

Welcome

Please make yourself comfortable.
We will get started in a few minutes.



Homeless Services
Department

SHS Advisory Committee Meeting

June 12, 2025

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM



**Homeless Services
Department**

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Action
3:00	Welcome Land and Labor Acknowledgement Introductions Updates / Announcements	Mack Vohs / Breanna Flores	Inform
3:20	Introduce Project Briefs for Collaboration and Access Priorities	Anna Johnson	Inform
3:30	Share Updated Draft Definitions and Problem Statements for Collaboration and Access Priorities	Mack Vohs	Discuss, Vote
4:25	Member Updates/Advocacy Opportunities	Co-Chairs	Group sharing
4:30	Session closes	Close	

Land & Labor Acknowledgement

Multnomah County rests on the stolen lands of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, and Clackamas Bands of Chinook Indian Nation; Tualatin Kalapuya; Molalla; and many others along the Columbia River. This country is built on stolen Indigenous land and built by stolen African people. This land was not stolen and people were not enslaved by ambiguous entities and actors. The land was stolen by, and African peoples were enslaved by White settlers who had government support.

We also want to honor the members of over 400 tribal communities who live in Multnomah County. Many of these people and their cultures still survive and resist despite the intentional and ongoing attempts to destroy them. Let us please take a moment of silence to acknowledge the history of how we are here in this place and to honor the People.

Credit to: Dr. Aileen Duldulao and Heather Heater, Multnomah County

Introductions

- Name
- Pronouns (if comfortable sharing)
- Organization/community you represent

Updates / Announcements



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Updates

JOHS name change

- As of July 1, the Joint Office of Homeless Services will become the **Homeless Services Department (HSD)**
- SHS committee charter with new logo in packet

Ongoing recruitment

- HSD committees are moving to an "ongoing recruitment" model where the application is open throughout the year. We will be coming back with more info & feedback opportunities. Launch is set for late September.

Recommendations Tracker

- In May, the committee reviewed past recommendations that overlap with current priority areas. Goal: prevent duplication.
- Members requested an overall update on the status of past recommendations
- SHS team has started work on a tracker. Timeline: more updates will be available in the new fiscal year (July).
Parallel process vs. dependent for recommendations.

Project Briefs for Collaboration and Access Priorities



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Framing the Conversation: Project Briefs

What are we talking about?

The committee has been working on the recommendations process for its top two priorities since February. This has mostly centered around creating definitions, identifying barriers, and requesting additional information.

Why is it important?

The SHS team has put together project briefs as a “one stop shop” for information the committee has requested as well as a quick reference tool for definitions and summaries of the work the committee has done so far.

What is in the briefs? Collaboration



Supportive Housing Services Advisory Committee Collaboration Priority Brief

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What is in the briefs? Access



Supportive Housing Services Advisory Committee Access Priority Brief

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Definition: What Does Access Mean to this Committee?	2
Access Focus Areas, Examples of Existing Efforts & Previous Recommendations Related to Access	3

Next steps with briefs

Any questions?

Please review and feel free to contact the SHS team with questions or bring your questions, comments, etc to our July meeting for discussion.

Updated Draft Definitions for the Committee's Top Priorities



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Framing the Conversation: Draft Definitions

What are we talking about?

Each year the committee identifies its top two SHS priorities and prepares recommendations. In the last few months the committee has done initial work to define these priorities. The SHS team has prepared updated drafts of both definitions for the meeting today.

Why is it important?

Having a clear definition of each priority will provide a framework that the committee can use when developing recommendations. It is the jumping off point to the rest of the process.

Timeline

What has the recommendations process looked like so far?

February	March	April	May	June
Priorities kickoff Collaboration definition brainstorming	Reviewed collaboration draft definition & provided feedback	Brainstormed access definition	Brainstormed access barriers and identified themes	Present access definition & edited collaboration definition / solidify both

Goal for today

Solidify definitions for each priority area. We will do this by:

Round 2 review / discussion of collaboration definition.

Also review problem statement. If edits are minimal, take a vote.

Round 1 review / discussion of access definition.

Also review problem statement. If edits are minimal, take a vote. If edits are more extensive, SHS team will incorporate feedback and bring back to the July meeting.

Collaboration: Problem Statement

Problem statement: why do we need better collaboration?

In Multnomah County there are many entities working to address homelessness, but they often operate in isolation from one another and have different goals and priorities. When collaboration does happen, historical exclusion of Communities of Color has led to disparities in who has a seat at the table and whose voices are heard, resulting in inequitable solutions that don't work for everyone. All of this makes it harder for our system to be effective and for people to access the right services when they need them most. When we don't collaborate, we risk disconnected and duplicated work, and the perpetuation of existing power structures and silos that maintain inequities and make it harder for people to get housed.

Collaboration: Definition

What does collaboration mean to this committee?

While bringing together many perspectives can be complex, building these relationships is essential for shared growth and success. Collaboration is about bringing everyone to the table to work toward shared goals and a more connected system that better serves people experiencing homelessness. Working together expands our impact and leads to better decisions by combining the resources and knowledge each group has to offer.

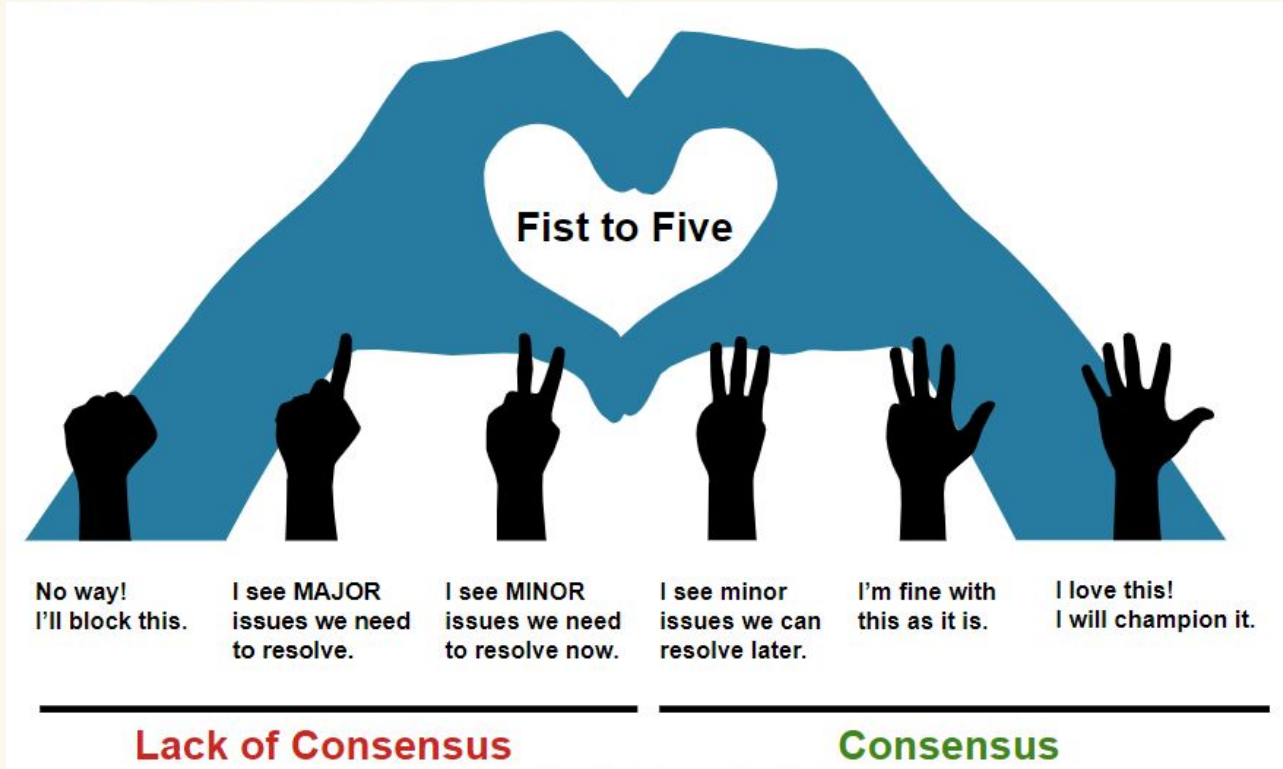
The committee would like to see enhanced collaboration and engagement within the Homeless Services Department and between the Homeless Services Department and external partners. Collaborative spaces should provide a platform for Communities of Color, Black communities, and those with lived experience to speak truth to power. For this to happen, collaborative partners must commit to building relationships rooted in trust, respect, and accountability by showing up with curiosity and humility and thoughtfully examining implicit biases and power dynamics.

Collaboration Framing: Discussion

Knowing that the problem statement and definition are meant to create a shared understanding of Collaboration...

- Is there anything you need clarity on?

Voting: Collaboration Definition / Problem Statement



Framing refresher: access

In the May meeting members suggested using the term "accommodations" to refer to accessibility specifically related to physical access and the unique considerations for differently abled folks.

For clarity, the SHS team also modified the overall priority name from "accessibility" to "access," as access more accurately captures how the committee is defining this priority.

Access: Problem Statement

Problem statement: why do we need better access?

When someone is at risk of or becomes homeless in Multnomah County, getting help is not easy. It's not clear to people where to go, and it's hard to get a complete picture of what resources are available. There are many access points and pathways, and the process is often confusing even for people who work in the system.

When a person does enter the system, they face further barriers to access in the form of historic & current discrimination and disparities, and ineffectively designed program and system-level policies. On top of all of this is the fact that there simply aren't enough housing resources, which is both causing homelessness and making it worse, and not enough supportive services to go around.

Access: Definition

What does access mean to this committee?

Because of this, the SHS Advisory Committee would like the Homeless Services Department to lead efforts to improve access to homeless and housing services in Multnomah County.

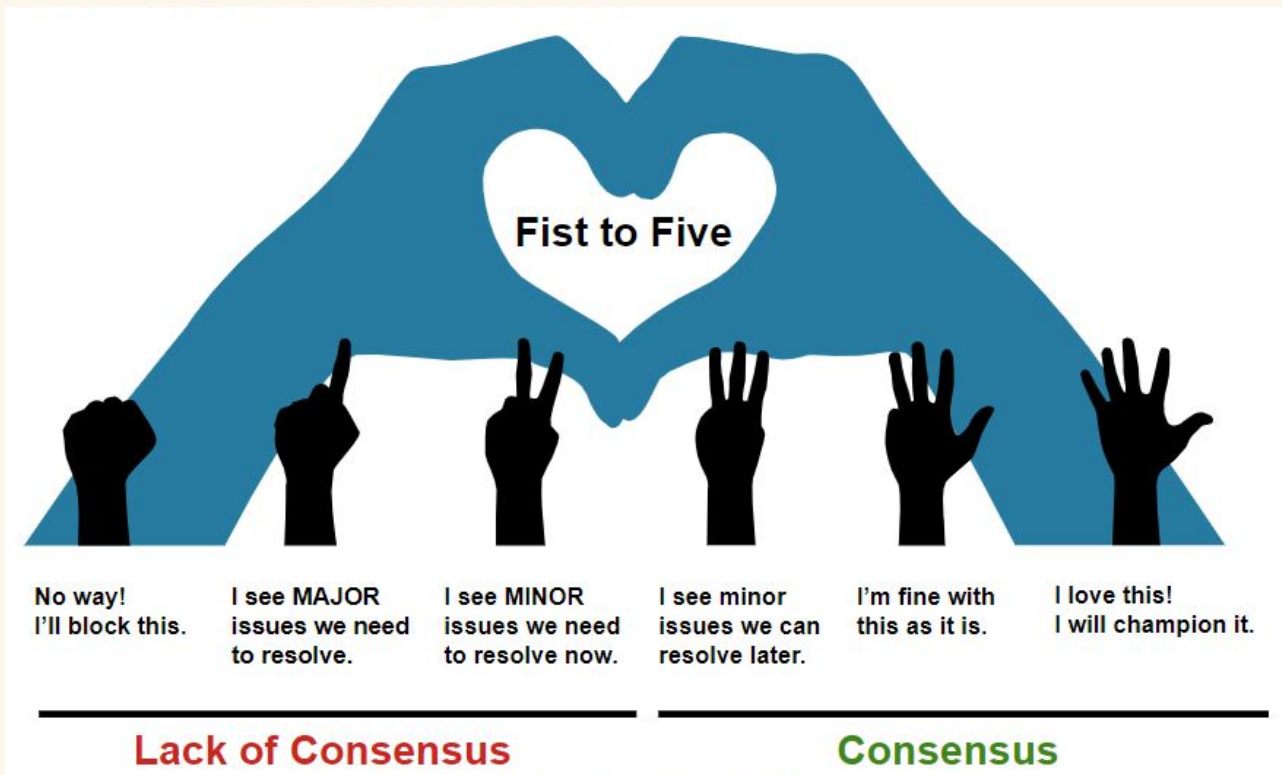
Access in supportive housing means that all individuals — regardless of race, ability, gender, orientation, background, or mental, physical, or behavioral health status — can meaningfully and easily access, navigate, and benefit from housing and the services that support housing stability. Access is about physical space, but it's also about designing systems that are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to real-life barriers to housing.

Access Framing: Discussion

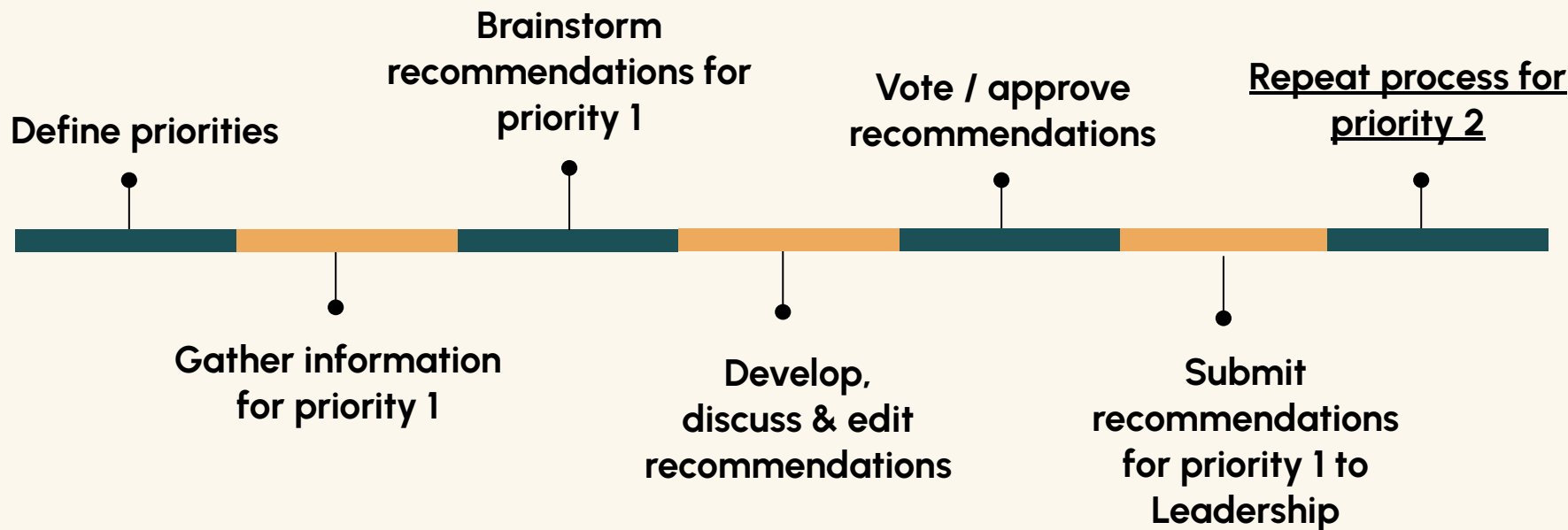
Knowing that the problem statement and definition are meant to create a shared understanding of Access...

- Is there anything you need clarity on?

Voting: Access Definition / Problem Statement



Process Update



To be thinking about...

After reviewing the Access brief...

What information do you still need in order to make recommendations?

Bearing in mind that you don't need to be an expert in bureaucracy and that your lived and learned experience plays a key role in the formation of the recommendations

To be thinking about...

Are there any focus areas (from the brief) that need to be further developed? And what would you like to know about them?

- Historical harms, distrust and stigma
- Program policies and practices
- System policies and practices
- Access to supportive services
- Coordinated entry/service delivery
- Supply of accessible housing and shelter
- Accommodations for people with disabilities

Member Updates

Share:

- News/updates from your organization or community
- Things happening in the SHS scene
- Advocacy opportunities
- Other opportunities

Close

