

STAFF REPORT 26-6424

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SERVICES HEALTHCARE ALIGNMENT OVERVIEW

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Department: Housing

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Prepared by: Alice Hodge,
alice.hodge@oregonmetro.gov;
Ruth Adkins,
ruth.adkins@oregonmetro.gov

Presenters: Liam Frost, he/him, *Metro Interim Housing Director*; Ruth Adkins, she/her, *Metro Sr. Regional Policy Analyst*; Adam Peterson, he/him and Dr. Cat Livingston, she/her, *Health Share of Oregon*

Length: 45 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

Metro staff and Health Share will present an overview of their strategic partnership and the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Program's regional healthcare alignment efforts.

Regional healthcare alignment work is one of the Tri-County Planning Body's (TCPB) six regional goals seeking "Greater alignment and long-term partnerships with healthcare systems that meaningfully benefit people experiencing homelessness and the systems that serve them."

The implementation plan for healthcare alignment goal was approved by the TCPB in April 2025; this presentation will recap progress to date and provide a high-level preview of next steps in regional implementation.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

No policy outcomes are identified at this time. This presentation is informational and is intended to support future Metro Council policy discussions.

POLICY QUESTION

Metro and Health Share are accelerating implementation of these strategies as we enter the transition to the new SHS governance structure. While remaining flexible in the face of an ever-changing environment, staff and our community partners want to avoid losing any momentum and progress gained over the last two years.

- What would Council like staff to consider during the transition to the new SHS Regional Policy and Oversight Committee to ensure successful implementation and continued progress toward our regional healthcare alignment goals?

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Research demonstrates that there is an inextricable and reciprocal link between housing status and health outcomes. Deep silos between health and housing systems, along with the extreme complexity of each system, create significant barriers for people experiencing—or at risk of—homelessness in accessing the critical, often lifesaving, housing resources and health care services they need.

Through Metro's leadership in convening, coordination, and targeted capacity-building investments, we are building a cross-sector health and housing system of care that improves outcomes, decreases health disparities, decreases preventable utilization and healthcare costs while better serving the needs of the SHS populations.

Led by a Metro-funded team at Health Share in partnership with Metro staff and health-housing teams at each county, the healthcare alignment initiative is establishing regional care coordination, cross-sector collaboration, and data-sharing infrastructure. This work is occurring at a time of extreme uncertainty for both sectors. Despite these conditions, partners are advancing the work with urgency while maintaining the pace necessary to support effective and sustainable collaboration.

Early results suggest that regional health-housing collaboration is beginning to produce meaningful outcomes at both the individual and system levels, with Metro's leadership—through convening, coordination, and targeted capacity-building funding—playing an essential role.

Across the region, partners are deepening cross-sector healthcare collaboration through several key efforts:

- **Cross-sector case conferencing:** Case conferencing is active in all three counties, helping SHS providers connect participants to healthcare resources while building shared cross-sector knowledge. With continued Metro investment, Health Share will sustain and expand this work.
- **Hospital discharge coordination:** Regional partners are exploring strategies to support people experiencing homelessness following hospital discharge, including a pilot focused on high-acuity behavioral health patients transitioning from inpatient psychiatric care.
- **Regional trainings for SHS providers:** Counties and Health Share are partnering to provide healthcare-focused trainings tailored to SHS provider needs.
- **Data integration:** Joint analysis of Multnomah County HMIS and Health Share data is underway at Health Share, generating shared insights. Health Share is nearing execution of data-sharing agreements with the other two counties, establishing a foundation for future regional data integration.

While sharing accountability with Metro staff and the counties for implementing the regional healthcare alignment strategies described above, Health Share is simultaneously implementing a suite of clinical interventions that complement the regional strategies by focusing on the highest acuity patients – the High Acuity Behavioral Health (HABH) cohort.

As we head into 2026, Health Share is accelerating and expanding their leadership of the regional health-housing strategies, in alignment with their clinical interventions for HABH patients. Health Share will provide highlights at this briefing and are glad to provide additional detail in follow-up briefings as requested.

Financial Implications

The initial SHS investment of \$2.5 million approved by TCPB in April 2025 included \$1.8 million in RIF funding for county housing and health integration staffing in Fiscal Year 2026, ensuring capacity for regional coordination; and a \$400,000 Metro administrative seed investment to fund three full time employees at Health Share, establishing a Housing Integration team in calendar year 2025.

Metro has approved a second year of funding for the Health Share team, extending support through the end of calendar year 2026. Continued funding will be essential for both Health Share and the counties to maintain capacity for health and housing coordination.

While ongoing efforts are gaining traction, more work is needed to achieve a level of health and housing integration that will mutually benefit each sector and the people we serve. Funding through the SHS Regional Investment Fund supports regional infrastructure and capacity to facilitate coordination between healthcare and housing sectors and supports service delivery.

BACKGROUND

The TCPB identified healthcare alignment as one of its six regional goals, and Health Share of Oregon as Metro's key regional partner for healthcare.

Health Share is Oregon's largest nonprofit Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) for Medicaid, managing Oregon Health Plan benefits for nearly 500,000 low-income residents in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties, connecting them to physical, dental, and mental health providers through partner health plans, aiming for health equity.

Metro staff with county health-housing integration teams and Health Share, consulted with community partners to identify priority areas of focus for the regional plan. These include:

- Strategy 1: Develop regional plan for medically enhanced housing and shelter
- Strategy 2: Establish regional system for cross-system care coordination
- Strategy 3: Build regional cross-system data sharing infrastructure

In April 2025, the TCPB approved the healthcare system alignment regional implementation strategy as part of its Regional Plan.

Working in close partnership with Health Share and the counties, Metro has convened a wide range of healthcare and service providers to design and implement projects in each strategy area. Trillium Community Health Plan, the other CCO operating in the tri-county area, is now part of our expanded partner tables, along with the major regional hospital and healthcare systems and Medicaid payors, medical respite providers, and SHS housing/shelter providers.

ATTACHMENTS

1. TCPB Healthcare System Alignment Goal: Regional Implementation Strategy