



CHAIR

x	Governor Tina Kotek
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MEMBERS

x	Cynthia Richardson	x	James Alan Parker	x	Ana Molina
x	Reyna Lopez	x	Maria Guerra (Meg)	x	Marin Arreola
	Marcus C Mundy	x	Tristen Edwards		Shay Hubler
x	Annie Valtierra-Sanchez	x	Janice Mason	x	Mark Jackson
x	Angela Uherbelau	x	Kim McCarty	x	Marisa/Mariesa Zapata
x	Paul Solomon		Jenny Pool Radway		Dr. Jimmy Howard
x	Tiffany Monroe				
x	Latiffe Amado				

OTHER ATTENDEES

x	Andre Bealer	x	Rachael Moser		
x	Javier Cervantes	x	Chris Warner		
x	Susana Sandoval	x	Mark Jackson		
x	Jesse Hyatt	x	Matthew Tschabold		
x	Maya Crawford Peacock	x	Taylor Smiley-Wolfe		
x	Katrina Smith	x	Dr. Nakeia Council Daniels		

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/ Action Items
Welcome and Introductions	<p>New member: Latiffe Amado</p> <p>Question: Why you are excited to be part of the RJC.</p>	
New Agency Director Presentation Veterans Affairs, Dr. Nakeia Daniels	<p>Background: From Brooklyn, NY (10 years in Oregon) Army veteran Finds it challenging to speak about self</p> <p>Experience with Oregon Department of VA: Initially unaware of the agency and its benefits Felt unwelcomed as a Black person, and asked if BIPOC Veterans see themselves in ODVA. Seeking parity in numbers trying increase representation. Struggled with identifying as a veteran after serving Felt that the agency did not visually represent minorities (LGBTIQ, Black, Brown, etc.)</p> <p>Empowering Milestones: Oregon is the first state to have LGBTIQ and women coordinators, which is monumentally empowering</p> <p>Challenges and Goals:</p>	

Barriers exist for diverse communities accessing services
 Outreach efforts need improvement to reflect the true number of veterans
 Aim to raise awareness about the agency’s existence and support for veterans and caretakers
 Data from 1-2 years ago shows many veterans are unaware of the agency
 Actively targeting Black, Brown, and Native American communities (largest serving community per capita in the nation)

Efforts and Policies:
 Since 2015, worked on memorandums of understanding with federated tribes
 Team has expanded from 2 to 4 members
 Responsibility lies with the agency to find and meet communities where they are
 “No wrong door” policy ensures veterans are directed to the appropriate services

Vision:
 “A veteran is a veteran is a veteran”
 Meet every veteran where they are and provide relevant services.

Question: How do you plan to work with veterans in custody instead of catching up with them when they are back on the streets?
Answer: The government prioritizes behavioral health, housing, and homelessness, and we offer those services. Many veterans struggle to hold jobs or manage their mental health, often feeling unworthy or unaware of where to get help. For incarcerated veterans, we have a dedicated team of two people who focus on this work across the state. They engage in strategic partnerships to provide outreach and services when veterans come into custody, while they are in custody, and after they are released.

Topics from RJC Poll
 1 Update: Agricultural Labor Housing
 2. Workday and SSN

Agricultural Labor Housing Issue:
 Prior to the pandemic, the 2018 update to state rules governed by OSHA regarding agricultural labor housing was delayed. In recent years, there has been a review of the standards of housing provided. The rule-making process around agricultural labor housing is now proceeding. OSHA has completed its analysis, and we can expect to see draft rules soon. These draft rules will be published shortly, followed by a public comment period.
 I aim to implement new rules to improve health and safety, which are due for an update. These rules should be in place by the next growing season.

Comment:
 For a long time, we have seen the struggle to secure dignified housing for migrant workers living on worksites. These workers depend on this housing but have very few resources. They face issues such as pesticide exposure, lack of cell service, unsanitary facilities, no privacy, food safety concerns, environmental issues, and inadequate air conditioning and air purifiers. The process to address these issues has been slow, and meetings often felt random. The worker’s voice was not as represented as the industry’s voice. Wrap-around services can be beneficial for families, and there is potential for partnerships in other areas.

Reaction:
 We need to make progress. There is \$5 million on hold that could be used for agricultural housing, and these resources are urgently needed.

Comment:
 Everyone wants to see more housing. Currently, there are only 12 million community-based units, which equates to maybe 35 units for the entire state. There is no specific funding for farmworker housing. All housing should be community-based; housing attached to work is akin to slavery and should not exist in this country. However, if we can at least increase standards and basic services, such as access to water, it would be a step forward. I am proud to say that three staff members are coming from units on properties we have built and managed.

Question: What challenges are you facing, and how are employers working with you? Is there any relationship?

Answer: Agricultural employers have been very active in identifying viable improvements and expressing concerns about changes that may be too expensive to implement. The focus needs to be on health and safety, consistency with federal guidelines, and understanding what other states are doing. While full agreement may not be possible, progress is essential.

Workday:

Workday serves as the foundation for data entry, personnel, and payroll systems. It manages records for both employees and contingent workers. For employee records, providing SSNs is required, whereas contingent workers are not required to provide SSNs.

We are currently addressing how to manage volunteers and contingent workers who do not need to share their SSNs and DOBs. This is an ongoing issue that we recognize needs to be resolved.

For those on a board or commission, some may be eligible for payments. Being on Workday allows you to receive compensation, which requires DOB, SSN, and I-9 information. We aim to make the system as accessible as possible and are still configuring it.

Additionally, Workday provides a platform to track all necessary trainings, which would be impossible to manage manually. We want to ensure base-level training and understanding while avoiding access issues. This is a work in progress, and we appreciate your feedback.

Comment: I'm happy that this is being taken seriously.

Question: If someone doesn't want a stipend and just wants to volunteer, do they still have to provide their SSN?

Answer: Now, yes. The goal is to program the system to accommodate how the Oregon state government operates, but we haven't been able to do that yet.

Additionally, for those who receive payment and for monitoring training, all board and commission members are required to complete their trainings. Workday can provide prompts for these training requirements because it monitors compliance.

Budget
Context
Updates from
Kate Nass

2023-25 Legislatively Approved Budget:

- **Current Budget:** \$124.7 billion total funds and \$34.6 billion general fund-lottery fund.
- **Budget Categories:** The budget is divided into 11 major categories including: health and human services, education, public safety, economic and community development, administration (including about \$12.5 billion for PERS payments), consumer and business services, transportation, natural resources, legislative, and judicial.

2. 2025-27 (Next Biennium):

- **Revenue Growth:** Expected increase of 5-6% in revenue.
- **Cost Challenges:** Costs are outpacing revenues. Agency requests (POPs) are limited to 1%.
- **POPs:** Policy Option Packages (new investments).

Comment: Adjustments will be made to continue current work. New initiatives can be added if they stay within the 1% limit.

Expenditure Pressures: Increased caseloads in health, human services, employment-related daycare, public safety, and judicial programs.

One-Time Funding Pressures: Housing and infrastructure funding, business/economic support, Future Ready Oregon, and natural resources investments.

Other Cost Pressures: Education funding discussions, wildfire funding, expiration of federal funding, and transportation (though not a general fund pressure, it is still a concern).

Next Quarterly Forecast: Set for September, which will provide a clearer picture of the 2025-27 landscape.

Timelines:

- **July:** Update on budget landscape (revenue forecast and spending pressures).
- **August:** Committees meet again to preview the ARB and incorporate feedback.
- **September:** ARB update (all ARBs submitted by then), outcomes of racial equity analysis questions, and a clearer budget environment.
- **October:** Committee engagement and more RJC feedback.
- **January:** Overview of the full budget.

Seeking Feedback:

- Ensure that what is being reported by agencies aligns with what you are seeing on the ground in your work.

Question: Have agency directors received guidance from the Governor's office on engaging communities? How are they proactively having conversations?

Answer: It varies by agency, which is why committee work is important to ensure nothing is missed. We are also looking at one-time dollars to understand their impact.

Comment: Hearing from agencies is anecdotal; some agencies are more robust in community outreach. The main concern is how to continue our work with reduced funding levels, as most concerns are coming from agencies.

Question: Is there a process in place if people are not seeing what agencies are supposed to be doing? How do we elevate this? Some organizations that receive funding claim to create more equity but take no initiatives. It is crucial for funding to have the intended impact.

Answer: We are considering how this will look. It involves understanding how funding is being distributed and how it can be continued or adjusted.

Comment: Some people are surprised to learn that certain funding was always intended to be one-time, which can sometimes appear as a "cut."

Question: Regarding the budget for health and human services, what factors are causing the increase?

Answer: The increase is due to several factors:

- Caseloads: Health plans and maintaining continuous coverage without disruption (once you are on, you stay on).
- Provider payments: Increasing living wages, which is another cost rolling into a full 24-month cycle.
- Provider taxes and a dropping federal match rate.

Comment: Upside- Keeping continuity in care.

Question: As we clear one-time funding, how does that impact your initiatives and efforts to address these issues?

Answer: It will be challenging. We need to see the forecast at the end of August.

Comment: Due to the adjustment of the school fund on top of the school service level, we need to ensure new dollars come with new expectations of outcomes. Equity analysis questions were sent to address disparities and identify opportunities.

Comment: The Governor's office aims to be as transparent as possible so people can understand and provide feedback.

<p>RJC Committee Reports</p>	<p><u>Criminal Justice Reform:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed POP from OYA, CJC, DOC. • Challenges: Limited presentation time, insufficient feedback opportunities. • DOC Request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on gender-informed practices assessments, primarily at Coffee Creek Women’s Correctional Facility. ○ Aimed to decrease sexual assault in prison and ensure women receive the same treatment as men. ○ Proposed body scanners to replace strip searches (across DOC in all facilities), which are difficult for everyone. ○ Request was cut in half but should be fully funded. • CJC (Criminal Justice Commission): • Recriminalization of drugs (HB4002). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drug possession analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4000 new people will come under supervision. - Black and brown communities will face disparate rates of possession charges. <p>OYA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Significant work addressing racial issues in the criminal justice system. ○ Budget consistently cut. ○ Disparity in custody placement for African American community. <p>POP Inpatient Behavioral Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contracted providers can choose who to accept, often excluding brown and black communities. ○ New program mandates service provision if referred by OYA. <p><u>Economic Opportunity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met in June with a robust agenda. • Workforce and Talent Development Board attended, along with Continuous Improvement Committee and Equity Disparity Task Force. • Shared work on the Future Ready program. • Jennifer Purcell provided updates on POPs and answered questions. • Seeking \$75 million in reinvestment for Future Ready Oregon. • Reported on outcomes and plans. • Discussed DAS’s disparity study from last October and its implementation plan. • Formed a task group on COBID and executive order to improve equity and procurement guidance. <p><u>Education:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposing charter change to meet every other month for an hour, with additional meetings as needed. • Elevating Student Voice: • Sharing lived experiences and diverse backgrounds. • Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need more members from rural districts and early learning. <p><u>Environmental Equity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heard from two agencies. • Meeting every other month. • Priorities: Water issues. • ODOE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reviewing programs started in recent years, such as heat pumps, air conditioning, and air purifying. ○ Considering how to continue impactful programs. 	<p>Questions: Email questions to Javier and Susana.</p>
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Human Services and Health Equity:

DHS:

- Focusing on housing, customer services, equity, system improvements, and federal requirements.
- Supporting homeless youth.
- Addressing increased service costs.
- Ensuring equity is embedded in services.

OHA:

- Health coverage expansion under Healthy Oregon.
- Predicting higher costs in the next biennium.
- Working with CBOs to ensure individuals use their benefits.
- Challenges: Costs, budget priorities, and constraints.
- Forming a work group to explore solutions.

Housing and Homelessness:

Reforming:

- Lost a few community members, partly due to Workday issues.
- Added 5 new members.

Budget:

- Exceeded budget on homelessness prevention and housing.
- Pleased that the budget maintains baseline investment.
- Noted increased caseloads and costs, with evictions doubling, which needs attention.
- Commented on the criminalization in the court system, particularly affecting people of color.

Meeting BIPOC Needs:

- Focused on responsive services, property management, and outreach.

Disparities:

- Emphasized the need to examine budget numbers to identify and address disparities in each agency.

Adjourn

- **Adjourned at 5:01p**
- **Next meeting: September 19, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.**

Materials

- **Racial Justice Council 2025-27 Budget Development (slides)**