



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: Feb. 2017)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 1/11/18
Agenda Item #: R.3
Est. Start Time: 10:00 am approx
Date Submitted: 1/3/18

Agenda Title: Audit of the Joint Office of Homeless Services

Requested

Meeting Date: January 11, 2018 **Time Needed:** 30 minutes

Department: Non-D **Division:** Auditor's Office

Contact(s): Marc Rose/Steve March

Phone: 503-988-3359 **Ext.** 83359 **Email:** Marc.b.rose@multco.us

Presenters: Steve March, County Auditor; Marc Rose, staff auditor; for JOHS, Marc Jolin

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Board briefing of completed audit of JOHS.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer(s) this action affects and how it impacts the results.

This audit was a look into the funding and capability of the Joint Office, shortly after its formation in July of 2016. The Joint Office represents an ambitious effort to combine City of Portland and Multnomah County homelessness prevention and assistance services. In this audit we focused primarily on two objectives: identifying where Joint Office dollars were targeted and if increased reliance on service providers exposed the County to additional risk; and evaluating the system performance information, data analysis, and evaluation being done to inform Joint Office efforts.

We found the County is heavily reliant on a limited number of providers in certain homeless services areas. This may place the County at risk should a significant provider be unable to serve a unique homeless population. Prior to renewing Joint Office contracts going forward, we recommend that the County evaluate the risk associated with concentrating homeless services with a limited number of providers and implement risk mitigation activities as needed.

We found that the Joint Office lacks two fundamentals of system performance measurement: access to complete data, and evaluation and analytical capacity. As the Joint Office begins its second year of operation, we believe it will benefit by building in

capacity for data analysis and program evaluation, helping shed light on system performance, and performance at the program and project levels.

We would like to thank the Joint Office staff, and the HMIS data administrator at the City of Portland for their ongoing assistance and cooperation.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

N/A

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

Joint funding & operation may require reconsideration to BOCC Resolution 08-112, which prescribes actions needed should services with a single contractor.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

N/A

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

Steve March

Date:

1/3/2017