



SHS Advisory Committee Meeting

November 13, 2025 | 3:00-4:30 pm

Attendance: Daniel, Ed, Theo, Ty, Patrick, Yvette, Cheryl, Lauren, Jamar

STAFF: Mack Vohs, Anna Johnson

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
Welcome Land and Labor Introductions		
Access Recommendations Survey Results and Discussion	<p><i>See slides for full presentation</i></p> <p>Budget constraints going into next fiscal year (July 2026–June 2027)</p> <p>Member comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How much money would it take to implement the recommendations we are proposing? That might be helpful to know in terms of prioritizing. ● This is hard news because \$80M is a huge loss. I don't want to put all this effort in if we don't have much to work with—we should be realistic about what we can do. <p>Facilitator response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helpful framing might be to think about what we ask the department to prioritize. Your recommendations can speak to what you think we should keep even in the midst of reductions. ● Question- The carryover funds that went into this fiscal year budget—are those being spent? ● Answer- Those have been or will be spent this 	

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	<p>year. We are going into a phase where we will not have carryover anymore because programs have ramped up and allocated funds are being spent as planned.</p> <p>Survey results discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Member comment- I'm thinking about the budget in terms of the recommendations here. For the exclusion recommendation there is a lot. What would the Homeless Services Department's role be in this goal? Would it be providing a one pager for providers? Doing audits? Would there be a big cost implication for that internal work? That is something we should consider. ● Facilitator response-If we move forward with this one, when we frame it you could choose to focus more on what HSD's role would be. This could be providing technical assistance, helping standardize the policies, ensuring accountability, etc. We could spend time defining what that looks like more. ● Co-chair comment- I wanted to give a deeper explanation of the ranking system we chose for the recommendations based on the survey results. We did it this way because there are only so many things we can change, so we wanted to narrow down what we're asking for. If there is an area that people feel strongly about in terms of what should be elevated or not included this time, we want to hear that. Looking at all the recommendations that scored over 3.9 narrowed it down to about 5 recommendations that will be a bit easier to work with. ● Member feedback on ranking for category one- Requiring orgs to provide liveable wages for peers and people with lived experience should be moved up because if people doing the work don't have the psychological safety and ability to be paid, we may have buildings and programs but we need to ensure people are comfortable going in and paying workers well is 	
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	<p>key to that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Another member agreed with this verbally and another agreed in the chat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Member feedback-Improving wages has been a big topic ever since COVID hit. We need people to stay in their jobs. If we don't pay people to do this hard work, people will always be revolving out and it will be difficult to build trust and relationships with people. It takes trust-people have been through a lot. It doesn't work when we don't have consistency. Social services need to be paid correctly. ● Member feedback-On the grievance process: when people are looking for help, they're not being heard when they have a grievance. I would like to elevate this as well-we need responses because there is often no followup or resolution. ● Member response to discussion about wages and grievance policies-Those two, they feel like double edged swords-the more we promote those, the harder it is to push them through. Being on the case manager side, grievance policies are needed-it's very difficult when there is lack of staff training that could lead to a grievance. And we need liveable wages for direct services workers, rather than managers. ● Question- Regarding liveable wages, every caseworker funded by SHS would be budgeted by SHS, but then the org itself determines what wages would be, and they take into account all of their staff. How does this get enforced on an organizational level? Are we asking SHS to bump up funding, or create a policy for every organization across the board? ● Member response-If we can standardize it across the board, it would be up to a level that makes sense in terms of the money we're giving out. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Member feedback on liveable wages—I agree it's an important rec and I wouldn't want it to get lost. I feel like there is a lot more that goes into it beyond what the committee has influence over. Would wages going up have an impact on the number of people orgs could hire? As they increase wages, overall housing costs go up and impact the amount of housing that gets built (I've seen this happen elsewhere). Would there be opportunities to signal that there are important things we want to include, but that we haven't chosen to focus on them here? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One member responded to this with a strong preference for keeping wage increases in the recommendations to leadership. ● Feedback on category two (coordinated service delivery)—What are the wait times currently for people to get off waitlists and into programming? ● Member feedback—I think the first one in yellow should be moved to the green section (Reduce intake barriers, especially for people with disabilities and/or mental health or substance abuse). ● Member feedback—Housing options & supportive services. The top two recommendations in this category could become one. They're very similar and could be folded together. Population specific resources could be part of the makeup of the diverse housing options. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I would also move #3 (prioritize homeless prevention services and services that reduce economic barriers) into the green because we need more money to prevent people from becoming homeless. ● Member feedback—I like us moving forward with a recommendation about housing options because there is going to be more and more 	<p>Decision- The wages rec is one that several folks would like to keep considering. We will earmark this to stay on the table for continued discussion.</p> <p>Action: SHS team can follow up wait times for people to get off waitlists and into programming.</p>
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	<p>discussion in coming years about how SHS dollars are being used related to housing options that are available. If the committee feels strongly about which housing options should be considered, that will resonate with policy discussions that are happening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Member feedback—I would suggest moving number 5 in this category to green (expand outreach investments with peer support, etc). Also move number 8 in red to yellow—expand trauma informed supportive services. ● Facilitator suggestion—How are folks feeling about only focusing on green and yellow recommendations to continue narrowing down. Knowing that what is in red is important and we can return to it, but for the purposes of this process only moving forward with green and yellow at this time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some agreement in the chat for this. ● Question—About the outreach recommendation under expanding housing options: would that just be for libraries or could it be beyond that? ● Answer—Would not be limited, but libraries are a county-run resource that are a natural gathering place and could be the focus. ● Question—What is the end goal with this process? Do we need one recommendation in each bucket? Do we need to identify what is most important for the budget/what is the lowest cost? ● Answer—Narrowing in and getting more specific might be a better approach to make sure that leadership takes a closer look at each of the recommendations. But as far as the number of recommendations and categories is completely up to the group. If there are items in here that make you pause given budget constraints, that is something to consider. 	<p>Decision- Moving forward we will focus on high and mid-ranked recs and will leave the lower ranked recs off the list for now.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Member feedback—I'm a strong advocate for a limited number of focus areas. Not that we won't keep working on them or raising them up, but bringing 1-3 issues to the table could really help motivate a budget item for folks to champion on a policy issue. For example, liveable wages—there was some work around increasing wages on an annual basis, but I don't know who is tracking that. If our committee is saying we're tracking the annual increases and we're not seeing movement and we'd like it to be a focus, that this is something we really want leaders to focus on, that could really help the folks who make those decisions narrow in and get those things done. It might give us a better chance of seeing actual implementation happen. ● Member feedback—I'd second the suggestion to narrow down so it doesn't become overwhelming. Even within each rec there are multiple aspects so it could be a lot. ● Member suggestions for next time/between meetings— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Could we get some more clarity about the budget in the next meeting? I would hate for us to push for things that won't be able to happen. ○ What about another poll to narrow them down further? There was some interest in that. 	<p>Action: SHS team to consider how to incorporate budget information in next meeting.</p> <p>Action: SHS team can send another poll in our followup materials.</p>
Member Updates / Advocacy Opportunities	I live near the border of Gresham and I get Rockwood monthly updates in the mail. The Rockwood area does a good job of highlighting what they've done in the community and bills that have passed, keeping everyone up to date, and events being put on by the community.	
Next Steps	The SHS team will send out a followup poll that includes the recommendations that were the highest ranked going into the November meeting and the ones that folks flagged today to keep on the table. In our next	Action: Members to fill out followup poll to narrow down top recs.

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	meeting we can review survey results, narrow down our focus, and get into more specific wordsmithing.	Poll will go out in the followup materials email.
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Zoom Chat:

15:09:25 From Edward Johnson to Hosts and panelists:

Edward Johnson
He, him, his
Community volunteer

15:09:46 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:

Mz Cheryl she/her represents SHS & SHA

15:09:48 From Edward Johnson to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you

15:10:44 From Jamar Summerfield to Hosts and panelists:

Jamar i am here to represent the black community, elders and formally incarcerated

15:19:58 From Lauren Link to Hosts and panelists:

Can you share what this might mean for staff capacity for SHS as well?

15:44:34 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Hosts and panelists:

I agree

15:56:19 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:

JOHS Wage Study: For more information for folks.
<https://hsd.multco.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/JOHS-CCB-Study-August2023.pdf>

15:56:27 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Hosts and panelists:

Yes,

15:56:32 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:

Yes

16:00:12 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:

Maybe the livable wages rec could focus on annual cost of living adjustments that are consistent with other comparable work fields and their increases annually.

16:00:22 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Hosts and panelists:

I like this ranking

16:02:39 From Jamar Summerfield to Hosts and panelists:

i agree with TY thats a good suggestion

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16:03:14 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
I think the first one in yellow should be in the green

16:08:10 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Hosts and panelists:
I think these can be one recommendation

16:10:40 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
Move number 5 in yellow to green

16:12:12 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
Move number 8 in pink to yellow

16:13:50 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
I agree with what you just said Mack

16:13:57 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Hosts and panelists:
Sounds good to me.

16:14:21 From Lauren Link to Hosts and panelists:
That makes sense to me, particularly in the context of the decreased budget that was presented earlier.

16:21:26 From Daniel Carrillo to Hosts and panelists:
Should we make another poll and narrow them down?

16:23:36 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Hosts and panelists:
I like that idea

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