

# Washington County CPO 7 & CPO 1 Joint Meeting

## December, 2024 Hybrid Community Meeting

**Date:** December 10, 2024

**Location:** Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Station 68, 13545 NW Evergreen St., Portland and streamed live on Zoom.

**Time:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Community service providers shared program and service and information updates.

Philip Bransford, Communications Manager at Washington County provided an overview of the CPO Modernization project and the purpose of the listening session.

Key elements of the modernization proposal include:

- **CCI and CPO Leadership Alignment:** Proposal to allow the County Board to appoint CCI members who would then serve as leaders of individual CPOs.
- **Program Requirements:** Clarification that compliance with the Oregon Public Meetings and Records Law is mandatory for CPOs.
- **CPO Boundaries:** Proposal to align CPO boundaries with Commissioner Districts.

Q& A time followed and attendees engaged in a robust discussion, providing feedback and raising concerns about the proposed changes. Issues raised included:

- **Leadership Selection:**
  - Concerns about potential loss of CPO independence and grassroots nature.
  - Concerns about requiring resumes for leadership applications, potentially discouraging participation.
  - Suggestion that board appointment could be helpful in cases with a lack of leadership volunteers.
- **Public Meeting Rules:**
  - Requests for more staff support, training, and technology to ensure compliance with public meeting laws.
  - Concerns about limitations on using online chat functions and a lack of clarity regarding subcommittees and public meeting rules.
  - Desire for more modern tools and infrastructure, such as shared online folders.
- **CPO Boundaries:**
  - Strong preference for aligning CPO boundaries with community plans, not Commissioner Districts.
  - Concerns that aligning with districts could hinder CPO leaders' understanding of their communities.

- Emphasis on the importance of community-based boundaries, not just political ones.
- Suggestion for flexible boundaries based on the specific issue at hand.
- **Other Concerns:**
  - Need to consider the CPO program in relation to other community engagement programs, particularly those focused on underrepresented communities.
  - Concerns about recruitment challenges and suggestions for more proactive efforts by the county.
  - Need for more training for CPO leaders to enhance effectiveness and avoid burnout.
  - Suggestion for citizenship education programs in schools and community colleges.
  - Concern about the use of the term "modernization" and the perception of changes.
  - Discussion about the accessibility and transparency of the Civic Leadership Training Program.

### **Next Steps**

- The facilitator thanked participants for their input and reiterated the project timeline.
- Participants were reminded to complete the online survey and stay informed about future updates.

### **CPO7 Announcements**

- CPO7 announced openings in their Traffic Safety subcommittee.
- Details were shared about the January 2025 CPO7 event which will be a resource fair with opportunities to meet and engage with participating county and other community agencies and organizations.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

### **Action Items:**

- County staff to compile and analyze feedback from the listening session and online survey.
- County staff to consider concerns raised about leadership selection, public meeting rules, boundaries, and other issues.
- County staff to explore options for providing more support, training, and resources to CPOs.
- County staff to investigate concerns about the Civic Leadership Training Program and improve transparency.
- CPO7 to continue recruitment efforts for their subcommittees.