

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

10:30 AM

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber,
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or
888-475-4499 (toll free)**

Council work session

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: 7 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Ashton Simpson, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Duncan Hwang

10:30 Work Session Topics:

10:30 Addressing Regional Homelessness: Updates On Council President's Work Group And Other Supportive Housing Services Reform Efforts

Presenter(s): Council President Peterson, Metro

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1- Metro President's Work Group Roster](#)
[Attachment 2- Metro President's Work Group Case Studies Packet](#)

Council President Peterson began by reminding the Council of the housing work group's purpose, anticipated timeline, and how the work group's developments may affect future ordinances related to SHS package reforms. She then provided a brief overview of the meetings held up to this point.

President Peterson described the need for transparency and accountability, the importance of a unifying mission statement, and the future of data sharing and tracking key performance indicators.

Liam Frost, Deputy Director of Housing, presented case studies previously provided to the work group, which included guiding principles and key performance indicators (KPIs) used in peer cities.

President Peterson highlighted the need for a service-focused system, structured to support a regional mission. She linked in her remarks supportive housing services, housing and financial stability for residents in the face of current economic conditions.

Councilor Simpson described the work group as solution-oriented and focused on the needs of individuals within the system. He said the work group was moving in the right direction.

Councilor Lewis said preliminary conversations were productive and reflected a variety of perspectives. She likened the greater Portland region's system of care to Denver's, pointing to an appropriate number of service providers.

Councilor Gonzalez asked how Denver's sub-regional targets compare to Local Implementation Plans. Staff committed to providing more information, and President Peterson suggested an expert panel with representatives from other regions could provide insight.

Councilor Rosenthal asked to include "Best Practices" and "sensitivity to regional demographics" to the work group's conversation, urging quick action on a shared vision.

Councilor Hwang appreciated the work group and staff for taking a holistic approach, particularly around economic recovery. He expressed the hope that the work group would

consider all the sources of funds, while inquiring as to whether peer cities provide a comprehensive view of all funds in their systems. Staff promised to report back and added that SHS provides an opportunity to leverage other sources of funding.

Councilor Nolan thanked staff. They cautioned that the case studies presented relied on vague language, such as "rare" and "brief" that was not explicitly defined. They posited that a more precise approach would lead to a consistent regional system.

Councilor Gonzalez responded that he believed KPIs would provide specific definitions to support a shared vision. He also expressed a desire to keep communities involved as this work progresses.

Councilor Lewis responded to Councilor Rosenthal's suggestion regarding "best practices," noting that county partners are experts in service delivery. She cited the complexity of the system and the unique needs of those who access it. Councilor Rosenthal disagreed, positing that "best practices" include a constellation of practices. He also urged caution of creating a system over-reliant on data to the detriment of those served. President Peterson added to this exchange, sharing that she looked forward to additional analysis from work group member and Sherwood Mayor, Tim Rosener, who categorized the KPIs to better understand outcomes.

Councilor Gonzalez advocated for a rigorous approach that captures disparate perspectives.

President Peterson compared Metro's effort to define a mission and vision, for later implementation by community, to Metro's past work on clean streams, which used a similarly collaborative approach.

Councilor Nolan drew parallels to the Oregon Health Plan. Under that frame, experts and the public determined the best health outcomes and developed best practices to achieve them. They described a need to prioritize outcomes to ensure the appropriate best practices are employed, and to avoid conflicting demands on funds. President Peterson agreed and also highlighted the potential for unintended consequences without careful prioritization.

Councilor Hwang asked how Metro and the Council might build broader consensus through community engagement; he expressed a concern about the compressed timeline. President Peterson agreed that participating in consensus-building is an immediate priority.

11:20 Chief Operating Officer Communication

COO Madrigal shared an event co-hosted by Metro and the Lone Fir Cemetery Foundation on Saturday, March 25, to honor those buried at the site and share artists' ideas for the memorial altar.

She also updated Council on an employee Wellness Fair and Free Parking Days at Metro parks.

11:25 Councilor Communication

Deputy Council President Simpson shared details of the Columbia Corridor Association luncheon he attended.

Councilor Lewis shared details of her trip to Washington, D.C. and reported out on the current Oregon City Community Enhancement Grant cycle.

Councilor Rosenthal reported Washington County Coordinating Committee's perspectives on the Regional Flexible Funding Allocation bond proposal. He also reported the Beaverton State of the City and commented on his desire to reconfirm Metro's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. COO Madrigal, Deputy Council President Simpson and Councilors Hwang and Gonzalez weighed in on this concern and shared their feedback from meeting with immigrant communities and communities of color.

11:30 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne Buzzini".

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor