

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

10:00 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=HPUeylQ1Qq0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPUeylQ1Qq0)

Council work session

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Acting Council President Hwang called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

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

2. Recognition of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Day

Katie McDonald, Tribal Liaison, and Keisha DeSheuquette, Future Generations Collaborative, shared the importance of the day for raising awareness of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples' crisis and highlighting government actions and inactions that have harmed and continue to harm indigenous communities.

3. Work Session Topics:

3.1 Supportive Housing Services Regional Policy and Oversight Committee Update: 7-Month Agenda Overview

Presenter(s): Liam Frost (he/him), Interim Housing Director
Yesenia Delgado (she/her), SHS Division Director

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Staff shared progress on the supportive housing services reforms Council adopted in December 2025, including the launch of the Regional Policy and Oversight Committee (RPOC) and sunsetting the previous Oversight Committee and Tri-County Planning Body. They described how a data dashboard would soon combine existing data sets and provide clear information to policymakers and the public, and they clarified for Acting Council President Hwang that a scoping phase would include review of similar efforts in other sectors for best practices. Staff then reviewed the draft RPOC agenda for the rest of 2026.

Councilor Lewis identified key performance indicators (KPIs) as the most pressing issue, and she identified time constraints that will negatively impact information sharing about county spending

priorities. Staff acknowledged her concerns and added that counties are currently developing their budgets, whereas the reforms recommendations are still under development. Councilor Lewis also expressed concern about the impacts of federal and state funding cuts and the need for RPOC and Council to see a comprehensive funding picture.

Councilor González acknowledged the committee's charge to tangibly improve a service delivery system and wondered the best ways to diagnose what changes are most needed. He pointed specifically to overlapping crises in behavioral health. Staff explained that Metro can meaningfully improving alignment between systems through some projects like systems mapping, but ultimately through advocacy at the legislature.

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney, described the conditions for creating subcommittees, namely that they but be of limited duration. She added that those subcommittees may last until the end of the fiscal year, raising questions about staff resourcing for subcommittees. Acting Council President Hwang believed subcommittees could have a positive impact on workload for RPOC has a whole.

Councilor González viewed the 7-month agenda as reflective of Council's priorities and desire for continuous improvement. Councilor González, RPOC chair, shared his initial considerations for determining whether subcommittees are warranted, including staff capacity and defined scope, but he described himself as flexible.

Councilor Lewis cautioned that cuts to federal and state funding will decimate the delicate foundation of the regional system. She advocated for logistics that ensure Council can act quickly and responsively during crisis.

He wondered how to communicate progress to stakeholders and the general public. Staff described communications strategies in response to comments from Acting Council President Hwang. They noted the communications team is pursuing traditional media and outreach-based engagement to communicate successes, while also considering a summit to share ideas with regional partners.

3.2 Council Discussion of Approved FY 2026-27 Budget and Opportunity for Public Testimony

Presenter(s): Marissa Madrigal (She/Her), Chief Operating Officer
Brian Kennedy (He/Him), Chief Finance Officer

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Councilor Lewis noted on the lack of public comments on the budget approval and adoption process.

Acting Councilor President Hwang hoped that over the longer term there could be a comprehensive or coordination budget discussion focusing on the implementation of policy priorities. Chief Operating Officer Madrigal agreed that this would provide a strong background for long-term planning in advance of implementing targeted universalism.

3.2.1 Public Hearing on the FY 2026-27 Approved Budget

No testimony.

4. Chief Operating Officer Communication

Chief Operating Officer Marissa Madrigal announced upcoming employee town halls.

5. Councilor Communication

Councilor Lewis commemorated the passing of Elder Davis Yellowash Washines.

6. Adjourn

Acting Council President Hwang adjourned the Council work session at 11:52 a.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Buzzini". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anne" and the last name "Buzzini" clearly distinguishable.

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor

May 18, 2026