

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 19, 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)**

**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**

Deputy Council President Hwang called the Work Session to order at 10:34 a.m.

**Present:** 5 - Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Mary Nolan, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Christine Lewis, and Duncan Hwang

**Excused:** 2 - Ashton Simpson, and Lynn Peterson

**10:35 Work Session Topics:****10:35 Supportive Housing Services County Annual Reports For Fiscal Year 24**

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)  
[Attachment 1](#)  
[Attachment 2](#)  
[Attachment 3](#)

Deputy Council President Hwang introduced Patricia Rojas, Regional Housing Director, and Liam Frost, Housing Deputy Director, to present on the topic of the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) County Annual Reports for Fiscal Year 24.

Staff pulled up the “Supportive Housing Services Tri-County Annual Reports FY24” slides to present to Council.

*Staff Presentation*

Rojas highlighted the progress toward regional housing goals in the first three years of the SHS. Rojas reported that Clackamas County exceeded quantitative goals for housing in all areas, Multnomah County fell short in two areas but excelled at rapid rehousing, and Washington County fell short in three goal areas, but far exceeded goals for homelessness prevention. Rojas stated that the SHS regional

oversight committee was not initially able to conduct regional analysis due to variability in reporting of service types and explained the committee's recommendations to the counties to submit split financial data using a shared template in order to align definitions and methodology of Population A and B. Rojas conveyed that county staff had declined to use the Metro template and highlighted the lack of consistent reporting between counties when considering the region overall. Rojas shared FY24 County Financial data and explained the oversight committee's next steps.

*Council Discussion*

Council Lewis raised concerns about unrecognized funds.

Councilor Nolan inquired about the investments in Populations A and B and developing a shared database.

Presenters responded that they had tried to create better tools for tracking homelessness but were experiencing challenges due to the lack of access to raw data.

Councilor Nolan asked what the Council could do to help staff move toward an acknowledgement by the counties that Metro is complying with the ordinance. Councilor Nolan remarked that Metro has established clear definitions and raised concerns over how counties could apply definitions to make homelessness seem less severe.

Presenters responded that there was nuance in the definitions and counties had exercised some liberty. Rojas explained that funders evaluate through monitoring to see how organizations are meeting the requirements and given the variation, it is a potential cause for concern.

Frost noted the issue of speculation and stated that a data sharing agreement would be an important tool for transparency.

Deputy Council President Hwang asked presenters to explain why there was not currently data sharing.

Rojas responded that clearer roles and responsibilities for funder and recipient were needed in addition to good intentions.

Hwang expressed that it is impossible to provide oversight when there is not consistent data from the counties, and inquired about why counties did not use the templates provided by Metro staff.

Rojas responded that they could not make assumptions and would continue conversations toward the goal of clearly defined expectations.

Councilor Lewis described the difficult position of staff in defending work that is good on a granular level, but mediocre at best on a systems level. Councilor Lewis inquired about potential blind spots.

Presenters responded that access to data would help to reveal and address quantitative and qualitative deficiencies.

Councilor Gonzalez conveyed that the mission is the regionalization of the system and inquired about accelerated spending regarding Populations A and B.

Frost responded that the Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB) is in a transitional period to better advance the regional vision. Rojas added that there has been pressure around unspent

dollars and spending goals should consider the best use of funds for serving people and delivering outcomes.

COO Madrigal clarified that Metro primarily encouraged spending when it was already budgeted for certain outcomes.

Councilor Nolan expressed that outcomes should be recognizable and visible to the public and that metrics should represent the theme of ending the homelessness crisis and the speed of recovery. Councilor Nolan stated that KPIs are internal management tools, not program evaluation tools, and advised better communication of outcomes to voters.

Frost noted that the individual viewpoint on supportive housing services varies, but the region shares a common goal to end homelessness. Rojas emphasized the need to align the different county systems toward a regional system of care.

Councilor Gonzalez stated the capital expense and level of service provided at the Beaverton shelter is an exception, not necessarily the rule, for developing shelters. Councilor Gonzalez recommended different types of shelters with different functions and looking for opportunities to improve efficiency throughout the region.

Councilor Rosenthal joined the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Deputy Council President Hwang remarked that the process had been hindered by a perception of inconvenience and lack of accountability and wondered about an actionable solution.

Rojas emphasized that change is both difficult and necessary, and expressed the right direction for Metro is to continue conversations that address the complexity of the issue in the region.

Councilor Rosenthal remarked that the goal is to have a positive impact on people rather than to spend money down and the work would be in progress for another two years.

Seeing no further discussion, Deputy Council President Hwang thanked staff for their work and moved onto the next agenda item.

**11:20 Chief Operating Officer Communication**

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

- Thanked Oregon Zoo for hosting ZooLights employee night
- Metro was awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All program

**11:25 Councilor Communication**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Lewis shared that the GLEAN Program had selected five artists for residency at the Metro Central Transfer Station
- Councilor Lewis attended the Tri-County Planning Body committee and recalled exploring alternative workforce training programs
- Councilor Lewis met with leadership of the Yakama Nation and discussed concerns around Willamette Falls

**11:30 Adjourn**

There being no further business, Deputy Council President

Hwang adjourned the Metro Work Session at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Emma McIntosh*

Emma McIntosh, Legislative Assistant