with the TCPB.*

Adjourn

Adjourned at 5:45 p.m.