

## Tri-County Planning Body Meeting Summary

Meeting: Supportive Housing Services Tri-County Planning Body Meeting  
Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Place: Zoom Webinar  
Purpose: The Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB) will receive an update on the Technical Assistance and Training Goals.

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### Member attendees

Co-chair Mercedes Elizalde (she/her), Eboni Brown (she/her), Zoi Coppiano (she/her), Yoni Kahn (he/him), Nicole Larson (she/her), Yvette Marie Hernandez (she/her), Cameran Murphy (they/them), Cristina Palacios (she/her), Co-chair Steve Rudman (he/him), Monta Knudson (he/him)

### Absent members

Mindy Stadtlander (she/her), Sahaan McKelvey (he/him)

### Elected delegates

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington (she/her)

### Absent delegates

Clackamas County Chair Tootie Smith (she/her), Metro Councilor Christine Lewis (she/her), Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson (she/her)

### County staff representatives

Clackamas County – Lauren Decker (she/her), Multnomah County – Cristina Castaño (she/her), Washington County – Nicole Stingham (she/her)

### Metro

Cole Merkel (he/him), Liam Frost (he/him), Michael Garcia (he/him), Justin Barrieault (he/him), Finnegan Budd (they/them), Patricia Rojas (she/her), Ruth Adkins (she/her), Daisy Nguyen (she/her), Craig Beebe (he/him), Ash Elverfeld (they/them), Yesenia Delgado (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

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

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

The TCPB approved the October Meeting Summary.

### Public Comment

Anna Kurnizki, Community Warehouse, provided public comment asking the TCPB to request a regional contract for furnishing housing.

Molly Hogan, Welcome Home Coalition, provided public comment asking the TCPB to request a regional contract for furnishing housing.

Miro Paljevic, Transition Projects, provided public comment in support of a regional contract for furnishing housing.

Alexis Nuckles, Transition Projects, provided public comment in support of a regional contract for furnishing housing.

Co-chair Elizalde stated that the co-chairs have been meeting with Metro and county staff to develop a process for requesting funds outside of the six goal areas. She suggested waiting for that process to be approved and voted on by the TCPB and having a regional contract for furnishing housing as the first item to move through that process.

Co-chair Rudman requested staff to have that process finalized by the December meeting for the TCPB to vote on, and for the TCPB to vote on the regional furnishing contract in December.

Cameran Murphy reflected that Washington County has a contract with Community Warehouse and asked if they could provide a contract template.

Ben reminded the TCPB that it does not deliberate public comment.

Cristina Palacios shared that she has worked with Community Warehouse which provides fast, easy, and important services.

Yoni Kahn stated that this is part of a broader strategy for housing retention.

### Conflict of Interest

Cristina Palacios declared a conflict of interest as Housing Oregon is on Metro's contractor list and could potentially receive future Supportive Housing Services (SHS) funding.

Cameran Murphy declared a conflict of interest as Boys and Girls Aid receives SHS funding.

Zoi Coppiano declared a conflict of interest as Community Action receives SHS funding.

Eboni Brown declared a conflict of interest as Greater Good Northwest receives SHS funding. She noted her position is not funded by SHS.

Yoni Kahn declared a conflict of interest as the Northwest Pilot Project receives SHS funding. He noted that he serves on the TCPB to share provider perspectives and does not represent his employer.

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

### Staff Updates

Yesenia Delgado, Metro, shared updates on the SHS Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee has received presentations on permanent supportive housing (PSH) work, the TCPB's Coordinated Entry Implementation Plan, and Quarter 4 programmatic updates and year-end numbers. It also received updates on Metro Council's housing funding recommendation and is about to start its annual report process.

TCPB members and elected delegates had the following questions:

- **Question, Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington:** When is the next forecast due to the Oversight Committee?
  - **Metro Response, Yesenia:** The five-year forecast will be reviewed at the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Craig Beebe, Metro, shared that Metro Council received the TCPB's Co-chair letter in September and considered it in its October 17 meeting, where Council passed [Resolution No. 24-5436](#). He reviewed the key actions of the Resolution, that Metro staff are working to provide analysis and information to support Council, and that there will be a proposed allocation approach work session on November 26.

TCPB members and elected delegates had the following questions:

- **Question, Co-chair Elizalde:** In the different scenarios being built out for consideration, where would the Regional Investment Fund (RIF) live? Is Metro still considering cutting the tax rate? I hope the data guides this work.
  - **Metro response, Craig:** The tax rates are still being considered, especially if the sunset is extended. We acknowledge that this funding source cannot fund everything we need, and our housing and finance team are working hard to determine what to prioritize for conversation.
  - **Metro response, Patricia Rojas:** We will have to nail down how to structure funding to meet multiple needs.
- **Comment, Cameran:** The ballot measure conversation needs to consider how not to conflate the multiple distinct questions in one measure. Voters will want to vote yes or no to the individual questions going into this possible measure.

Ben shared there will be dedicated space in the December meeting to discuss this further.

### Technical Assistance Goal Update

Liam Frost, Metro, reflected on the SHS fund lifecycle and the need for technical assistance and training. He noted that Metro has led the work for these goal areas.

Lauren Decker, Clackamas County, Cristina Castaño, Multnomah County, and Nicole Stingham, Washington County highlighted capacity building work the counties have recently done.

Cole Merkel, Metro, reviewed the technical assistance and training goal language and recommendations and highlighted the current opportunities the counties offer. He reviewed the goals of Metro's Regional Capacity Team and noted that there are now 67 technical assistance consultants qualified to provide regional services.

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Daisy Nguyen, Metro, described that technical assistance is tailored, individualized support to implement policy or streamline an organization's operations.

Nui Bezaire, Metro, presented Metro's PSH work to develop a regional framework for PSH that includes programmatic policies, regionally consistent definitions, and standards of practice.

Cole reviewed the PSH project's guiding values and goals, including avoiding duplicating technical assistance counties are already providing and building a regional technical assistance program.

Daisy discussed how a scope of work would be developed, and the benefits providers would receive by being a part of the program including customized services and trainings, and funding for staff time. She shared that providers would commit to a six-month project and engage weekly with the project to implement strategies.

TCPB members and elected delegates had the following questions:

- **Question, Co-chair Elizalde:** How is this different than the Oregon Supportive Housing Institute? How is this work aligned with the State's work?
  - **Metro response, Nui:** This technical assistance is focused on ongoing operational needs for providers and is not about creating a project from start to finish. I have talked to the State about this, and their work is not an ongoing resource for PSH services and not a full technical assistance program.
  - **Metro response, Patricia:** Alignment with the State and other places is part of Metro's focus to align and leverage funding sources. Metro does not want to create more complexity.
- **Question, Yoni:** I generally like the idea. I am scared that SHS spending seems to be a sporadic investment that does not lead to a broader strategy for regionalization. How is this regionalized?
  - **Metro response, Cole:** The reasoning for the demonstration project is to demonstrate what investments are needed to support PSH implementation. Good work is being done and we want to ensure consistency with best practices to keep people housed long term.
- **Comment, Cristina:** I fully support this because this is focused on multicultural organizations. If there are no wrap-around services for immigrant and refugee communities, especially in the next four years, there will impacts on these communities.

### Training Goal Update

Cole reviewed the guiding values for the Housing Service Worker Certification and Research Project including ensuring people experiencing homelessness can expect a high quality of care and developing a core training curriculum to meet the needs of providers.

Justin Barrieault presented research done to understand what training resources currently exist in the region and what new resources might need to be created to better support provider training. He reviewed the survey research of college programs, certifications, national models, and potential pathways forward. Potential pathways forward are higher education pathways and pathways via other bodies. He shared that there is currently an On-demand Training Program Pilot and interested agencies can email [MetroHousingRegionalCapacity@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:MetroHousingRegionalCapacity@oregonmetro.gov) to participate.

TCPB members and elected delegates had the following questions:

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- **Question, Co-chair Elizalde:** Was Welcome Home Coalition part of the research outreach? What is the process to get credit for prior experience? How many trainings and certifications are being utilized in the region?
  - **Metro response, Cole:** Welcome Home Coalition and the Coalition of Communities of Color were part of the outreach to coalitions.
- **Comment, Nicole Larson:** It could be helpful to link what provider roles would be most applicable and best suited for all the training options.
- **Comment, Yoni:** I love the standardization and definitions for positions, this can be tied to certifications and wages and connect to those TCPB goals.

Ben asked TCPB members to place additional questions in the chat for Metro to consider and track. The following are questions captured in the Zoom chat.

- **Question, Co-chair Elizalde:** How much will providers be paid to participate? Will they get additional staffing to participate or are they expected to do this with existing capacity?
- **Question, Cameran:** For technical assistance (TA), there were at least a few organizations I know in Washington County that had no housing services programs before SHS funding and had to build their SHS from the ground up with little to no guidance and support. I know TA is needed for organizations to build programs that are in alignment with the minimum requirements of service provisions and program development. All too often I know participants are having vastly different experiences from organization to organization because these organizations have had to figure out how to implement SHS largely on their own.
- **Question, Cameran:** To Mercedes' comment about housing providers, pairing TA to the landlord retention is what I'd like to see (and I know landlord retention was before my time in TCPB). As I have seen that goal be implemented, I know housing providers have not received the support they need to work with their SHS residents in combination with the residents' case managers and TA could manage that gap from the landlord retention goal.
- **Comment, Co-chair Elizalde:** Also, let's not lean too hard on formal education, also needing to provide language-accessible, on-the-job training. Some train-the-trainer opportunities for long-time high-quality veterans in the work.

### Closing and Next Steps

Ben shared that the next steps are:

- Next meeting: December 11, 2024
  - Metro staff to potentially share a TCPB process for funding non-goal related items
    - *Tentative:* The TCPB to vote on the regional furnishing contract in December.
  - TCPB to discuss Metro's housing funding recommendation.
  - Landlord Recruitment Update

Co-chairs Elizalde and Rudman thanked everyone for their participation.

### Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.