

Washington County Local Implementation Plan: Recommendation and Considerations

To: The Metro Council, Metro staff and Local Implementation Partners

From: Susan Emmons and Kathy Wai, Regional Oversight Committee co-chairs

Date: May 11, 2021

At our meeting on April 26, 2021, the Regional Oversight Committee unanimously recommended the Washington County Local Implementation Plan for approval by the Metro Council. The committee believes that the plan is consistent with the regional Supportive Housing Services program's guiding principles and required elements, as described in the measure and the work plan adopted by the Metro Council. Built on community engagement and analysis guided by a racial equity lens, the plan is a strong starting point for implementation of the measure in Washington County, as we seek to significantly expand investments to prevent and address homelessness through safe, stable housing and services.

In addition to our recommendation of the Plan, the committee attaches three considerations. These are issues we recognize are beyond the scope of the Local Implementation Plan requirements, but which we nonetheless seek to monitor and evaluate during the implementation of the measure. These considerations may extend beyond Washington County specifically. We respectfully ask Metro and local implementation partners to work together to address these considerations as implementation proceeds.

- 1) **Continue developing a collaborative approach for uniform data collection across the region.** To support program evaluation and barriers analysis, Metro and local implementation partners should continue to collaborate on a shared approach for defining, collecting and analyzing data about people who access and receive services through the measure's implementation. This data should be simple to collect for providers, with ample opportunity for self-identification by people accessing services. Demographic data should be disaggregated to the greatest extent possible. Implementation partners should provide training and support for service providers, particularly culturally-specific service providers, to ensure that data is collected consistently and effectively to broaden access and support outcomes evaluation.
- 2) **Analyze barriers that may prevent or interfere with access to funded services.** Metro and local implementation partners should work together through implementation to identify barriers that prevent or interfere with people's ability to access services funded by the measure. These barriers may be identified in both the public and nonprofit sectors. To the

extent possible, the analysis should be broken down separately by individuals and families with children within each of the priority populations, Population A and Population B, as defined in the measure, and should consider economic, geographic, racial, and disability-based barriers. Metro and local implementation partners should use this analysis to address such barriers during implementation.

- 3) **Provide a detailed outline for how the program will align with, invest in, and leverage the mental health system.** The county should describe approaches and a timeline for leveraging and improving Medicaid-funded behavioral health services, particularly for Population A. The county should especially provide further data analysis of the racial disparities within mental health and co-occurring (dual diagnosis) services as well as the culturally and linguistically specific needs within communities of color, including analysis of disparities within subgroups. Finally, the county should address needs for culturally specific and trauma informed mental healthcare and describe how the SHS system will augment the Medicaid system to provide these services.

