

Tri-County Planning Body Meeting Summary

Meeting: Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Tri-County Planning Body Meeting
Date: April 9, 2025
Time: 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Place: Metro Council Chambers, 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland, OR 97232 and Zoom Webinar
Purpose: The Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB) will discuss and vote on the Healthcare Alignment Implementation Strategies and receive a presentation on the SHS Oversight Committee's Annual Report.

Member attendees

Co-chair Steve Rudman (he/him), Yoni Kahn (he/him), Yvette Marie Hernandez (she/her), Cameran Murphy (they/them), Cristina Palacios (she/her), Mindy Stadtlander (she/her), Sahaan McKelvey (he/him), Monta Knudson (he/him), Nicole Larson (she/her)

Absent members

Co-chair Mercedes Elizalde (she/her), Eboni Brown (she/her), Zoi Coppiano (she/her)

Elected delegates

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington (she/her), Metro Councilor Christine Lewis (she/her), Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson (she/her)

Absent delegates

Clackamas County Chair Tootie Smith (she/her)

Metro staff

Michael Garcia (he/him), Abby Ahern (she/her), Liam Frost (he/him), Ruth Adkins (she/her), Valeria McWilliams (she/her), Patricia Rojas (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.

Summary of Meeting Decisions

- The TCPB approved the March meeting summary.
- The TCPB approved the Healthcare System Alignment Implementation Strategy.
- The TCPB approved the amended RIF motion.

Welcome and Introductions

Ben Duncan, Kearns & West, welcomed attendees and reviewed the meeting agenda and logistics.

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Patricia Rojas, Metro, announced she will be stepping down as Regional Housing Director, and her last day will be May 2nd, 2025. She thanked Tri County Planning Body (TCPB) members for serving on the body and reflected that high-level systems change is possible.

Many TCPB members reflected on Patricia's contribution to the housing sector and thanked her for her work.

Co-chair Steve Rudman provided opening remarks and reflected on the importance of integrating healthcare and housing systems.

Decision: Co-chair Rudman, Yoni Kahn, Yvette Marie Hernandez, Cameran Murphy, Cristina Palacios, Mindy Stadtlander, Sahaan McKelvey, Monta Knudson, Nicole Larson, Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington, and Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson **approved the March meeting summary.**

Public Comment

Written public comment was received (see [page 12 in the meeting packet](#)).

Conflict of Interest

Cristina noted that Housing Oregon is on Metro's contractor list and could potentially receive future Supportive Housing Services (SHS) funding.

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

Yoni noted that his employer, Northwest Pilot Project, receives SHS funding, but that he serves on the TCPB to share provider perspectives and does not represent his employer.

Mindy declared a conflict of interest as Health Share and Metro work together on health and housing integration, and stated she will abstain from the Healthcare System Alignment Implementation Plan vote.

Cameran shared that they work for Boys and Girls Aid, which receives SHS funding.

Monta stated that JOIN receives SHS funding.

Sahaan stated that Self Enhancement Inc. (SEI) receives SHS funds. He noted that SHS does not fund his position and that he serves on the TCPB to share provider perspectives.

Healthcare System Alignment Implementation Strategy

Presentation

Ruth Adkins, Metro, shared the Healthcare System Alignment Implementation Strategy results from the work Metro, Health Share, county partners, and Homebase have been doing. She noted that the partner table is being expanded, and reviewed the Healthcare System goal and recommendation language.

Ruth noted that there is work underway to implement Oregon's health-related social needs (HRSN) benefit, created through the state's Medicaid 1115 waiver. She highlighted that this work is separate but parallel to the work in the Implementation Strategy.

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Acacia McGuire Anderson, Clackamas County; Lori Kelley, Multnomah County; and Leslie Gong, Washington County, shared highlights of health and housing integrations at the county level. They reflected that each county's integration team has expanded, case conferencing has been successful, and HRSN implementation has begun.

Adam Peterson, Health Share, shared that Health Share covers about 25% of individuals in the Portland metro region. He reviewed Health Share's approach to bridging system gaps, which is focused on the HRSN benefit, High Acuity Behavioral Health Initiative, and Regional Integration Continuum (RIC).

Adam reflected that healthcare and housing systems are serving the same people, and system alignment is needed to serve them effectively. He reviewed the High Acuity Behavioral Health Initiative, which serves those with substance use disorders and/or a diagnosis of psychosis by using an ecosystem clinical portfolio. Adam reviewed the key functions and components of RIC success, including legal and relational infrastructure, data centralization, and case conferencing.

Ruth shared that the three implementation strategies emerged from a landscape analysis and county-level work. Ruth detailed each key strategy's vision, activities, timeline, and deliverables. The three strategies are:

1. Develop a Regional Plan for Medically Enhanced Housing and Shelter Models
2. Establish Regional Support for Cross-System Care Coordination
3. Build Regional Cross-System Data Sharing Infrastructure

The overall timeline for phase one would start in March and end in December 2025, with an interim progress report in September and a report refining the strategies in December. Funding from the Regional Investment Fund (RIF) would support county health/housing integration staff and consultants and Washington County's medical respite program for FY25- 26 for a total of \$1.8 million.

Round Table Discussion

Ben facilitated a roundtable for TCPB members to ask any questions and share their thoughts.

- **Comment, Yoni:** This is complicated work, and this concept has widespread community support. The integration of housing and healthcare is crucial to facilitate the efficient use of housing resources. The impact of this proposal hits every part of the housing service continuum and will stabilize individuals using resources from different systems. It is critical to share information between housing and healthcare systems to support individuals.
- **Comment, Mindy:** I agree with Yoni's comments. The complexity of the needs of community members is different now than when the systems were first created, and it is important to ensure the health and housing systems are working together.
- **Question, Cameran:** After ten years and access to education, I was able to figure out how to use the system, and I now try to help end users navigate the systems. Case conferencing is great and reaches those who have been engaged in care. We still need to reach those who are not participating in care and have a higher acuity, as they have been disengaged from care. How do we do that? Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is complicated; if individuals do not want to share information, how will we get that information to share? Will there be a pilot?

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- **Health Share response, Adam:** Agencies have to sign individual data sharing agreements, which will then fold into a large-scale analysis for housing security to understand populations and learn trends. Culturally relevant services are important to the process. For the health care system to have data, someone will need to check that box that says housing insecure. I am happy to talk offline.
- **Multnomah County response, Lori:** A lot of our data sharing is on the back end or data analysis to understand what is going on in the system. HMIS is complicated, and we want to make our system easier to navigate. Our system will have fields we want, and if individuals are willing to share that information can be added. Privacy is a major consideration, and we want folks to feel safe and not ask for information they may not want to give.
- **Question, Cristina:** I am concerned about information being gathered for immigrants and refugees, who are doubled up and have difficulty finding units due to their legal status. What is the plan to help those individuals who will be more afraid of sharing that information?
 - **Metro response, Ruth:** Immigration status is not information that is collected. Trusted relationships with health care providers are critical and need to be built. Case conferencing is Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant and trauma-informed. Individuals have to consent to case conferencing in Clackamas County.
- **Comment, Nicole:** I am enthusiastic about this plan. These strategies will better serve populations in the medical, behavioral, and housing systems and not silo the work. The strategies sound trauma-informed and person-centered. Case conferencing can be very effective.
- **Comment, Yvette:** I am excited for the work to come. This will help support housing those with psychosis or substance use disorders find vouchers and receive the healthcare they need.
- **Comment, Monta:** I support this, and the system needs this.
- **Comment, Multnomah County Chair Vega Pederson:** This clarifies the housing and health connection and is part of Multnomah County's homeless response system.
- **Comment, Washington County Chair Harrington:** This strategy is very well thought out.
- **Question, Sahaan:** I did not hear any red flags and love the concept of integration for these two systems. When I was doing direct service, the lack of integration would enhance my frustration. Part of this integration work should identify gaps in the needs and resources and capacities we can provide, and identify how to fill those gaps. In a perfect world, I do not want to see housing funds going to health treatment, as we have health system funds.
 - **Metro response, Ruth:** That is part of the work ahead of us, which we will need to figure out.
 - **Response, Mindy:** The better we get at this, the better advocates we are, which will help us be more precise in knowing what we need and allow us to better ask for and receive those resources.
- **Question, Co-chair Rudman:** These systems are complicated, and I look forward to their integration. It is important to set up systems so that when funding comes, dollars can be infused quickly. What is the relationship of this work to the Medicaid waiver?
 - **Metro response, Ruth:** The waiver has a lot of the same folks working on it, but it is not a regional strategy, as we think we can be most effective with the focus on the three identified strategies.
- **Comment, Metro Councilor Lewis:** This work is well thought out, and I share concerns about data privacy. It will be hard work, but it is worth doing.

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- **Question, Washington County Chair Harrington:** What is one thing you want Metro Council to understand about this strategy? Incredible work is going into each plan, but I think we are forgetting to develop an elevator pitch, and we need to get better at that.

Decision: Washington County Chair Harrington motioned to approve the Strategy as presented, Sahaan seconded. Mindy abstained. Co-chair Rudman, Yoni, Yvette, Cameran, Cristina, Sahaan, Monta, Nicole, Washington County Chair Harrington, Metro Councilor Lewis, and Multnomah County Chair Vega Pederson **approved the Healthcare System Alignment Implementation Strategy.**

SHS Oversight Committee Annual Report Presentation

Yesenia Delgado, Metro, reviewed the role of the SHS Oversight Committee and its annual review process. She reviewed the 10-year regional goals to reduce barriers to housing stability, connect 5,000 households to permanent supportive housing (PSH), and stabilize 10,000 households in permanent housing.

Yesenia shared key highlights and performance from FY24, including exceeding goals for rapid rehousing placements, homelessness prevention, and shelter creation. PSH placements and supportive housing units brought into operation goals were not met.

SHS Oversight Committee Co-chair Mike Savara reviewed revenue collection and expenditures. He shared that key challenges are the growing need, as for every 10 households that leave homelessness, 15 enter; competing funding priorities; financial oversight; and regional evaluation to be able to track regional goals, tell success stories, and invest in interventions that work.

Co-chair Savara reviewed the Oversight Committee's recommendations for FY24, including data integrity and evaluation, provider partnerships, regional priorities, oversight and accountability, and jurisdictional partnerships and decision making.

Co-chair Rudman reflected that it is important for TCPB members to know what the Oversight Committee is working on.

Valeria McWilliams, Metro, noted that TCPB members can share any thoughts and feedback in the post-meeting survey.

RIF Proposal Updates

Liam Frost, Metro, acknowledged the confusion that occurred at last month's meeting and shared that Metro staff, county staff, and the Metro attorney collaborated on motion language to clarify last month's vote. The clarified motion language does not require plan amendments or code changes and does require annual reporting. Metro staff proposed a motion on a slide, which is captured below, and asked for the TCPB to move to adopt the motion as is or to amend the motion before voting.

Motion: I move that the Tri-County Planning Body approve the one-time use of RIF carryover as proposed in the letter to this body from Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties dated March 12th, and that the TCPB determines these investments to be regional in nature. In particular, the TCPB finds that:

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1. The use of \$8.5 million of carryover for Clackamas County's will support a pilot program that aligns with the Coordinated Entry regional goal.
2. The use of \$9 million of carryover for Washington County's transition fund supports the Employee Recruitment and Retention regional goal by supporting the homeless services workforce through slower program reductions, outplacement services, FTE ramp down resources for organizations, and more.
3. As referenced in the March 13 meeting facilitator notes, Multnomah County's motion to use RIF funds was approved as proposed and presented at the March 12 TCPB meeting and no further action is required.
4. In lieu of quarterly reporting, the counties will report back on use of these funds annually to the SHS Oversight Committee.

Decision: Monta moved to adopt the amended motion as presented, Yoni seconded. Co-chair Rudman, Yoni, Yvette, Cameran, Cristina, Mindy, Sahaan, Monta, Nicole, Washington County Chair Harrington, Metro Councilor Lewis, and Multnomah County Chair Vega Pederson **approved the amended RIF motion as presented.**

Co-chair Rudman emphasized the importance of these funds being one-time only. He noted the *Update on SHS Reform process memo* (see [page 111 in the meeting packet](#)) sounded like Metro may be considering one-time requests for Metro admin funding to go towards counties and cities.

Liam responded that Metro is considering an ordinance brought to the Council years ago to allow Metro admin funding to be used for one-time requests.

Councilor Lewis clarified that the ordinance is in perpetuity, but the funds should be treated as one-time only.

Coordinated Entry Quarterly Progress Report Update Q&A

Abby Ahern, Metro, provided a brief overview of the Coordinated Entry progress report and noted that this format would be used for all TCPB goals. She asked if there were any questions or feedback.

- **Question, Washington County Chair Harrington:** What is CQI?
 - **Metro response, Abby:** Continuous quality improvement.
 - **Metro response, Valeria:** We will be sure to spell out acronyms.
- **Question, Cameran:** For strategy two, it says quarterly, but it seems like we should be able to have results available. It would be helpful to have something that clearly designates status, and if something is blank, explain why it is blank, and use plain language.
 - **Metro response, Abby:** I will add the baseline into the table. We need to establish the baseline before we can measure the difference from implementation. I can update the title and status updates.
 - **Metro response, Valeria:** The report headlines match the SHS timeline.

Closing and Next Steps

Co-chair Rudman provided closing remarks and asked to receive a Metro Council President's work group update in addition to the training implementation strategy agenda item.

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Valeria confirmed that it would be on May's agenda.

Next steps include:

- TCPB members to provide any additional feedback on the quarterly progress report template to Metro.
- Metro to update the quarterly progress report template.
- Next meeting: May 9, 4:00-6:00 pm
 - Training implementation strategy
 - Metro Council President's work group updates

Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:28 p.m.