



Homeless Services Department  
 Community Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
 March 18, 2026  
 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

[These minutes are subject to adjustment and approval by the CBAC]

Attendance:

Committee Members: Amanda Garren, Elizabeth Gillingham, Nicki Dardinger, [online:] Cameron Foster, Darius Mani Yaw, William Hodsoll, Lisa Drennan, Wendy Lear, Katrina Malachowski  
HSD & County Staff: Anna Plumb, Bill Boyd, Malka Geffen

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	
Welcome	Brief welcomes and introductions	
Approve the 3/4/2026 CBAC Meeting Minutes	Committee approved the 3/4/26 meeting minutes using Fist to 5 consensus decision making tool: Amanda Garren - 5, Katrina Malachowski - 5, Nicki Dardinger - 5, Darius Mani Yaw - 5, Cameron Foster - 5, William Hodsoll - 5, Wendy Lear - 5, Elizabeth Gillingham - 5, Lisa Drennan - 5	
HSD initial response to Recommendations Letter	Interim Director Anna Plumb shared HSD leadership's initial response to the CBAC recommendations letter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Appreciate the work involved with reviewing the budget</li> <li>● Heartened that CBAC agrees with HSD policy priorities</li> <li>● Major concern of many in the community that people from the shelters being closed don't return to unsheltered homelessness               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ~580 people use beds nightly</li> <li>○ Working on transition plan with impacted providers                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Closing two shelters now (based on last year's budget)</li> <li>■ Thinking about how to engage behavioral health teams</li> <li>■ Slowing down intakes</li> <li>■ Looking at ways to possibly stagger</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- Considering concern of staff leaving prior to shelter closing
  - Trying to identify more housing placement dollars
    - Asking City for some one-time-only funding
- Will be a big challenge, but we have been successful with shelter closures in the past
- Four areas CBAC identified to prioritize:
  - Placement out of shelter
    - Not reduced in budget
    - Asked Chair for additional \$10M in one-time funding, so remaining shelters can help more people into housing
  - Culturally specific and responsive services
    - Some reductions (most minimally)
    - Looked at program outcomes to reduce disparities
    - Capacity building funding reduced (now have SHS funding)
    - Protected small system of care programs

Q: How do we keep people housed with one-time-only funding? A: The City decides on \$2M from their unbudgeted funds; the \$10M ask from the Chair is for Rapid Rehousing (1-24 months of rent assistance); we plan for sustaining folks into next year

Q: We've been using one-time-only funds for three years; can we work better without it? And how does Metro play a part in figuring things out? A: Reliance on one-time-only funding is part of why we are where we are, partly due to volatility of SHS tax. The \$10M ask we hope supports a reset to have sustainable funding going forward. Metro does regional work historically, and the SHS tax was meant to support the three counties, each with a [local implementation plan](#), which Metro monitors. Our LIP includes adding 2235 units of PSH over the

ten-year period, a certain number of people placed into housing every year, and a specific amount of eviction prevention.

- Eviction prevention & Rent assistance and Employment services & income acquisition
  - Both reduced in HSD budget, but should be supported county-wide
  - Primary focus is keeping people housed that we have housed, with PSH and RRH
  - Eviction prevention and rent assistance has been historically run by DCHS
  - Employment is not core to our department, and was reduced because we didn't want to reduce placement into housing
  - Hope the Homelessness Response System brings more people and resources to the table
  - The Chair may make changes to our proposed budget

Q: Is there a tri-county LIP that is less siloed? A: Tomorrow Metro reports to Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), focusing on SHS reform with the goal of extending the tax; we're in active conversations about what can be regional, for example to find where the affordable housing is, and regionalize training for our workforce.

Q: re: Sunstone Way closing, how impacts budget... frees up any \$ for other providers? A: An organization closing doesn't mean the program/shelter is closing. Will know more details soon. Shouldn't affect the number of shelter beds being reduced.

Q: Can we talk through answers to further CBAC questions? A: Yes, we'll find a time; and may need to follow public meeting law if a quorum of CBAC members attend

Q: With pushback and advocacy not to close certain shelters, the Chair may come back to negotiate

	<p>changes. If that happens, do you have priorities for what you might cut to make a trade off? A: She (or later the commissioners) may want to buy back 'x' number of shelter units and ask us to recommend cuts elsewhere to fund that, we'd be clear about the tradeoffs and what would be best.</p> <p>Q: Anything the CBAC can do to be helpful to HSD? A: Being clear that you support our priorities is really helpful; closing shelter is very hard.</p> <p>Q: Director hire timeline? A: Close to making a decision, the board will need to vote, More clarity in coming weeks.</p>	
<p>CBAC Debrief on recommendations and response / CBAC's work towards additional recommendations</p>	<p>CBAC members shared their reactions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● More hopeful than expected</li> <li>● Anna was as transparent as she could be at the moment, per our questions</li> <li>● With constraints, the budget is more reactive to crises not proactive holistic action; follow-up letter needs to speak to our rejection of this year-to-year process and the reactionary system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ our letter should address comfort/dependence (with hope) of using one-time funding; maybe look for alliance with other CBACs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Lay foundation for sustainability and effectiveness</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ one-time-only dollars should not be utilized for new programming, and go back to bolstering existing programming that works and may have been divested</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Government doesn't live within its means, even though individuals are expected to</li> <li>● What will we do if we don't get the one-time funding?</li> <li>● concerned about how reductions at HSD will impact providers, and ultimately the people we serve. And how priorities are being assessed for these cuts</li> <li>● Provider workforce anxiety</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● More robust plan re: communicating with the public about cuts</li> <li>● Bring stories into the letter</li> <li>● CBAC could potentially go to the media and say we support the priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Speaking as individuals and members of the CBAC at public budget work sessions (Bill to confirm dates) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ If doing so on behalf of the CBAC, need agreement</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● CBAC's first letter is being read and valued in the community</li> </ul>	
Next Steps	Next meeting is April 8th; see presentation slides for other upcoming meeting dates	

Meeting Follow Up:

1. Budget Worksession Calendar ([pdf](#)) ([Google Calendar](#))
2. The HSD Budget Presentation is Tuesday May 5, 2026 starting at 10:00am (the Homeless Response System Budget presentation is just before the HSD presentation)
  - a. NOTE: this is before our currently scheduled May CBAC meetings

From the Zoom meeting chat regarding Peer Support Specialists:

CBAC member: They got rid of the grandfather clause for health workers and peer support specialists, as far as I understand it.

CBAC Member: Who can be a Peer Support Specialist/Peer Wellness Specialist?

Anyone who is at least 18 years of age and identifies as:

A current or former consumer of addictions or mental health services;

A person in recovery from addictions;

A person in recovery from problem gambling; or

A family member of a current or former consumer of addictions or mental health services,

Peer Wellness Specialists (PWS) must complete an 80-hour training program.

Peer Support Specialists (PSS) must complete a 40-hour training program.

CBAC member: Yes, that is true, but the registration is extremely limited as of date! For example, BIPIC PSP is only accepting 50 applications, to certify 109 Oregon wide, another example, is 100 are open for veterans, but only 50 will be certified per state this year. The numbers of certification are becoming smaller each year! The application process is becoming more and more gatekeeping!