



Supportive Housing Services Oversight Committee Meeting Summary

Meeting: Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Oversight Committee Meeting
Date: February 10, 2025
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Place: Virtual meeting (Zoom)
Purpose: Finalize and vote on FY24 regional report, recommendations, and transmittal letter.
Receive an update from TCPB on healthcare systems alignment goal.

Member attendees

Dr. James (Jim) Bane (he/him), Co-chair Mike Savara (he/him), Peter Rosenblatt (he/him), Kai Laing (he/him), Felicita Monteban (she/her), Dan Fowler (he/him), Co-Chair Dr. Mandrill Taylor (he/him), Carter MacNichol (he/him)

Absent members

Jeremiah Rigsby (he/him), Jenny Lee (she/her), Cara Hash (she/her)

Elected delegates

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington (she/her), Metro Councilor Christine Lewis (she/her)

Absent elected delegates

Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson (she/her)

Metro staff

Yesenia Delgado (she/her), Breanna Hudson (she/her), Yvette Perez-Chavez (she/her)

Kearns & West facilitator

Josh Mahar (he/him)

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 Committee made several minor amendments to the draft transmittal letter and recommendations, and then unanimously approved the Annual Regional Report, and transmittal letter with recommendations, as amended in the meeting.
- The Committee approved the January 13 and 27 meeting summaries with Carter abstaining.

Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Mike Savara provided opening remarks and reflected on the Committee's role in fostering change.

Co-chair Dr. Mandrill Taylor provided opening remarks and shared that the goal for today is to finalize the Annual Regional Report with the transmittal letter.

Josh Mahar, Kearns & West Facilitator, facilitated introductions between Committee members.

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Liam Frost, Metro, shared that Metro Council convened and decided to work towards a potential November date for the supportive housing services ballot measure, after receiving feedback from coalitions. He stated that Metro Council President Lynn Peterson will co-chair a work group with Clackamas County Commissioner Ben West to develop a north star and metrics for the regional transition. He noted the workgroup is temporary and is intended to disband in the summer.

Committee members had the following questions and comments:

- **Question, Peter Rosenblatt:** Can you speak more about who is a part of the workgroup and if they are creating the ballot? I encourage representatives from the various SHS oversight committees to be part of this work group.
 - **Metro response, Liam:** We will share this feedback with Council. President Peterson has designated positions, not people. There are two positions from every county board, some city positions, and some coalition positions. We can share additional information once the group has more clarity. Work has already gone into developing the ordinance measures and this group would not change that. This group would develop a north star and clear goals and accountability structures for the new SHS framework should voters approve it. These meetings would be publicly available.

Comment, Carter MacNichol: It seems logical to me to have someone from this Committee be a part of the workgroup.

Yesenia Delgado, Metro, shared that Mitch Chilcott and Margarita Solis Ruiz both resigned from the SHS Committee due to personal circumstances. She noted that recruitments for new members are on pause until there is more clarity about the future of the Committee, and that the new quorum is seven members.

Committee members had the following questions and comments:

- **Question: Carter MacNichol:** How many Committee members are there currently?
 - **Metro response, Yesenia:** 11 members.
- **Question, Dan Fowler:** It feels like a decision was made to not have a whole Committee due to outside nebulous factors, which is a separate issue from having accurate Committee representation today. Who made the approval to pause?
 - **Metro response, Yesenia:** Council approved so that as we recruit in the future, we can onboard members with accurate information.
 - **Comment, Dan:** I disagree. We should have as many people with institutional knowledge on the Committee. The possibility of a November ballot with implementation in 2026 means at least a whole year of a diminished Committee.
- **Comment, Carter:** I am also disappointed.
- **Comment, Peter:** I agree with what has been said. The role of the Committee has been diminished for the year. I appreciate Metro staff and their work, but when I watch jurisdictional council or board meetings it seems that they think that everything is broken, and no one knows what they are doing. If you do not want me to show up just say that; otherwise, let's do this work meaningfully.
- **Comment, Felicita Monteblanco:** I agree. Many of us are at the end of our tenure, and we should think about how much institutional knowledge will be lost and how to phase in new members thoughtfully.
- **Comment, Washington County Chair Harrington:** As one of the four government partners, keep showing up and doing the great work you are doing. I share with my board colleagues the great work that this Committee and the Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB) is

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doing. I have great confidence in this Committee and the TCPB and have learned a lot. Additionally, the Metro President letter of workgroup invitation is a public document.

Josh reviewed the agenda and shared that Kris Smock, Kristina Smock Consulting, incorporated Carter's emailed edits into the redlined draft regional report and transmittal letter for Committee review.

Decision: The Committee approved the January 13 and 27 meeting summaries with Carter abstaining.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Peter Rosenblatt declared that he works at Northwest Housing Alternatives, which receives SHS funding.

Dan Fowler declared he is Chair of the Homeless Solutions Coalition of Clackamas County, which receives SHS funding.

Carter MacNichol declared he is a board member of Transition Projects which receives SHS funding.

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Final Review and Vote: Regional Report, Recommendations, Transmittal Letter

Yesenia shared that this is an opportunity for the Committee to discuss the regional report, recommendations, and transmittal letter and then vote on approval.

Kris walked through edits made in response to feedback received before the last meeting, discussion at the last meeting, and emailed comments. For the regional report, she added information on how the Regional Long-term Rent Assistance (RLRA) relates to Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), a link to the interactive tax collections dashboard, updated administrative data, and consistently named the Regional Investment Fund (RIF). She walked through the transmittal letter and recommendations page by page and reviewed the red-lined edits.

Co-chair Dr. Taylor reflected on this important milestone and said that the report is a testament to collective impact and a roadmap for urgent work ahead. He stated that more than 1,500 individuals have been housed, which are lives changed. He shared that the work should be celebrated and that continued implementation still needs to be done.

Co-chair Savara reflected on how to best employ local resources and embrace the commitment to housing individuals. He emphasized the importance of listening to what providers need to do the work and not retreating from the crisis.

Committee members had the following questions and comments:

- **Comment, Peter:** Regarding 10% administrative rates, unless you have a federally recognized rate it is still at 10% for Clackamas County. Thank you, Carter, for your edits which brought a sense of urgency, and Kris for capturing the Committee's voice. As a provider of PSH and RLRA, I am still confused about the relationship between the two.
 - **Consultant response, Kris:** I did note that the federal rate increased and will increase in counties in future years. I am not providing details on PSH and RLRA but included in the recommendations language to encourage the development of a

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consistent interpretation of what PSH is and that is where the RLRA relationship will be further defined.

- **Metro response, Yesenia:** The counties will join the next meeting to discuss administrative rates. PSH and RLRA are captured at a high level, and Metro staff Nui Bezaire is working hard with counties to set standards, definitions, and guidance.
- **Comment, Carter:** My edits were mainly to add urgency and action.
- **Comment, Dan:** Thank you, Carter, for your comments. “Conversations” could mean anything, and I support using a stronger word. It seems that there has been some agreement on data sharing which could be noted in the report to bring the public up to date on where we are today.
 - **Response, Carter:** My edit is “convene conversation that leads to clear outcomes”.
 - **Metro response, Yesenia:** The four jurisdictions have reached a conceptual agreement with data sharing and it is moving it up to leadership and elected officials for signatures. We will keep the Committee updated as it moves forward.
 - **Consultant response, Kris:** For the data sharing agreement, I tried to note that work has been moving and can see if it can be tweaked.
- **Comment, Peter:** The document looks back, perhaps footnotes or an addendum could include a list of items that have been accomplished in the past year so commissioners can have current information.
 - **Consultant response, Kris:** I am using footnotes, so the Committee is not declaring something needs to happen that has already occurred. The challenges section captures areas that are in flux, like Population A and B, and notes there is ongoing work to resolve.
 - **Response, Carter:** I agree with Kris’s approach and recall that previously we did not get a lot of press coverage, and when we did it was acknowledged that it was looking back.

The Committee amended the “convene conversation” language to “As we move into the next stage of SHS implementation, in the near term Metro Council should convene stakeholders to develop a clear articulation of regional priorities...”

- **Comment, Felicita:** Thank you, Kris, for your work to incorporate our voices as we continue to be advocates for this work.
- **Comment, Dr. Jim Bane:** I respect the amount of work and thought that has gone into this process and I am finally understanding the nuances of the Committee. Data sharing is crucial, and I am overwhelmed with the amount of data. It would be great to make data more accessible to us, like showing the amount of housing completed and the goal. It would be helpful to point more to the increased demand for housing and the inflow of those experiencing homelessness.
- **Comment, Kai:** Thank you, Kris, for capturing the complexity of the work. It is a luxury that we have time to fine-tune the language.
- **Comment, Carter:** Thank you, Kris, for doing a great job.

Decision: The Committee unanimously approved the regional report, recommendations, and transmittal letter as amended in the meeting.

Yesenia congratulated the Committee on approval and reviewed that the next steps are for staff and co-chairs to present to Metro Council and each county board in March and April. Once Council

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approves, Metro staff will develop a work plan that incorporates previous recommendations. Since the Committee has finalized the report, the February 24 meeting has been canceled.

TCPB Healthcare Systems Alignment Goal Update

Yesenia reminded the Committee that this presentation is an informational update and plan approval will be later.

Ruth Adkins, Metro, reviewed the TCPB goal and recommendation language for healthcare systems alignment. She reviewed the Committee's recommendation to expand access to health and behavioral health services and noted the alignment between these two bodies of work which will be interwoven in the TCPB Healthcare Systems Alignment Implementation Plan.

Adam Peterson, Health Share of Oregon, shared that the Medicaid housing benefits waiver was launched in 2024 as an eviction prevention service, and has been a high-contact service, but many do not qualify for the benefit. He shared that the high acuity behavioral health initiative has led to the strong belief that the 8% of folks that account for 40% of health service resources are the same group the housing systems are serving. Aligning housing and healthcare will allow staff to look at how these populations are being served and to invest in those services. Health Share has hired three staff to focus on healthcare and housing integration, and the Regional Integration Continuum (RIC) concept will look at these two sectors to connect the work of case conferencing and data centralization.

Acacia McGuire Anderson, Clackamas County, highlighted work in Clackamas County, including a Health and Housing Integration team expansion, case conferencing, and Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) technical assistance for service delivery outreach and engagement. She noted that the county is preparing to launch medical respite and community connections contracts for specialized populations.

Lori Kelley, Multnomah County, highlighted work in Multnomah County including a Health and Housing Integration team expansion, and HRSN implementation focused on avoiding funding cliffs and implementing PSH. She shared the homeless response action plan has health-related action items and asks the county to address the homelessness crisis holistically. She noted that the case conferencing pilot launched in November focused on populations over 55 and that the county updated and expanded its data-sharing agreement with Heath Share.

Leslie Gong, Washington County, highlighted work in Clackamas County and that the low acuity transitional support medical respite program is a two-year program that offers space for medical recovery and care. 130 referrals have been received to date, but there are only 9 beds. The county is looking at expanding the program for additional beds. She noted that the health and housing integration team has served 95 cases, and shared that HRSN implementation and case conferencing is underway.

Ruth reviewed the emerging strategies for the implementation plan 1) develop a regional plan for medically enhanced housing and shelter models, 2) strengthen regional support for cross-system care coordination, and 3) build regional cross-system data sharing infrastructure. She noted that this work will occur at the state level as well and that additional providers like Trillium will need to be brought on. She shared that the next steps include finalizing the plan and budget and presenting to the TCPB in March. If TCPB approves, the plan will go to the Committee for approval.

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Committee members had the following questions and comments:

- **Question, Peter:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will love everything discussed here today. I am interested in the wholistic approach to ending homelessness in the three counties. Is everything discussed here truly county-wide or just within the SHS geographic subgroup?
 - **Response, Washington County Chair Harrington:** Last week we approved two investments for transitional housing. SHS does allow the counties to build or expand our nascent systems to have additional capabilities. We do invest capital in the SHS region, but individuals have the opportunity to access those systems.
- **Question, Co-chair Savara:** I would love to make sure that state agencies' work intersects with SHS. If all three counties are doing case conferencing, how are the jurisdictions measuring and tracking outcomes of those? This can help track and understand any gaps, especially if certain profiles are not having their needs met, to allow for a systemic response.
 - **Health Share response, Adam:** We are hiring a role that will focus on analyzing healthcare and housing integration for the region and look at outcomes data for each jurisdiction, how interventions are working, and any disparities.
 - **Multnomah County response, Lori:** We are also thinking of adding qualitative questions to see if providers are able to serve individuals better.
- **Question, Co-chair Dr. Taylor:** Are funding commitments concrete? Is each county looking to find additional funding sources, or has there been a collective effort from Metro to identify grants and additional sources of funding?
 - **Metro response, Ruth:** Metro is investing in a one-year commitment for a three-person team for Health Share to support his work. There is an ongoing collective effort for long-term funding. With the emerging federal context, the goal is for Metro to add value and coordinate as the regional connective tissue.
 - **Health Share response, Adam:** All counties received a community capacity building fund from Health Share and potentially Trillium to understand healthcare system needs for the Medicaid waiver.
- **Question, Dan:** Is this team working with Metro's communications team to let the public know about this integration? The public would like to hear this message.
 - **Metro response, Ruth:** Once it is approved as part of the plan we will officially work with Metro's communications team.
 - **Metro response, Liam:** We have met with the communications team to let them know we want to do this work.
- **Question, Co-chair Dr. Taylor:** Are a portion of funds being repurposed to fund aspects for frontline workers and wages?
 - **Metro response, Ruth:** We do not want to get ahead of ourselves and are expanding the partner table to figure out funding models. For medical respite care, the initial strategy is for emerging and existing programs in each county to build towards a regional approach.

Ruth thanked county and healthcare partners for presenting their work on these programs.

Next Steps

Josh shared that a written comment was received during the meeting but after the public comment time, which will be shared in the post-meeting packet.



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Yesenia noted that the next meeting falls during spring break and to let metro staff know if the date does not work to reschedule.

Next steps include:

- Metro to share additional information about President Peterson's SHS workgroup.
- Metro to share feedback regarding President Peterson's SHS workgroup membership.
- Metro staff and co-chairs to present the Annual Regional Report to Metro Council and County Boards of Commissioners.
- Metro to share received written comment.
- Next meeting: March 24, 2025 9 am – 12 pm.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.