

Metro

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Metro

Minutes - Final

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID: 615 079 992 or
888-475-4499 (toll free)

Council work session

This meeting will be held electronically and in person at the Metro Regional Center Council Chamber.

You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link:

https://www.youtube.com/live/RI4_BMsohnA?si=Z8gT2kKuDGI0Czkl,

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID: 615 079 992 or 888-475-4499 (toll free)

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: 7 - Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Mary Nolan, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Duncan Hwang, Christine Lewis, Lynn Peterson, and Ashton Simpson

10:35 Work Session Topics:

10:35 Waste Prevention and Environmental Services (WPES): Regional System Fee Funded Programs and Services

Presenter(s): Marta McGuire (she/her), WPES Director, Metro, Jon Mayer, Community Services and Education Program Director, Metro

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)
[Attachment 2](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Marta McGuire (she/her), WPES Director, Metro, Jon Mayer (he/him) Community Services and Education Program Director, Metro to present on the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services: Regional system Fee Funded Programs and Services.

Presentation Summary:

Marta McGuire, Director of the Waste Prevention Environmental Services Department, emphasized the department's mission to protect people and the environment by managing garbage and recycling safely. She highlighted the engagement efforts for next year's budget and the increased focus on technical education, the waste

fee policy task force, and roundtables with industry representatives, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. The presentation covered key program areas, including garbage and recycling operations, services and community investments, planning, and partnerships. McGuire discussed the breakdown of the regional system fee and its allocation to different program areas, emphasizing the significant portion allocated to household hazardous waste due to associated handling and disposal costs.

The breakdown of services and community investment costs was presented, showcasing the relative portion of spending for each program area funded by the regional system fee. Marta further detailed planning and partnerships, including direct funding to local governments, compliance work, and policy and planning initiatives. The final area covered regional garbage and recycling operations, including the operation of transfer stations and St. John's landfill. Marta concluded her part of the presentation by introducing John Meyer, who would provide more details on the programs and services and elaborate on the investments made and outcomes achieved. The Council was informed that the presentation was informational, and no action was requested at that time.

John Mayer he/him, expressed excitement about sharing information on various programs and services funded by the regional system fee. He emphasized collaborative partnerships between Metro, community-based organizations, local governments, and institutions, such as the Northeast Community Health Center. While acknowledging the extensive range of programs, Mayer aimed to provide an overview of major areas, including education, Metro Paint, household hazardous waste programs like RID Patrol, grants, and planning and compliance. He highlighted the role of regional system

fee-funded programs in helping government partners and Metro meet state regulatory requirements, such as the Opportunity to Recycle Act and the Regional Waste Reduction Program. The presentation delved into education and leadership initiatives, focusing on providing culturally responsive services to diverse audiences and advancing key regional priorities like waste prevention and shared prosperity. Specifically, the education segment was discussed, covering school programs, the Recycling Information Center (RIC), and leadership work. John emphasized that education programs not only meet state requirements but also support regional priorities, addressing topics like climate change, food waste, consumer choices, and toxics reduction.

Jon Mayer (he/him) passed the presentation to Jennifer Powers (she/her) who provided an insight into the Recycling Information Center (RIC). Operating Monday through Friday, the RIC serves as a phone hotline, handling approximately 150 calls, emails, and voicemails daily from residents and business owners. In 2023, the RIC answered over 37,000 calls about garbage and recycling information. The RIC team, proficient in both English and Spanish, offers free assistance to callers seeking information on recycling, reuse, waste prevention, and more. Additionally, the RIC acts as an information hub and support service for Metro facilities, referring callers to various Metro facilities like transfer stations and household hazardous waste centers. The team also engages with the community by providing in-person education about waste prevention at local events and community presentations. Powers highlighted online resources managed by the RIC, including the "Find a Recycler" tool, allowing users to search for recycling, reuse, or disposal options near them. She also mentioned "Recycle or Not," an educational campaign available on both a website and Instagram, providing entertaining and

informative content about curbside recycling. Caller comments showcased the RIC's positive impact, emphasizing its role as a trusted and relied-upon resource in the community. The RIC not only provides waste prevention education but also builds trust with residents facing challenges in navigating waste systems. Jennifer Powers concluded and introduced Dr. Jamie Rapaski (she/her). Dr. Rapaski shared insights into Metro's commitment to providing excellent service.

Dr. Jamie Rapaski she/her pronouns, shared insights into Metro's commitment to providing free waste prevention education in schools for over 30 years. In the current week alone, her team is conducting 28 classroom presentations, covering topics such as composting with worms and the environmental impact of consumer goods. The educational reach extends across all 17 school districts within Metro's jurisdiction, contributing to meeting the goals of the Opportunity to Recycle Act. In 2023, education programs reached over 28,000 students, comprising approximately 14% of K-12 students in the Metro region. Dr. Rapaski emphasized the significance of engaging elementary youth, being the first to connect them with the natural resources behind everyday items and introducing them to the concept of composting. For older youth, the focus shifts towards action and advocacy, addressing complex issues like climate resilience through programs such as "Stuff to Storms. Several quotes of appreciation from students and teachers highlighted the positive impact of the programs, emphasizing the importance of viewing the world through a new lens and fostering a connection with science and sustainability.

Dr. Rapaski passed the presentation to John Mayer (he/him) to introduce youth leadership and civic engagement programs. He expressed gratitude towards Dr. Rapaski and

Jen, praising their contributions. Transitioning to the next slide, he emphasized the significance of civic engagement and leadership development within Metro's programs. This area encompasses initiatives like the Master Recycler program, WPEZ Internship program, Environmental Promoters program, and master gardeners. These programs aim to empower individuals with knowledge and skills in waste prevention while encouraging actions to address environmental and health challenges. Highlighting the role of locally led efforts, community outreach, financial resources, staff support, and materials provided by Metro, he underscored the programs' role in amplifying community voices and supporting career development. He shared an audio quote from Nyeli Interior, a waste prevention environmental sciences intern who now works full-time with Parks and Nature, applying to law school for the fall. Although the audio didn't play, he read Nyley's message expressing gratitude for the internship experience, skills gained, and the support received. Moving forward, he delved into major community services funded by the regional system fee, presenting impressive numbers for 2023, such as 60,000 customers served by Metro's household hazardous waste program, 713,000 gallons of paint processed at Metro paint, and 6,400 sites cleaned by the RID program. Aligning these achievements with regional priorities, he emphasized the focus on providing accessible services for hazardous waste recovery, transforming paint, and contributing to waste prevention and shared prosperity goals.

To delve deeper into these impactful programs, he introduced Debbie Humphrey, Metro Central Transfer Station superintendent and program director and Courteland Benson, Metro Paint manager, to share insights. Courteland Benson he/him pronouns, provided an overview of the Metro Paint program, emphasizing its role in

preventing waste by recycling latex paint and offering safe, convenient collection services. Paint is primarily collected at paint care drop-offs across Oregon, with Metro Paint serving as a significant recycling hub. The program, funded by the regional system fee and contracts with Paint Care, recycled over 70% of the paint collected in the region last year. Since 1992, Metro Paint has processed 7.4 million gallons of discarded latex paint, packaging 4.6 million gallons of high-quality recycled paint for sale or donation. The recycled paint is sold in over 80 stores in the metro region, supporting local businesses. Benson mentioned ongoing efforts to develop a new business plan for the program to improve cost recovery strategies.

Highlighting the importance of a safe and equitable workforce, Benson shared that Metro Paint prioritizes a trauma-informed work environment, focusing on mental and physical wellness. The team comprises individuals with diverse lived experiences, some entering public government agency work for the first time. The program celebrates this diversity and ensures support for growth and accountability. Benson showcased Metro Paint's community engagement efforts, including paint donations for affordable housing and graffiti abatement. The program aims to provide affordable paint to residents who may struggle to afford new paint, contributing to recycling and reuse education in the region. In conclusion Benson shared his personal connection to the program and further highlighting how Metro Paint played a crucial role in redirecting his life positively. The program helped him build a skill set that advanced his career within Metro, provided for his family, and broke the cycle of poverty and trauma. He expressed gratitude for the opportunities created by Metro Paint and emphasized his commitment to creating similar opportunities for others in the workforce.

Deb Humphrey (she/her) addressed the Metro councilors to

provide information about Metro's household hazardous waste program. Deb, who has been involved with the program since 1996 and now serves as the station superintendent, outlined the program's history and significance. She highlighted the increase in customer visits and hazardous waste volumes over the years, emphasizing the program's growth and impact.

Deb shared insights into the daily responsibilities of hazardous waste technicians, including the physical and mental challenges they face while managing various hazardous materials. She emphasized the importance of compliance with regulatory agencies and highlighted the team's readiness for emergency response. Additionally, Deb discussed the community benefits provided by the program, particularly through the reuse initiative, which partners with local nonprofits to repurpose low-risk household products. She also highlighted the success of collection events in serving the community and announced ongoing strategic planning efforts to ensure the program meets current needs. Lastly, Deb invited councilors to explore Metro's website for more information and encouraged them to visit the facilities or attend collection events to witness the program's operations firsthand. She then passed the floor to Courteland Benson to discuss MetroPaint.

Courteland Benson (he/him) provided an overview of the MetroPaint program during the council meeting. He highlighted how the program prevents waste by recycling latex paint and provides safe and accessible collection services. Courteland emphasized the program's partnership with PaintCare, which enables significant paint recycling capacity in the state. Since 1992, MetroPaint has processed millions of gallons of discarded latex paint, with over 70% of the paint collected in the region recycled last year. The program is funded by the regional system fee, contracts with PaintCare, and sales of new paint. Courteland mentioned the

development of a new business plan to improve cost recovery strategies and financial practices. Courteland also emphasized the importance of ensuring a safe and equitable workforce at Metro Paint. He highlighted the program's commitment to creating a trauma-informed work environment and celebrating the diverse experiences and cultures of team members. Furthermore, Courteland discussed MetroPaint's community engagement efforts, including paint donations for affordable housing and graffiti abatement. He shared personal reflections on the program's impact on his life and career, expressing gratitude for the opportunities it has provided him and his family. Courteland concluded his presentation by thanking the council for their time and passing the floor back to Marta McGuire, the WPES director.

Marta McGuire thanked the Council and President Peterson for their time.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Lewis questioned how twenty-nine million is less than zero percent of regional system fee since it is only funded by solid waste.

Marta McGuire explained that there are two separate fees, the solid waste fee funds the cost of the two transfer stations operations and the regional system fee that funds the cost of two transfer stations and the regional system fee funds the waste reduction programs.

Councilor Rosenthal thanked the presenters for their presentation and asked if there any restrictions in inviting high school students to take a field trip to either the hazardous waste facility or Metro Paint. He also asked about the call centers calls being from out of state and questioned if there is a change in the overall composition of hazardous waste over the last ten to fifteen years.

Deb Humprey(she/her) and Jennifer Powers (she/her) elaborated that WPES, Metro Paint and Waste Transfer stations do provide tours to schools especially third grade and up. Regarding the out of state phone calls, the call center tries their best to answer or provide the correct information. The call center contracted with Oregon DEQ to answer statewide electronic recycling questions.

Councilor Lewis questioned about the correct disposal of lithium batteries as well as the environmental compliance work that is being worked on for Metro Paint as well as the development of their business model.

Courteland Benson highlighted that for Metro Paint the timeline is still in the early process. The team is trying to re-establish structure and baseline from where they can begin again.

Councilor Lewis wondered if there was a consultant engaged to help Metro Paint move ahead in their timeline.

Courteland Benson answered yes, and the team is in the scoring evaluation process during increasing gallon camp prices. Metro Paint has raised prices and there is a direct impact on revenue that is gained back.

Councilor Hwang expressed gratitude for the question and emphasized the importance of continuous improvement and adaptation within the context of the regional waste plan. He highlighted the ongoing efforts such as the business plan for Metro Paint and the strategic plan for collection efforts. They underscored the need for assessment and evolution to achieve the plan's outcomes. Additionally, he mentioned upcoming discussions with the council regarding initiatives like the multifamily and bulky waste policy projects, that he wants the WPES team to share more input in the spring.

Marta McGuire expressed gratitude for the question and emphasized the importance of continuous improvement and adaptation within the context of the regional waste plan. She highlighted ongoing efforts such as the business plan for Metro Paint and the strategic plan for collection efforts. She underscored the need for assessment and evolution to achieve the plan's outcomes. Additionally, she mentioned upcoming discussions with the council regarding initiatives like the multifamily and bulky waste policy projects, with plans to share information and seek input in the spring.

11:35 Supportive Housing Services County FY24 Quarter Two Reports

Presenter(s): Patricia Rojas, Regional Housing Director, Metro
Liam Frost, Assistant Director, Metro
Yesenia Delgado, Supportive Housing Services Manager, Metro

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)
[Attachment 2](#)
[Attachment 3](#)

President Peterson moved on the next agenda item and introduced Patricia Rojas (she/her), Regional Housing Director; Liam Frost (he/him), Assistant Director; Yesenia Delgado (she/her), Supportive Housing Services Manager, Rachel Lembo (she/her), Housing Department, Finance Manager, Metro.

Presentation Summary:

Yesenia Delgado (she/her), SHS Manager expressed gratitude for the opportunity to present an overview of the SHS programmatic updates for Washington, Clackamas, and Multnomah County. Rachel and she would be leading the presentation, with support from their director, Patricia Rojas, and deputy director, Liam Frost, for answering questions. Emphasizing that the session was for

informational purposes only, she acknowledged the need highlighted in the SHS audit findings for more frequent updates to the council. She assured the council of their commitment to providing regular updates, including on the tri-county planning body and regional alignment capacity building work. Today's focus was on updating the council on the progress of each county toward their annual work plan goals. She encouraged the council to review the reports sent last week, which contained additional highlights, successes, and challenges faced by the counties. While county representatives were not present to answer questions, she pledged to provide written responses to any specific inquiries. She introduced the agenda which included providing program highlights, detailing the progress of each county in meeting their outcome goals for the year. The presentation will also share additional goals and highlights related to the work plan goals, along with program stories and updates from the current quarter. Following that, Rachel will present a financial update. The presentation will conclude with an update on the work being done at Metro to advance oversight, compliance, and accountability. Delgado moved on to the agenda, where she presented the program highlights, outlining each county's progress towards their outcome goals for the year. Additionally, she discussed additional goals and highlights related to the work plan, sharing program stories and updates from the quarter. Following her presentation, she will hand over to her colleague Rachel for a financial update. Finally, she concluded the presentation with an update on Metro's efforts to enhance oversight, compliance, and accountability. She emphasizes their excitement about the ongoing work and invites questions and answers at the end of the session.

Additionally, she presented the regional progress toward annual work plan goals, showcasing data from each county

rolled up into one regional outcome. She highlighted significant achievements, such as the placement of households in permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing programs, along with successful eviction prevention efforts and the provision of shelter units. She emphasizes the positive impact of the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) program, including housing thousands of individuals and preventing homelessness. Transitioning to county-specific updates, she commended Clackamas County for exceeding goals, particularly in launching their first rapid rehousing program. She details Clackamas County's efforts in enhancing coordinated access systems, creating service-enriched resource centers, and providing technical assistance to service providers. Additionally, she discusses Multnomah County's progress and initiatives, including the launch of a specialized rental systems program and the hosting of a provider conference. She concluded by highlighting new permanent supportive housing buildings opened in Multnomah County, underscoring the collaborative efforts to provide essential support services. Furthermore, Delgado discussed the unique aspects of supportive housing services and highlighted that SHS can connect individuals with buildings in need of support services, which SHS can provide. Delgado then shifted to Washington County's progress towards its year three goals, emphasizing achievements in supporting households in permanent housing, rapid rehousing, eviction prevention, and shelter units. Additional initiatives in Washington County included the expansion of the LC Three initiative, improvements in payment processing for service providers, and capacity building funding for partner organizations. Furthermore, Washington County opened safe rest pod villages in partnership with Open Door Housing Works, providing shelter for individuals for up to two years. These developments signify significant progress in addressing homelessness in the region.

Yesenia Delgado passed the presentation to Rachel Lembo (she/her) Metro Finance Manager to present a financial update on the SHS program, highlighting two key takeaways. Firstly, she noted significant spending growth in each county compared to the previous fiscal year, with budgets exceeding current year revenue. Clackamas County, for example, budgeted \$95 million but projected to spend \$59 million, while Multnomah County budgeted \$195 million and projected to spend \$131 million. Secondly, she emphasized that spending remains below revenue by an estimated \$433 million at the end of the fiscal year, leading to a gap in revenue and expense. This gap represents carryover to the next fiscal year, with counties planning how to utilize it for investments in infrastructure and scalable programming. Finally, Rachel Lembo passed the presentation back to Yasenia Delgado for further discussion, welcoming any financial inquiries. Delgado wrapped up the presentation by sharing an update on Metro's internal capacity building efforts for oversight, accountability, compliance, and fidelity to the measure. She expressed gratitude for the approval of positions within the SHS quality improvement team and announced that the team would be fully staffed by the end of the week. The team includes positions focused on data analysis and quality improvement to ensure Metro and the counties meet their goals and commitments. She highlighted initiatives such as quarterly performance review letters sent to the counties and the implementation of monitoring procedures, which will begin this spring with the support of a third-party consultant. Additionally, she mentioned ongoing evaluation efforts to assess the effectiveness of the services provided. She concluded by inviting questions from the attendees.

Council Discussion:

President Peterson wanted the presenters to clarify that the

utilization of SHS funding was used to provide essential services like rental assistance, and other resources that are typically employed for capital construction of housing units. The focus of SHS funding is primarily on delivering supportive services rather than financing the construction of housing units.

Yesenia Delgado reiterated President Peterson's point and stated to the listeners that the purpose of the SHS funds is to provide resources such as rental and mental health support.

President Peterson wanted further clarification of performance metrics of the wrap around services.

Yesenia Delgado stated that the focus of the data collection efforts lies in documenting the types of wraparound services the focus of our data collection efforts lies in documenting the types of wraparound services offered by providers rather than tracking service hours. However, they were actively monitoring retention rates, particularly at the six- and twelve-month marks after households discontinue services. As the project is in its early stages of year three, the accumulation of retention rate data is ongoing, and we acknowledge the need for more deliberate inclusion of these rates in our reporting moving forward.

President Peterson questioned the rate of progress and how the growth of services mentioned in the presentation look over time. She wanted to see the growth of services and how they look overtime.

Yesenia Delgado expressed gratitude for the comment and acknowledged that as they reach the midpoint of year three, many programs have scaled up significantly. She noted the importance of drawing parallels between programs like permanent supportive housing, which typically require more

time to develop, and other such as rapid rehousing and shelter. This comparison would help clarify the progress of each program and how they interact, including the number of households being served.

Councilor Lewis continued the discussion by highlighting the importance of understanding the continuum of housing interventions funded by the council. She emphasized that while permanent supportive housing (PSH) is a crucial tool, it may not be suitable for everyone. Lewis stressed the need for documentation to track where along the continuum investments are being made. She expressed concern about individuals being placed in PSH when it might not be the most appropriate option, emphasizing that it should primarily serve those with the most acute needs. Lewis posed the question of how investments can be categorized to ensure they align with the varying levels of support required by individuals experiencing homelessness.

Yesenia Delgado acknowledged the importance of understanding the continuum of services and the role of coordinated access in determining appropriate interventions for households. She highlighted Metro's ongoing efforts to strengthen oversight and accountability across the counties. This includes providing additional guidance on serving different populations and ensuring that interventions are aligned with the needs of each household. She reassured the audience that Metro is actively working on improving these processes.

President Peterson emphasized the need for clarity regarding the level of services provided in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and the transparency of information to external stakeholders, including the council. She expressed the importance of understanding the resources required to fully implement PSH programs and

track progress effectively. She highlighted the significance of not just focusing on the number of beds but also on the comprehensive support provided. She stressed the importance of collecting data to monitor growth and outcomes accurately.

Yesenia Delgado added that there's an internal team at Metro dedicated to developing and understanding the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) model. Acknowledging the complexity of PSH, she highlighted its components such as capital services, rent assistance, and case management. The team aims to create a comprehensive model applicable at a regional level. She noted that they are scheduled to present their findings and work progress at an upcoming council meeting, providing insights into the effectiveness and requirements of the PSH model and their collaboration with the counties.

Councilor Hwang inquired about the intentional capacity building efforts for providers across the region, particularly noting the nine capacity-building grants awarded to local providers in Washington County. He sought to understand the outcomes and focus areas of these capacity-building initiatives and questioned the rationale behind Washington County's decision to prioritize such efforts.

Yesenia Delgado noted that all three counties were engaged in capacity-building efforts, although they may not report on them consistently each quarter. While Washington County highlighted its initiatives in the quarterly report, similar efforts were underway in the other counties as well. She mentioned that Washington County provided upfront grants to providers, typically around \$20,000 to \$30,000, allowing the providers flexibility in how they utilized the funds to support capacity building. However, she acknowledged the need to gather more detailed information on the outcomes

of these efforts across all three counties for future sharing. Councilor Hwang expressed a keen interest in understanding how organizations were utilizing their capacity-building funds to gauge the specific areas of need. He emphasized the importance of gaining insights into whether organizations were investing in upgrading systems like payroll or addressing other capacity-related needs.

Patricia Rojas (she/her), Metro housing director, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to join the discussion briefly. She emphasized the importance of building out the housing department in various areas, particularly in response to the need for a regional approach to technical assistance and capacity building, as highlighted by councilor Lewis and Wong. Rojas mentioned that two counties explicitly requested support for enhancing technical assistance delivery, and her team would focus on regionalizing this support.

Councilor Nolan asked for clarification on the retention parameters in the data. Does a household get permanent supportive housing assistance and is there information on where they were transitioned to.

Yesenia Delgado confirmed that the retention rates are indeed retention rates are indeed collected at intervals of six, nine, and twelve months after support services have ceased. These rates are included in the reports, although she mentioned that for some programs, the data collection is still in progress due to ongoing ramp-up efforts. She offered to provide further information on the status of retention rates upon request.

Councilor Nolan emphasized the importance of ensuring that the services and support provided through the counties result in lasting improvements for families, rather than

temporary solutions. They expressed concern about the lack of data on the utilization of shelter beds, both existing and newly created ones, within the reports. While utilization numbers are available at a system-wide level, they are not specifically reported for SHS. They highlighted the need for counties to begin reporting on shelter bed utilization, as it is a crucial measure of success. Additionally, they suggested that outreach efforts, such as those mentioned for Multnomah County, should impact the utilization of shelter beds if they effectively reach the intended population.

Councilor Rosenthal raised a question regarding the allocation of SHS funds for supporting services in safe rest villages, asking whether it's a standard practice or still under discussion. Referring to the broader issue, he likened it to a comet with a head and a tail, where the head represents the initial investment in housing and the tail represents the ongoing cost of services. He inquired about the ability to evaluate the cost trajectory of providing services for permanent supportive housing over time, like estimating the cost of building housing units.

Patricia Rojas, Housing Director states that the team is not ready to answer Councilor Rosenthal's question, but the team will be able to answer his question in the near future.

Councilor Simpson expressed satisfaction with the positive developments, particularly highlighting achievements in Clackamas County such as the medical waiver and future medical respite programs. However, he questioned whether innovative programs like the community paramedic initiative in Clackamas could be replicated in other counties as part of a standardized regional response to homelessness. Transitioning to his second inquiry, he focused on the disparity between the 18% eviction prevention rate in Multnomah County and the surplus of shelter beds. He

emphasized the urgency of ramping up eviction prevention efforts to prevent individuals from resorting to already overproduced shelter beds due to financial hardship.

Yesenia Delgado appreciated the questions and addressed the inquiry regarding Multnomah County's eviction prevention efforts. Historically, Multnomah County has often surpassed its eviction prevention goals in later quarters due to its program infrastructure and operational processes. She assured that discussions about such discrepancies are ongoing as part of the review process of Metro reports. Further clarity and information regarding Multnomah County's eviction prevention progress will be shared once available.

Patricia Rojas added to Delgado's answer noting a significant difference between noting a significant difference between Multnomah County and the other two counties. Multnomah County receives substantial funding from sources other than SHS, which may contribute to its eviction prevention efforts. While SHS funding predominantly covers eviction prevention in Clackamas and Washington counties, Multnomah County's efforts may be supplemented by other revenue sources. This highlights the importance of considering the broader system and its aggregate impact. Further information could provide a clearer understanding of the overall eviction prevention efforts in Multnomah County compared to the other counties.

Councilor Simpson's second question pertained to standards across the region and the potential to apply innovative solutions emerging in different areas. He highlighted the value of utilizing find to support innovations, emphasizing their potential to effectively assist people in need.

Yesenia Delgado mentioned that the three counties are

actively sharing their experiences and innovative programs with each other. While all counties have some form of outreach and recuperative care programming, the unique initiatives, such as the one highlighted in Clackamas County, are sparking interest. She emphasized the importance of creating spaces for collaboration to explore strategies that have proven effective in one county and could potentially support others, recognizing the nuances and differences between each county's approach.

Councilor Lewis expressed gratitude for the initiative to regularly monitor the counties' progress, with a slight delay. Emphasizing the importance of focusing on the individuals being assisted, she highlighted that the reports are structured with this metric in mind. While acknowledging discussions around service details and innovations, she stressed the need to remain centered on the people benefiting from these services. Additionally, she underscored the importance of investing in the workforce responsible for delivering these services, including considerations of wages, training, recruitment, and retention. She urged for these workforce-related matters to be elevated to council-level discussions, recognizing the vital role of everyone involved in the implementation of these programs.

Following the conclusion of the housing presentation president Peterson wanted an example of what monitoring mean on the ground.

Yesenia Delgado, emphasized the specificity of the SHS work plan regarding eligible uses of funds. Monitoring entails ensuring that counties effectively communicate these uses to providers through contract language, policies, and procedures. Furthermore, monitoring involves verifying that SHS dollars are spent in accordance with the agreed-upon

guidelines. For instance, in terms of financial and programmatic aspects, there is a commitment to allocate funds for both population A and B. Monitoring efforts focus on examining how this commitment is implemented in programs and ensuring that service providers adhere to the intended definitions. Any necessary clarification is provided as part of the monitoring process.

President Peterson inquired about the focus and if it lies predominantly on the utilization rather than on the tangible outcomes achieved.

Patricia Rojas, housing director emphasized the distinction between evaluation and monitoring. Evaluation concerns program integrity, effectiveness, and outcomes, assessing whether it achieves the intended goals. On the other hand, monitoring focuses on ensuring compliance with program requirements and obligations, examining procedural aspects and program delivery structures. Both processes require time for execution and are mandated to commence in year three according to the IGA.

Councilor Nolan found the information presented to be helpful and useful, expressing appreciation for the work being done by all counties and Metro in providing technical support and meeting contract requirements. However, they remained troubled by the perceived lack of urgency in both activity and results, suggesting a need to approach the work with a sense of urgency like responding to a wildfire or flood. They emphasized the importance of ongoing discussion and expressed openness to hearing about any changes that might alleviate their concerns.

Councilor Hwang thanked the presenters for their presentation and directed his question to Rachel and Yesenia. Referring to a recent newspaper article mentioning

that Multnomah had spent only 22% of their allocation through December, he sought clarification on how the county was achieving outcomes despite spending only a portion of the allocated funds. He expressed curiosity about whether this discrepancy indicated that the county had excess funds or was not spending quickly enough, acknowledging the complexity of budgeting and data collection.

Rachel Lembo, Metro finance manager acknowledged that there was a lot to dissect regarding the data point indicating 22% spending. She emphasized the importance of understanding the context surrounding that figure and what it represents. Explaining that Multnomah County's expenditure pattern typically sees a surge in quarters three and four, she clarified that this delay in recording expenses does not necessarily mean that services are not being provided. Instead, it often reflects the timing of invoice processing. She noted that similar patterns had been observed across all counties, with Multnomah County exhibiting a more pronounced trend over the past few years. She highlighted the significance of comparing Q2 spending this year to the previous year, emphasizing that an increase signifies a higher level of activity. This trend was observed across all three counties and serves as an important metric for evaluation. Additionally, she reiterated Patricia's point about Multnomah County's unique situation with multiple revenue sources, which impacts the interpretation of financial reports. Specifically, she mentioned that while fewer individuals may be served with SHS funding, it doesn't necessarily indicate a decrease in overall services provided by the county. She acknowledged the complexity of funding allocation and the prioritization of spending based on restrictions, emphasizing the importance of understanding the broader context beyond SHS funding.

Councilor Hwang, He questioned whether the county would make corrections, noting that many categories show less than 50% expenditure, with some significantly lower.

Rachel Lembo suggested that there might be a correction in Quarter Four regarding the expenditure. She noted that federal funding, such as ARPA dollars, could influence the expenditure pattern, potentially impacting the SHS goal for eviction prevention. She mentioned the need to review quarterly reports to understand whether it's a programmatic issue or a funding concern.

Councilor Hwang requested a fuller picture to be painted, emphasizing the importance of focusing on actual outcomes and results rather than the allocation of funds. He expressed concern that lagging indicators may not accurately reflect the progress made, leading to misleading narratives. He suggested future presentations include both expenditure details and outcome metrics to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the situation.

President Peterson highlighted the need to obtain data from the counties to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the situation. She acknowledged that the current oversight focuses solely on SHS money, which limits the ability to present the full context. She mentioned ongoing negotiations to address this issue and ensure that the complete picture is represented accurately.

Patricia Rojas agreed and mentioned ongoing negotiations regarding data sharing, emphasizing the importance of obtaining a comprehensive view of funding sources. She suggested utilizing existing public dashboards, such as Multnomah County's, to provide insights into SHS funding within the broader context of all funding sources. She expressed a commitment to incorporating this data to offer

a more complete picture to stakeholders.

Councilor Lewis expressed concern about prioritizing spend-down overachieving results in assisting people experiencing homelessness. She emphasized the importance of focusing on outcomes, such as helping individuals transition from the streets to housing. She directed a question to Rachel regarding the inclusion of carryover numbers, highlighting the significance of prioritizing funds for the tri county planning body to ensure the success of regional system transformation. She underscored the voter's expectations for both immediate assistance and long-term program sustainability, emphasizing the critical role of the tri county planning body in achieving these objectives.

There being no further business, Council President Peterson moved onto the next agenda item.

12:30 Chief Operating Officer Communication

COO Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following events or items:

- The first stakeholder advisory table meeting was held on Friday with almost full attendance.
- The meeting focused on defining the problem and collectively understanding the stakes.
- Revenue will be discussed in the next meeting, followed by a deeper dive in meeting three.
- Subgroups may be formed in meeting three, with scenarios presented in meeting four.
- Feedback on recommendations will be sought in meeting five.
- Thanks were extended to the MRC for facilitating attendees' access and assistance.

12:35 Councilor Communication

- Councilor Nolan informed the Madam President that

the waste fee task force has finalized its recommendations for the council. A virtual vote will be conducted to confirm the accuracy of the recommendations before they are scheduled for discussion in the upcoming council meeting, possibly next week. They advised the council members to expect to receive the recommendations in their mailboxes soon.

- Councilor Lewis mentioned that she was asked to provide a report to the full council following the legislative update earlier in the day. Notably, the governor's housing package and the Measure 110 proposal have progressed and are awaiting the governor's signature, along with other priorities such as right to repair and levy funding. Additionally, urban unincorporated areas being added to the RSIs extension will be voted on by the Senate this afternoon. Moreover, they are anticipating the big ways and means Christmas tree bill, which may include funding for arts and culture as well as Hillsborough hops, and they expect it to be signed by Friday.
- Councilor Rosenthal, He expressed his appreciation for the town hall event on Friday, highlighting the enthusiasm displayed by the staff and noting how informative the session was, especially given the limitations imposed by the pandemic in previous years. Additionally, he commended Councilor Gonzalez for his excellent performance as the MC at the Central Cultural Gala over the weekend, which was attended by several council members. He described the event as lively and enjoyable, with energetic bidding. However, he shared concerns about the hops funding, as he heard from legislative sources that it may not be included in one of the bills despite lobbying efforts, which he learned from the chair.

12:40 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anushka Kargathara

Anushka Kargathara, Legislative Assistant