



TO: Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Commissioner Paul Savas
RE: Supportive Housing Services (SHS) in a Holistic Context
DATE: February 7, 2025

Last week, the Board held an impromptu conversation regarding Supportive Housing Services (SHS) in response to Metro President Peterson's most recent letter dated January 27, 2025. That letter, in part, requested Clackamas County's participation on a new, regional group called the Metro Council President's Work Group that will be tasked with discussing a number of details related to a potential future ballot measure on SHS.

SHS is also only one element of a broader, comprehensive system including behavioral healthcare, addiction treatment, community and economic development, and other elements that go into helping people find stable housing and become productive members of society. I believe it is incumbent upon us to engage our state and federal partners, as the primary funders of much of that work, and encourage Metro to include them on the Metro Council President's Work Group in order to take a holistic approach to the most urgent issue facing our community today.

How we set the table—who gets a voice—is important. **I recommend the BCC direct staff to draft a letter to Metro that contains the following elements, plus any others as agreed to by the Board:**

- Reminder of Clackamas County's success:
 - We're experienced at braiding local, state, and federal funding streams to maximize services
 - Government is most nimble at the local level
 - Recovery-oriented system of care promotes holistic approach
- Update on positive developments regarding the Data Sharing Agreement
- Reiterate our request from last year that Metro convene a separate table with the three counties, comprised of elected officials only, to help design the composition of a holistic workgroup, to include state and federal representatives
- Ask Metro to pause on convening the workgroup until after the holistic group can have a robust conversation with government partners at all levels about funding streams, needs, and opportunities for improved coordination