



SHS Advisory Committee Meeting
September 11, 2025 | 3:00-4:30 pm

Attendance: Patrick, Dwight, Sandra, Ty, Ria, Theo, Crystal, Cheryl, Daniel, Jamar, Lauren, Ed
STAFF: Mack Vohs, Anna Johnson

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
Welcome Land and Labor Introductions SHS Updates	N/A	
August Meeting Q&A Followup	<p><i>See slides for content</i></p> <p>Feedback: There should be a system in place where people can file grievances outside of where they are receiving services.</p> <p>Response: That is great, we will have an activity later where you can share those thoughts—there are a lot of potential recommendations around grievances and that idea could become a recommendation.</p> <p>Question: In situations where providers are not meeting certain requirements, it seemed like the action steps centered around providing people with more information about requirements. I'm curious if there have been any more conversations around why requirements aren't being met. Is it a staff capacity issue? Etc?</p> <p>Answer: Our staff offer a lot of technical assistance to help</p>	<p>Action: Share link to past SHS reports with disaggregated data.</p>

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	<p>organizations implement requirements. Because requirements can represent a barrier, we create capacity to support providers in meeting them.</p> <p>Feedback: Regarding the new data dashboard and some recent conversations with City Hall—Black/Black African folks seem to be underserved so it's really important to disaggregate data by race. It's also important to know how representation in the population in general interacts with representation in the homeless population.</p> <p>Response: We are definitely looking at disparities in disaggregated data—one of our annual SHS work plan goals for this fiscal year is to investigate this further across programs.</p> <p>Feedback: We need more peer support specialists in shelters. People struggle to meet their goals when they are dealing with mental health conditions without support.</p> <p>Feedback: Regarding disability data—disability is a blanket statement and can mean different things. Do we collect shelter usage data for people experiencing physical disabilities?</p> <p>Response: For SHS reporting we follow Metro requirements, which do not currently ask for data broken down by specific disability. Our current tool is HMIS and in that system there is a way for case managers to log what disability a person experiences a bit more specifically. That info is collected and available for service purposes but not something we include in our reporting.</p> <p>Followup: SHS team share link to more places where the committee can find disaggregated data</p>	
Updated Access Definition	<p>Feedback on two themes that are not explicitly called out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repetitive processes and fragmentation of the system 	Action: SHS team to consider where these themes could fit in the

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of mention about accountability/provider accountability in the problem statement 	definition/ problem statement.
Recommendations Timeline Discussion	N/A	
Review Potential Recommendations / Focus Areas & Prioritization Activity	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other groups focusing on access—if there are parallels there maybe we take that into account so we don't overlap. • The recommendations read a bit more like principles, but I think they should read a bit more like an action <p>Question: Could I get some clarity on the potential recommendation that people should be able to show up as they are and not be expected to perform, reform, or change?</p> <p>Answer: There are a lot of places the county supports that require sobriety to begin the process—that might be partially where it's coming from. Another thing could be that some folks turn into a squeaky wheel sharing what the problems are but they actually represent what many others are thinking. This could also be related to people having to take whatever is offered.</p> <p>Feedback: From surveys and conversations with people it's clear that many don't want to be in shelter, they want to access housing. However, there isn't enough housing. Could we recommend creating more pathways out of shelter to other resources? If you're going to create shelter, there should be a way out of shelter. Right now we're investing way more in shelter than we are in housing so there should be more parity.</p> <p>Question: How do we stay in the scope of SHS and what the dollars were intended for? What are the other options that we can pay for with SHS dollars? We can't necessarily build new housing, but I do think that</p>	

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	<p>housing vouchers are a good option. Does the committee support using SHS funds for building housing? This is not currently allowed, but Metro is considering it. It would be helpful to know what housing can be paid for with SHS.</p> <p>Answer: Yes, SHS can pay for rent/vouchers, but not construction.</p> <p>Feedback: I really agree about creating more pathways out of shelter. Is it more expensive to do housing?</p> <p>Answer (from committee member): Housing assistance vouchers are often cheaper than some of the shelters. We could serve more people if we put more toward housing assistance. There is a cool program locally that brings in landlords to expand housing supply. There has been a lot of progress in that area through a partnership with Housing Connector.</p> <p>Feedback: That seems like a good avenue for the group to look at then—understanding how many vouchers are available.</p> <p>Question: Can jurisdictions buy empty buildings and allow providers to operate in existing buildings / use existing real estate?</p> <p>Feedback: I think the deescalation training and trauma informed training could be combined. A lot of the shelters and housing case managers aren't necessarily very trained on this, but to have some basic required training would make a big difference in people's experiences.</p> <p>Feedback: Ability is its own category currently. It's not represented throughout each section of the recommendations, which could be isolating when it's actually a larger political and cultural issue. Disability should show up throughout the categories.</p>	
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	<p>Feedback: Even something as simple as requiring shelters to be accessible to people with physical difficulties and offering help for toileting—there are hardly any facilities that are accessible for folks with those needs.</p> <p>Feedback: There are so many people who should be in housing who just got out of the hospital or are battling a terminal illness and are sleeping outside. There should be an explicit statement about respite for people. There's only one place I know of that provides respite care. It's a disability issue but it's also a larger issue that can be interwoven in other sections.</p> <p>Feedback: Could we combine accommodations for people with disabilities with the historic harms category? It could fit there, or it could also be woven into other categories as well. (Members were on board with this.) The number of people who become unhoused because of disability is a major harm that we don't always think about.</p> <p>Feedback: Coordinated service delivery is one of the most difficult and frustrating things people navigate daily. This was high on several committee members' lists. There was interest in fleshing out the barriers for this category.</p> <p>Question: Are we looking to develop all of the categories into recommendations? It might be overwhelming to do all of this and we might not be able to go deep enough</p> <p>Reflection from co-chair: My thought would be to hone in on one or two, to have a crisper message about what is most important at this time. It could really be powerful as we present to leadership. Building consensus might be challenging but also helpful.</p> <p>Suggestion: Ask members to add concrete ideas / actions to the barriers section and see where the most energy is. See</p>	
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	<p>where people have the most knowledge, passion, experience to weigh in.</p> <p>Feedback: Historic harm should be woven through everything, and disability should be in everything</p>	
Fall Meeting Preview / Next Steps	SHS team will send out a survey to gather additional input on recommendations the committee would like to develop. Enjoy the break in October and we will see you in November!	

Zoom Chat:

15:04:02 From Breanna Flores (she/they) HSD to Hosts and panelists:

Hi all, good afternoon!

15:05:20 From Edward Johnson to Hosts and panelists:

I barely could hear for some reason

15:05:45 From Lauren Link to Hosts and panelists:

no it is okay

15:06:16 From Crystal Magaña to Hosts and panelists:

I had to hit the speaker buttun.

15:06:57 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:

Mz Cheryl she/her in attendance

15:11:13 From Jamar Summerfield to Hosts and panelists:

Hello everyone, my name is Jamar, and I'm grateful to be here with you today. I'm joining this advisory group to represent voices from the Black community, our elderly neighbors, and those who have been formerly incarcerated. These are communities that often face unique barriers when it comes to housing and support services, and I'm here to make sure their needs, experiences, and ideas are part of the conversation.

15:29:33 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:

Yes please!

15:35:24 From Breanna Flores (she/they) HSD to Hosts and panelists:

Absolutely, Sandra. Part of one of the annual work plan goals for FY26 is to investigate this further across programs

15:43:14 From Breanna Flores (she/they) HSD to Hosts and panelists:

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I have to hop off the call but thanks all! Hope you each have a great rest of your afternoon

15:53:20 From Anna J (she/her) Multnomah County to Hosts and panelists:
Thank you Breanna!

15:55:20 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
Yes and thank you

15:55:51 From Mack Vohs (they/them) to Hosts and panelists:
Is there anything missing?
Anything that should be removed?
Are there any recommendations that could be combined?
Is there a certain category that you feel the strongest about?
Which barriers are you most interested in turning into recommendations?

16:03:36 From Jamar Summerfield to Anna J (she/her) Multnomah County(direct message):
will there be a vote today

16:04:18 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
Can this be enlarged

16:04:41 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
Yes

16:04:46 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
Totally

16:09:08 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
Yes!

16:10:58 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
Shelter is not housing!

16:11:20 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
Is an emergency service that should be as temp as possible

16:17:47 From Anna J (she/her) Multnomah County to Jamar Summerfield(direct message):
Hey! There won't be a vote today, this is more of an initial gut check and we will do more refining in the next few meetings before we vote.

16:18:33 From sandracomstock to Hosts and panelists:
Housing Connector is a Multco program to gather help landlords lower barriers to rental approvals by providing funds for guaranteeing rent and repairs that reduce risks for land lords

16:19:04 From sandracomstock to Hosts and panelists:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XlIuGhAnAgsbAPsTy8hf6RuRfP6Z_7KgWKSovw5dn-4/edit

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[?tab=t.0#heading=h.spmtfugtqzg?](#)

16:19:53 From sandracomstock to Hosts and panelists:

The above document link is an assessment of the performance of different sheltering and housing strategies in Multnomah County and which ones serve different populations more equitably etc

16:21:03 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:

Coordinated entry and/or coordinated service delivery is high on my list of recommendations to keep.

16:23:50 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:

Can we combine accommodations for people with disabilities with the historic harms category?

16:24:43 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:

Yes!!!

16:24:57 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:

So many people become disabled because of disability I

16:27:29 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:

Yes!

16:27:37 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:

It's a huge barrier!

16:31:40 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:

Yes combination and prioritize can work

16:34:01 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you all. Excellent discussion.

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