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(subject to change)

TO: Chair Kafoury; Commissioners Meieran, Smith, Stegmann & Vega Pederson; Joint Office Director Marc Jolin; Mayor Wheeler; Commissioners Eudaly, Fish, Fritz & Saltzman

Combining the efforts to end homelessness of both Multnomah County and the City of Portland into the creation of the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) represents the best opportunity to date to develop a successful homeless system. It also can present risks, given the amount of funding, the design and actualization of combining those efforts. To be effective, leadership needs not only vision but Strong policies and goals, access to extensive program data, robust evaluation, and strong community partners.

This audit represents a snapshot of JOHS during development of the system from a number of existing parts and programs, as well as some new initiatives. As such a work in progress we, and JOHS, recognize that the components of an effective system are not yet fully developed. We encourage that development and note some recent work identifying program costs and data as a promising sign.

While we don't doubt that current funds are going to help people in need, the question remains: are we helping those most in need and doing it in the most efficient way with the most effective outcomes possible? To know that JOHS needs to move quickly to become the data-driven system they strive to be. That means there must be good data and that data should also accessible and transparent. We look forward to the time that outcome and performance data for each intervention at the program level is readily available to policy makers and the public so that they can track the successes and challenges of JOHS' efforts.

Additionally, the County needs to carefully monitor our reliance on our partners, review their financial health, as well as any risks associated with potential over-dependence on any individual provider and their dependence on us. We appreciate the cooperation of JOHS, as well as the community partners we interviewed. This audit was performed by Marc Rose, CFE and Colleen Yoshihara, CPA.