

Welcome

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



Homeless Services
Department

SHS Advisory Committee Meeting

July 10, 2025

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM



**Homeless Services
Department**

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Action
3:00	Welcome Land and Labor Acknowledgement Introductions	Mack Vohs	Inform
3:15	Presentation on Access by Homeless Services Department Staff / Time for Q&A	Mack Vohs, Doc Ramblings	Inform, Discuss
4:20	Member Updates/Advocacy Opportunities	Sandra Comstock	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

Presentation on Access by Homeless Services Department Staff



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Framing the Conversation: Access Presentation

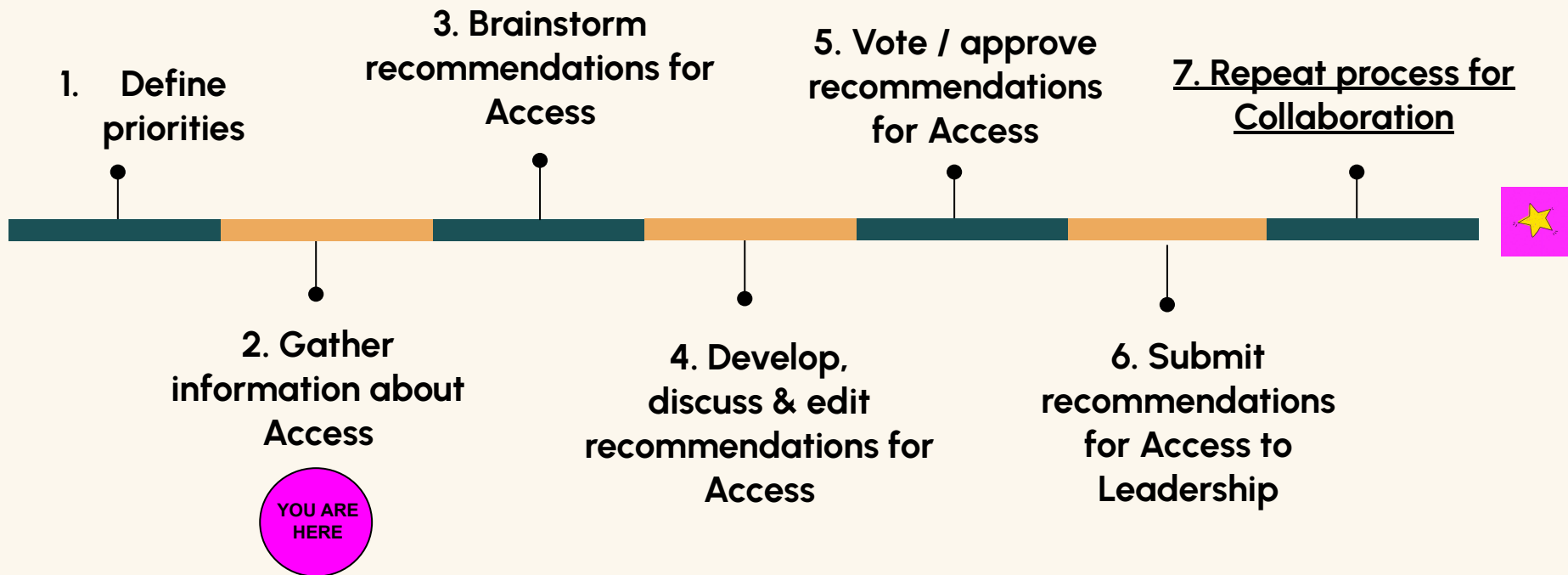
What are we talking about?

After approving a definition for Access in the last meeting, we are moving to the info gathering stage. Guest speakers will help fill in gaps and address topics the committee wants to know more about. We built today's session on what folks said they wanted to know more about.

Why is it important?

The info gathering phase will provide extra context that members can pair with their lived and learned experience in order to make recommendations to HSD leadership to improve Access.

Process Update



HSD Guest Speakers

Doc Ramblings (he/him/his), Research & Evaluation
Analyst Senior

Pathways to Housing Project

Spring 2024-Winter 2026

- Collaboration with Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative (HRAC) at Portland State University
- Two-part, mixed methods study
 - Explore movement/pathways through homeless service system
 - Quantify experiences of Homelessness
 - Identify influencing factors: barriers and supports
 - Participant-defined housing goals and preferences
- Community-centered research approach informed by Lived Experience Group

Lived Experience Committee (TREES)

Transformational Research for Equity and Experience in Shelter (TREES)

- 17 individuals providing expertise and participation in research
- Led and organized by LEC Coordinator
- Group informed survey development for Part 1
- Involved in data collection
- Developing and piloting data collection process for Part 2

Pathways Part One

- Survey of 400 individuals currently experiencing or recently experienced homelessness in Multnomah County
 - One third (~133) from unsheltered, sheltered, and recently housed location
- Data collection currently in process; demographics being tracked
 - HRAC staff, TREES members, Street Roots Ambassadors
- Report at end of Part 1 on first round of findings (November)
- Possibility to repeat survey (not currently contracted)
- Late start due to PIT count; Part 1 timeline delayed

Survey Topics

- Understanding experiences of homelessness (total and current length, location most recently housed, reasons for experience of homelessness)
- Living situation(s) and movement during current homelessness
- Desire for, access to (points of contact), and utilization of services
- Barriers to housing and housing preferences/goals
- Housing-focused service and support needs
- Impacts from campsite removal and relocation
- Demographics

Pathways Part Two

- Mapping pathways of people who were recently housed
 - From cause of homelessness → Point of entering permanent housing
- 50 case studies using Journey Mapping methodology
 - Qualitative data collection
 - Artistic renderings as part of final project
- TREES began developing project methodology in March 2025
- Part 2 timeline currently on track
- Final report combines Part 1 and Part 2 (February 2026)

Q & A Time



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Q&A

What questions do you have for the presenters?

What would be helpful to know as you think about potential recommendations you could make to improve access?

You Asked: Who's Talking About Access?

Are other groups in MultCo talking about access? **Yes!**

Lived Experience Advisory Committee, Homeless Services Department

The LEAC is interested in improving access by addressing discrimination, strengthening case management and housing support, updating facilities, and changing policies around the collection of sensitive data.

You Asked: Who's Talking About Access?

Equity Advisory Committee, Homeless Services Department

The EAC has made recommendations to improve equity evaluations that could also improve access. They have recommended training HSD staff in the step by step processes HSD will utilize when providers do not fulfill equity contract requirements, and that the HSD create and share a clear outline of those processes with providers.

You Asked: Who's Talking About Access?

Tri-County Planning Body, Oregon Metro

This regional group set a goal to make the Coordinated Entry system more accessible, equitable and efficient for staff and participants. A workgroup is mapping the challenges and successes of the Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas County Coordinated Entry systems and assessing opportunities to create connectivity/ co-enrollment with other systems.

You Asked: Who is Being Served?

SHS quarterly reports provide data on race & ethnicity, disability status, and gender identity for various service types, including PSH, RRH, prevention, shelter, regional long-term rent assistance, and more. Our Q4 report will be available August 15.

SHS annual reports compare the % of people receiving SHS services identifying as BIPOC to the demographic breakdown of our total population experiencing homelessness. The year 4 report will be available on October 31. You can find all SHS reports online at <https://hsd.multco.us/shs>.

You Asked: Who is Being Served?

2025 Q3 Report (most recent data)

- Of the 1,000 households receiving rent subsidies through our Regional Long-Term Rent Assistance (RLRA) program, 70% of household members identified as Communities of Color.

2024 Annual Report

- Black people represented nearly 19% of people experiencing chronic homelessness in January 2024, and made up around 34% of permanent housing (PSH and RRH) placements.
- Among homelessness prevention participants, between FY23 and FY24, representation of Indigenous persons went up, and BIPOC representation from other groups decreased.

You Asked: Who is Being Served?

Race & Ethnicity Data for SHS-funded Permanent Supportive Housing programs July 2024 - March 2025	#	%
American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous	132	23%
Asian or Asian American	11	2%
Black, African American or African	129	23%
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	105	18%
Middle Eastern or North African	0	0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	19	3%
White	285	50%

You Asked: Who is Being Served?

Disability Status Data for SHS-funded Permanent Supportive Housing programs July 2024 - March 2025	#	%
Persons with disabilities	438	77%
Persons without disabilities	102	18%
Disability unreported	31	5%

You Asked: Who is Being Served?

Gender Identity Data for SHS-funded Permanent Supportive Housing programs July 2024 - March 2025	#	%
Woman (girl, if child)	255	45%
Man (boy, if child)	282	49%
Culturally Specific Identity	1	0.2%
Non-Binary	30	5%
Transgender	15	3%
Questioning	0	0%

You Asked: Who is Being Served?

Race & Ethnicity Data for SHS-funded Shelter Programs, July 2024 - December 2024	#	%
American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous	242	10%
Asian or Asian American	55	2%
Black, African American or African	421	18%
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	350	15%
Middle Eastern or North African	12	1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	114	5%
White	1,418	59%

You Asked: Who is Being Served?

Disability Status Data for SHS-funded Shelter programs, July 2024 - December 2024	#	%
Persons with disabilities	1,779	74%
Persons without disabilities	502	21%
Disability unreported	113	5%

You Asked: Who is Being Served?

Gender Identity Data for SHS-funded Shelter programs, July 2024 - December 2024	#	%
Woman (girl, if child)	833	35%
Man (boy, if child)	1,452	61%
Culturally Specific Identity	3	0.1%
Non-Binary	68	3%
Transgender	41	2%
Questioning	2	0.1%

Discussion



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Discussion

Questions to consider:

- **Policies-** What policies have you seen that make it hard for folks to access services? What could be changed to remove those barriers?
- **Demographics-** What stood out to you about the demographics data shared?
- **Landscape of Access-** Knowing what some of the other conversations have been, where do you want to focus?

Member Updates



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Member Updates

Share:

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

Close

