

# Metro

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Metro

## Minutes

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber,  
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID: 615 079 992 or  
888-475-4499 (toll free)  
<https://www.youtube.com/live/LwMlogEFIp8?feature=shared>

**Council work session**

This meeting will be held electronically and in person at the Metro Regional Center Council Chamber.

You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615 079 992)

### **10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call**

Council President Peterson called the Work Session to order at 10:30 a.m.

**Present:** 6 - Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Mary Nolan, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Duncan Hwang, Christine Lewis, and Lynn Peterson

**Excused:** 1 - Ashton Simpson

### **10:30 Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following events or items:

- Metro's Community Campaign kicked off on October 28th, and there are volunteer opportunities available, including organizing food items for the food bank and bundling science kits for children.

### **10:35 Councilor Communication**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Rosenthal reported on two events. The first was the Oregon Zoo Foundation Retreat to present the campus redesign. The second there was a meeting with the Japanese consulate to discuss tech manufacturing.
- Councilor Lewis recognized the groundbreaking of Shortstack housing in Milwaukie, which added affordable housing to the area. She noted the approval of the regional investment fund by both SHS and the tri-county planning body.

- Councilor Gonzalez shared that he attended the MPAC conference in Philadelphia, along with 20 other Metro employees. He also noted that the WPES system facilities plan was presented to the City of Beaverton. Councilor Gonzalez then explained that Intel reached out to leaders on the west side to explain the layoffs that are occurring and to discuss the future pathways for workers that are exiting their workforce.
- Council President Peterson noted that the MPAC conference provided many opportunities to speak with leaders in Philadelphia, and she communicated how important it is to reframe the narrative about the region. She also reported her attendance to the Seattle Chamber Regional Leaders conference to discuss the development of transit in Seattle in advance of the World Cup. Council President Peterson will also be attending a meeting in Sherwood to discuss rates.

Council will be in Recess following this item and will reconvene at 11:00 a.m.

Council took a brief Recess following this item and reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

**Work Session Topics:**

11:00 Supportive Housing Service's Tri-County Planning Body Update

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)  
[Attachment A](#)  
[Attachment B](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Patricia Rojas (she/her), Regional Housing Director, Metro and Liam Frost, (he/him), Deputy Housing Director to present the Supportive Housing Service's Tri-County Planning Body Update.

Staff pulled up the Supportive Housing Service's Tri-County Planning Body Update presentation to present to Council.

*Presentation Summary:*

The presenters provided an update on the goals, work, and successes of the Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB). This information included an emphasis on the regionalization of employment services, healthcare initiatives, and landlord assistance. The presenters discussed both the ways that Metro can improve services and the challenges posed by a disconnected system.

*Councilor Discussion:*

Councilor Lewis thanked Steve Redmond for his passion and vision, highlighting his years of experience. She described the complexity of homelessness and encouraged continued focus on regionalizing supportive housing services.

Councilor Hwang thanked staff for their work, then asked for an overview of the authority granted to the TCPB and how that impacts its ability to make bold changes.

The presenters stated that their primary authority is to help develop objectives, but those goals must be negotiated with and approved by counties.

Councilor Rosenthal mentioned the project of hospitals connecting patients demonstrating acute behavior health issues with supporting housing services. He asked where the program is in terms of development.

The presenters replied that the project is still early in its development, but assured Council that staff is working closely with the Health Share of Oregon and will be able to provide better information in the future.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed interest in learning how the TCPB is looking at money as a leverage point for the integration of Medicaid into SHS services. He also referenced the landlord recruitment mechanism and wondered whether data will be forthcoming regarding its success. Finally, Councilor Gonzalez asked for elaboration on the relationship between jurisdictions and how that affects the success of the TCPB.

The presenters replied that counties are operating in silos rather than crossing jurisdictional boundaries. They noted a lack of trust between stakeholders and emphasized the importance of developing a regional service delivery system.

Councilor Gonzalez followed up with a question whether Steve Redmond, as a TCPB Co-Chair, has had a chance to present this report to the County commissions.

Steve Redmond responded that he has not, but the oversight body has. He also remarked upon the unique positioning of the region to address the homelessness crisis, and he stated that it is critical for the TCPB and its oversight committee to leverage the federal and state funds available.

Liam frost added that the TCPB Co-Chairs will be meeting with County commissions starting in the new year, once elections have concluded.

Councilor Lewis provided additional context that the charter requires four elected representatives as active, voting members, though only Clackamas County is currently represented.

Council President Peterson expressed her appreciation for the work of staff, then spoke to the challenges of creating a truly regional system and the importance of the reform process. She also shared her hope for a collaborative, well-planned

Seeing no further discussion, Council President Peterson moved on to the next item on the agenda.

#### 11:30 Permanent Supportive Housing Update

Attachments: [Staff report](#)

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Update.

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Seeing no further discussion, Council President Peterson moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Council President Peterson introduced Emily Lieb, Housing Policy Director and Nui Bezaire, PSH Lead to present the Permanent Supportive Housing Update.

Staff pulled up the Permanent Supportive Housing Update presentation to present to Council.

*Presentation Summary:*

The presenters began by reviewing the goals of the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program, which center around positive outcomes for tenants regarding their health, community connections, and satisfaction with housing. The presenters then spoke about the great need for housing in the region and highlighted how PSH meets those needs. They concluded with an overview of Metro's roles and the progress made in the PSH program to date.

*Councilor Discussion:*

Councilor Nolan requested clarification on a slide in the presentation showing a bar graph of the 2023 point-in-time count for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

The presenters replied that the numbers represent a regional count conducted by the Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative (HRAC) through PSU in both 2022 and 2023. The slide shows an increase in the number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in Multnomah County.

Councilor Nolan followed up by asking whether there are more unhoused individuals than are captured by the

presentation graph, and if so, what those numbers might look like.

The presenters affirmed that there are unhoused populations who are not reflected in the current data. They clarified that Population A includes a broader group of households than is represented in the data for chronic homelessness.

Councilor Nolan asked who counts the number of households that are eligible for supportive housing services (SHS), such as rent assistance, and is that data available by county.

The presenters replied that they currently have insufficient data to answer Councilor Nolan's question but added that data collection methods are being improved to better represent the number of households who are eligible for SHS.

Councilor Lewis asked how PSH programming follows best practices when it may be working off of old data, such as a decade-old PSH cost summary report.

The presenters agreed that the data of the report is outdated and stated that it is no longer relevant, nor is it used as the basis for the framework of PSH. They spoke to the recent inclusion of more intensive and extensive services, and shared that they are creating a dynamic tool to help estimate the cost of services for each household.

Councilor Hwang question what the true need is for PSH in the region.

The presenters replied that they lack the data to determine the true need of PSH, with current numbers only reflecting people experiencing chronic homelessness.

Councilor Hwang wondered what the average cost of a PSH unit is compared to other forms of affordable housing.

The presenters replied that a PSH unit is more expensive, averaging more than \$10,000 per unit per year, though that operating cost goes up significantly depending on the services included.

Councilor Rosenthal wondered how properties are ensured to have proper upkeep over time and whether that responsibility falls on PSH providers or landlords.

The presenters answered that the combination of services provided with PSH varies according to each household, but there is an expectation that PSH programs provide additional funds for maintenance and upkeep of units.

Councilor Gonzalez asked whether the number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness is the same or similar to the numbers for Population A.

The presenters stated that Population A is slightly larger as it has broader inclusion criteria.

**12:15 Adjourn to Executive Session**

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nicholas Cooley*

Nicholas Cooley, Legislative Assistant

The Executive Session will be held pursuant under ORS 192.660(2)(h): To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

This Executive Session is closed to the public.