

Mattress Stewardship Program Advisory Meeting Summary

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m./virtual

This meeting is for the purposes of convening the Mattress Stewardship Program Advisory Committee, for review of a stewardship organization's proposed program plan. This informational meeting is open to the public.



Meeting minutes

- **Attendees**

Michael Lee
Nicole Portley
Kate Taylor
Kristin Leichner
Meghan Borato
Dave Larmouth
Cathy Brown
Cat Rhoades
Justine Fallon
Jennifer DeFreece
Heather Trim
Katy King
Angie Marzano
Sabrina Gogol
Sara Kirby
Katalynna Vang
Sophia O'Meara
Dakota Tangredi
Jennifer Lewis-Goff

Monica Kelly
Natalie Zito
Denise Barnes
Pete Chism-Winfield - he/him
Nick Isbister
Marty Salamone
Amanda Jones
Jacquie Davis
Jacob Anderson
Cheryl Grabham (she/her)
Kristan Mitchell
Brandi Kelly-Gustafson
Dave Marland
Kristin Roslund
Rachel Harding
Eli Hunt
Michael LaRussa
Celeste Meiffren-Swango
Elizabeth Cole

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) gave a brief presentation of the proposed plan for Oregon. A Q&A period with MRC and the committee followed the presentation:

- How many mattresses does a container hold and how did you get the number 100? That number comes from the law.
- Containers provided through the no-cost transport, is offered but they are free to use their current providers if they choose.
- Audits and assessments timeframe – once per year.
- How big is the market for reuse and renovation and what has the experience been like in other states? For example, 80% of mattress discards are being recycled in California.
- Per unit fee is to cover the cost of disposing of the mattresses. Of the \$2.25 fee, 10% goes to the disposal. Where do you start on the time study?

Translations or other formats

[Español](#) | [한국어](#) | [繁體中文](#) | [Русский](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [العربية](#)

Contact: 800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | deqinfo@deq.state.or.us

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in administration of its programs or activities.

Visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#)

- What is the process for modifying the fee? Before signing the contract, they can submit payroll data to help determine the fee.
- What makes the fee double in some states? Processing costs and mattresses coming in from other states.
- How is it determined what mattresses are free of charge to accept? You don't have to access where or when the purchase happened.
- **Public Input Period:**
 - Heather Truman – Types of public awareness about the program. Refer to the program plan regarding education.
 - Brandi – How will you reduce the number of mattresses coming in from Washington?
 - What criteria do you use to determine if it is not practical to have a collection site on tribal land? Depends on the facilities.
 - Monica Kelly – Proposed transporters, will there be an effort to approach more local companies? It is not the final list; we are also looking for more transporters.
 - Where would a transporter go to get information? MRC's website there is a provider interest form, or they could contact a staff member.
 - Kristen Mitchell - Units from out of state, what kind of documentation is needed for the mattresses coming in?
 - Brandi – Registered retailers, Goodwill not listed, the outreach to potential retailers will continue, this is just a snapshot of who is currently registered.

- **Topics of Discussion**

DEQ walked through each section of the program plan with the committee to glean their input and feedback.

- Definitions
 - How will you be responding to the public about the confusion in the definitions of what a mattress does not mean, futon in particular.
- Implementation Timeline
 - Delivery of POS material, will it be training on a POS system or education materials on the program? Education materials.
 - The beginning process is the collection of data to see what we know, then funding of studies to identify causes or solutions.
- Program Operations
 - Suggestion for page 9 – description of how the stewardship will manage the program that will comply with federal, state and local laws.
 - What is the approach for ensuring the transporters are meeting the standards.
 - Concerns about the amount of recycler locations for the state. What can you do about expanding?
 - Section G – reuse and renovation – more partners identified would be nice to see.
 - More information/details needed on the reuse and renovation section.
- Collection
 - Clarify the process for developing the questions on the form and what the expectation is for the MRC to fill out the information.
 - Hazardous Materials – how are those going to be treated, what will be accepted at a site or with a transporter, how will they be able to prevent continued spread of bed bugs?
 - Curbside collection – how will that be addressed?
 - Difference between program mattress and non-program mattress
 - Organizations who pick up illegally dumped mattresses, will they be compensated?
 - Right to refusal on hazardous material – how will those be managed?
 - When will we see Oregon specific standards for the collection system?
 - Collection site guidelines should have the timelines listed as well.
- Program Administration
 - Assessment fee – line item for customer on receipt – does it need to be line item per unit sold or can it be combined?

- Weight of incoming program mattresses – beginning and ending weight?
 - Section D – very vague, missing details
- Budget & Assessment Fee
 - Not knowing underlining assumptions for budget - how does it compare to other programs in other states? Increases and decreases.
 - Cost to consumer needs to be justified.
 - Request to have a better understanding for \$2.25 per item fee.
 - Someone with expertise to assess the \$2.25 per item fee.
 - Is there a process for changing the \$19.75 fee?
 - Consumers will be questioning why they are being charged these fees on top of the other fees. Consumer education needed.
 - The fee could impact the consumers decision to purchase mattresses.
 - Will charities be charged the same fees when they are providing mattresses to people in need.
 - Concerns about Washington consumers having to pay the fee when they don't have a place to drop off their mattresses.
- Illegal Dumping
 - Multi-family and low income
 - How will they do outreach to other communities about how they handle illegal dumping?
 - Josephine County is handled mostly by volunteers to collect illegally dumped mattresses.
- Education
 - Drop off events – could be listed on Bye Bye Mattresses too.
 - Languages – who is responsible for providing the translations?
 - Utilizing existing/new local government recycling outreach and education programs.
 - Consumer survey – how will it be implimented? How will it be fair in delivering that survey?
 - Surveys focused on metro – it is important to get more broad terminology.
- Coordination
- Program Changes
 - The committee did not get to these last two items. Rachel will follow up with committee members to glean their final thoughts on these topics.
- **Outcomes/Next Steps**
 - Public comment period, Oct. 5 – Nov. 24
 - Comments will be posted online
 - DEQ will formally respond to program plan by Dec. 28
 - Ways to stay informed
 - Visit the [mattress stewardship website](#)
 - [Sign up for GovDelivery notices](#)

Any Documents Referenced - none

Meeting Adjourned at 4:32 p.m.