

# Metro

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Metro

## Minutes

Thursday, February 26, 2026

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council chamber;  
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or  
253-205-0468 (toll free); [https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=LqU10DawfWg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqU10DawfWg)

**Council meeting**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

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

**Present:** 6 - Councilor Duncan Hwang, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Christine Lewis, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

**Excused:** 1 - Council President Lynn Peterson

Councilor Nolan apologized for remarks made at a previous meeting.

**2. Public Communication**

Matt Kelly asked Metro Council for their help in saving the Lloyd center from demolition.

**3. Presentations**

**3.1 Supportive Housing Services Oversight Committee FY25 Annual Report**

Presenter(s): Dr. Mandrill Taylor (he/him), Committee Co-Chair  
Mike Savara (he/him), Committee Co-Chair  
Liam Frost (he/him), Interim Housing Director  
Yesenia Delgado (she/her), Supportive Housing Services Division Director

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)  
[Attachment A](#)  
[Attachment B](#)

Presenters shared key highlights from FY25 and discussed the Point-in-Time count and expenditures. They also shared recommendations to ensure the new governance body has genuine oversight authority, make evidence-based decisions, and continue to uplift SHS values and principles.

Councilor Hwang asked for clarification about what presenters meant by “genuine oversight” and what would be most impactful.

Presenters shared that it relates to determining what level decisions should be made at and ensuring that progress is tracked.

Councilor Hwang asked if there were examples of when presenters had recommended something but did not see progress or movement.

Presenters responded that there had been genuine disagreement regarding definitions of Population A and Population B. They noted that there was a lack of action to resolve the issue.

Dr. Taylor shared that if there were a system that better allowed for authority or enforcement, they would not run into as many problems.

Deputy Council President Hwang asked what a regional system looks like.

Dr. Taylor shared that there should be some degree of alignment and shared language. He added that there will always be some degree of tension between the counties and the region, but that tension can be healthy.

Presenters shared that if data systems and processes differ in each county, a regional system becomes much harder to achieve. They noted that the federal government created Continuums of Care, which often operate at the county level rather than the federal level. As a result, when people seek assistance, it can be difficult to navigate how to receive help across regions. They also noted the need for better systems to allow people to move between counties.

Councilor Lewis asked, given the limited resources available, whether the focus should be on a housing-first approach or a recovery-first approach.

Dr. Taylor shared that obtaining new information and staying connected to services can be difficult for people to manage. He noted that there is growing awareness of the need to address homelessness and addiction. While change is possible, he emphasized the importance of more dialectical thinking.

Mandrill shared that people have many different needs, and it is

important to support individuals regardless of their circumstances. He noted that focusing too heavily on one specific approach can miss the complexity of the human condition. If the system does not offer options that improve upon what people currently have, it cannot serve them effectively. For example, limiting assistance only to individuals who complete sobriety treatment is not helpful. He added that transitional housing options are also needed so people can move between different levels of support as needed. He emphasized that people's choices matter and that the system cannot dictate how individuals live their lives.

Councilor Gonzalez shared that he would like to better understand what kind of system the region ultimately wants to build. He noted that in the second phase of the measure, there will be a focus on results. He emphasized the importance of case conferencing and system integration as ways to improve a broken system. He asked what story the region would want to tell by 2030 and what a successful system would look like.

Dr. Taylor noted that shared understanding may emerge out of necessity and that circumstances may force action. However, he expressed concern that shared understanding may not develop naturally. He noted that the efforts currently underway may eventually align with a federal plan that could assist them. While competing priorities will always exist, he emphasized that psychological safety will remain critical, and that housing is closely tied to that need.

Mandrill shared that people are tired of ongoing conflict and that stakeholders need to come together. He noted that once a vote occurs, there should not be a process of relitigation; decisions should be made and then carried forward.

Councilor Rosenthal noted that the recommendations put forward are clear and direct. He asked how authority between SHS RPOC and Metro would be structured.

Mandrill shared that the structure was not completely correct initially, as counties need to see themselves represented at the table. He noted that they will need to determine when decisions

made by RPOC should go to Metro Council for a vote, but that Metro should give significant weight to RPOC's decisions.

Nolan asked about potential blind spots for Metro Council or RPOC.

Dr. Taylor responded that both parties can have blind spots. Even with the best intentions, there will be areas where people fall short. Yesenia Delgado shared that staff are continuing to refine what the system will look like. She noted that they will begin implementing elements of the system, learn as they go, and gather feedback.

Councilor Rosenthal asked whether there is a projection for how many affordable housing units will be built within the next one to two years.

Delgado shared that county annual work plans will be presented in the coming months and will include some of that information. She stated that staff would be able to provide a more precise estimate in the future. She added that SHS is moving toward sustained housing units and that she will follow up in the spring with projections for the next fiscal year.

Councilor Lewis asked when the work plans would be presented to the counties.

Delgado shared that presentations are scheduled between March 10 and March 20.

#### **4. Chief Operating Officer Communication**

COO Madrigal shared that a work session will be scheduled with Council to discuss declines in tonnage and potential mitigation strategies.

#### **5. Councilor Communication**

Deputy Council President Hwang asked councilors to submit amendments to Kristin regarding his draft resolution and noted that the topic will be discussed in a work session next week. He also noted that there was a productive discussion on economic

development at MPAC.

Councilor Rosenthal agreed that the Westside Economic Alliance (WEA) presentation at MPAC was very interesting and discussed how they classify and tier industrial land.

Councilor Gonzalez shared that the WEA presentation is a major component of the work plan.

Councilor Lewis shared that she attended a textile conference where Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) was discussed. She noted that the Reuse Impact Fund was highlighted as a national model by a consultant, along with Metro's system facilities plan. She added that Metro was recognized as a leader in this area.

**6. Adjourn**

Deputy Council President Hwang adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Georgia Langer, Legislative Coordinator