



Supportive Housing Services Oversight Committee Meeting Summary

Meeting: Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Oversight Committee Meeting
Date: May 19, 2025
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Place: Virtual meeting (Zoom)
Purpose: Receive Metro tax collection and disbursement updates, receive a Metro housing department update & FY26 proposed budget presentation, receive a TCPB technical assistance and updated training presentation.

Member attendees

Co-chair Dr. Mandrill Taylor (he/him), Co-chair Mike Savara (he/him), Dr. James (Jim) Bane (he/him), Kai Laing (he/him), Dan Fowler (he/him), Jeremiah Rigsby (he/him), Cara Hash (she/her)

Absent members

Jenny Lee (she/her), Peter Rosenblatt (he/him), Felicita Montebancho (she/her)

Elected delegates

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

Absent elected delegates

Clackamas County Commissioner Ben West (he/him), Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson (she/her)

Metro staff

Liam Frost (he/him), Yesenia Delgado (she/her), Breanna Hudson (she/her), Yvette Perez-Chavez (she/her), Melissa Arnold (she/her), Josh Hardwood (he/him)

Kearns & West facilitation team

Josh Mahar (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 Committee approved the April 28 meeting summary.

Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Mike Savara shared that this will be his last meeting before going on leave. He reflected that the Committee's role is critical for envisioning how to move work forward to deliver on the promises made in the SHS Measure.



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Josh Mahar, Kearns & West Facilitator, facilitated introductions between members and noted that Peter Rosenblatt was unable to attend the meeting but sent questions and comments in writing to staff in advance (available on page 84 of the [meeting packet](#)).

Yesenia Delgado, Metro, thanked Co-chair Savara for his work, announced that Kai Lang will serve as interim Co-chair, and noted there would be no August meeting. She shared that there are five vacant seats on the Committee, and Metro staff are reviewing applications for new members to join in late summer.

Valeria McWilliams, Metro, provided a quarterly update on the Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB). She shared that the TCPB approved one-time use of the Regional Investment Fund and approved the Health Care Alignment Implementation Strategy. She shared that future TCPB work includes receiving progress reports for approved Implementation Strategies, receiving the Employee Recruitment and Retention Implementation Strategy, and drafting the Regional Implementation Plan.

Melissa Arnold, Metro, provided updates on Metro Council President's Work Group. She shared that at the last meeting, Metro Auditor Brian Evans shared his audit findings around governance, and Metro Council President Lynn Peterson provided an overview of potential governance models to solicit feedback. Feedback included many clarifying questions related to processes. She noted the group has two more meetings in June and that Metro will share Work Group meeting materials from May in a follow-up email.

Committee members had the following questions and comments:

- **Comment, Co-chair Savara:** I reviewed Peter's comments. One point he was making is that there is an important nuance when we talk about governance and this Committee's work and oversight. This Committee is tasked with overseeing funds, which is the framework that we have been given. The framework is at the heart of what needs to be discussed. The people who make up the Committee are not the problem, there is a ton of expertise here. When Metro leadership talks about governance changes, they need to discuss the framework and how that needs to change.
- **Question, Dan Fowler:** When will Metro send us that email with materials? Metro talks about receiving feedback, but this Committee is in the dark regarding the latest proposals. For Metro to receive legitimate feedback from this group, we need to receive materials.
 - **Metro response, Melissa:** I plan to share the video link, slide deck, and three-page summary.
 - **Metro response, Yvette Perez-Chavez:** The follow-up email will be sent on Wednesday, May 21.

Josh M. reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives.

Decision: Co-chair Dr. Mandrill Taylor, Dr. James Bane, Kai Laing, Dan, Jeremiah Rigsby, Cara Hash, and Co-chair Savara **approved the April 28 meeting summary.**

Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

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Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Metro Tax Collection and Disbursement Updates

Josh Hardwood, Metro, highlighted that it was a record month for tax collections and that the collections are tracking close to the forecast. He reflected that large monthly collections can happen for a variety of reasons. He stated that in the fall, once they have better annual information, staff will be able to share more about why the month was high. He reviewed the [interactive FY25 tax revenue and disbursement charts](#).

Committee members had the following questions:

- **Comment, Dan:** This was a record month in collections. Taxpayers are getting familiar with the system and whether they should pay. The way I look at the charts is as smoothing out and as good news.
- **Question, Kai:** We have four years of data to drive from. Are there probability terms that you can draw or confidence guidelines you can share for the public?
 - **Metro response, Josh H.:** We talk about that internally. If we say 80% of the time we are going to hit the forecast, that still means one out of five times we will not. Our forecast for next year is a good mid-range forecast. We are currently looking at a plus or minus \$10-15 million of the current forecast. The concern lies for next year, where we are more likely to end up below the forecast.
- **Question, Co-chair Dr. Taylor:** Data can be misinterpreted and weaponized, and some forecast months can skew perceptions. Are there any plans to contextualize updates for the public?
 - **Metro response, Josh H.:** Contextually, this is an odd way to collect taxes for a local government so yes it can be hard to communicate accurately. We provide context in our annual reports and additional reporting throughout the year. We are open to suggestions on public communications.

Metro Housing Department Updates and Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget

Liam Frost, Metro, reflected on the Metro Housing Department's work, and shared that the SHS portion of the Metro Fiscal Year 26 Budget includes allocations for administration and oversight of the SHS program, including program monitoring and evaluation, and tri-county collaboration.

Yesenia reviewed highlights from Fiscal Year 2025, including executing data sharing agreements with the counties, developing program evaluations with Portland State University, and developing permanent supportive housing definition guidance, standards, and practices. She shared additional highlights, including regional alignment around healthcare and homeless services, landlord recruitment, and coordinated entry.

Liam provided updates on training and technical assistance work, and shared communication highlights including increased visibility through earned media coverage, reporter relations, and radio.

RJ Stangland, Metro, shared that the Fiscal Year budget for SHS is a total of \$590 million, with Metro receiving \$15.9 million for Personnel, Materials & Services, and Indirect costs.

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Liam noted that staff will respond in writing to Peter's questions about the budget and shared that at a high level, the budget includes 38 SHS-funded full-time employees. Metro is looking at what work staff can take on from consultants for additional cost savings.

Committee members had the following questions and comments:

- **Question, Dan:** Multnomah County requested one-time use funds. Have there been other requests?
 - **Metro response, Liam:** We received a structure and framework for how Washington County would ask for one-time use funds, but no actual proposals.
- **Question, Co-chair Savara:** Where did the allocation of SHS funds for each county originate?
 - **Metro response, Liam:** They were originally in the intergovernmental agreements, and they are now in [code](#).
 - **Response, Metro Councilor Christine Lewis:** The intent of the allocation is for funds raised in a county to return to the county. It is a bit of an art as some businesses, like Plaid Pantry, are located throughout the three counties but only provide a single tax payment.
- **Comment, Dan:** When considering SHS reforms, if county allocations change, that will have an impact on anticipated funding for nonprofit providers.

Tri-County Planning Body (TCPB) Technical Assistance and Updated Training Presentation

Cole Merkel, Metro, shared that the TCPB will vote on Technical Assistance and Training Regional Investment Fund (RIF) requests next month, and that this presentation is an overview of the Regional Training Implementation Strategy.

Justin Barrieault, Metro, reviewed the Strategy's racial equity considerations, which included client-facing needs, agency-to-agency differences, and ensuring the expertise of culturally-specific providers is centered in both program design and implementation. He shared that potential training courses include substance use recovery and mental health; housing service worker case management; basics of housing system navigation; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and trauma-informed care and self-care.

Melia Deters, Metro, provided an overview of research completed on local education and training programs and detailed how existing college programs, traditional health worker programs, and behavioral health certifications do not meet all the training requirements housing service workers have identified they need. She shared that workforce boards are responsible for creating workforce development programs and overseeing services. She noted that there are many benefits to working in coordination with workforce boards and reviewed the possibility of funding intersections.

Cole shared that Strategy #1 is to partner with a community college to develop a training program for first-year housing service workers. He reviewed that deliverables include a 40-hour introductory course and reviewed the strategy's goals, metrics, and timeline.

Justin shared that Strategy #2 is to identify and scale up existing trainings. He provided an overview of the On-Demand training pilot and its deliverables. He noted that Metro's administrative fund would support the pilot trainings. He shared that the timeline for the project is from December 2024 – June 2025.

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Melia reviewed that potential future implementation strategies include scaling additional regional trainings, partnering with workforce boards, and intersecting with existing behavioral and community health certifications

Cole reviewed feedback received from the TCPB. Feedback included that staff should be paid to attend the trainings, culturally specific engagement should be completed to improve the training, property managers should attend the trainings, shared learning should be integrated into the sessions, and a training resource document should be included.

Committee members had the following questions and comments:

- **Question, Jeremiah:** Is there a goal for how many people will complete the training program?
 - **Metro response, Cole:** That is not set yet, we know that is needed. We are considering whether this should become a credential or certification.
- **Comment, Co-chair Savara:** This was very thoughtful. I like how you are getting at harm reduction training, which is difficult. There are Oregon-specific laws and ordinances to be incorporated, and I would encourage aligning that with the training. I would suggest thinking of different ways to deliver training, from a one-hour virtual lunch and learn to multi-day sessions in person. I want to encourage fair housing education as well.
- **Question, Co-chair Dr. Taylor:** Can you share more about how culturally-specific engagement would be included in curriculum development? I heard about opportunities to provide feedback, but did not hear anything about co-development. The sooner these audiences are brought in, the better, so they can help shape the design, rather than try to retrofit the design.
 - **Metro response, Cole:** We are excited to partner with Portland Community College (PCC) as pedagogy experts. They will pair us with a curriculum developer who will work with Metro and the counties. We envision listening sessions with providers to influence development and bring back the curriculum to participants to share how their feedback was incorporated.
- **Question, Kai:** If I go to PCC, how long is the curriculum, and do I need to raise my own funds to pay for tuition? Will service providers that recognize this program pay staff's tuition? What is the vision? I feel like this program can help fill hiring gaps for providers. I would like to see a step-by-step process of this.
 - **Metro response, Cole:** We are still figuring out a lot of those pieces. We want to make this as affordable as possible. What this will look like remains to be seen. We are talking with workforce boards to better understand this.
- **Comment, Dr. Bane:** I am an advocate for in-person trainings to allow people to make connections and build relationships with other people doing this work.
- **Comment, Dan:** I appreciate the Venn diagrams in the presentation. The relevancy of this program makes participation valuable. This fills the niche and gap of what is currently out there.

Next Steps

Josh reviewed the next steps and adjourned the meeting.

Next steps include:

- Metro to share Metro Council Work Group meeting materials in a follow up email.



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- Metro to add Peter's written questions and comments in the updated meeting packet.
- Next meeting: June 23, 2025, 9:30 am – 12 pm.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.