



SHS Advisory Committee Meeting

March 12, 2026 | 3:00-4:30 pm

Attendance: Cheryl, Ria, Patrick, Sandra, Ty, Ed, Lauren, Theo, Crystal, Daniel, Jamar

STAFF: Mack Vohs, Breanna Flores, Anna Johnson, Anna Plumb

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
Welcome Introductions Land and Labor Community Agreements		
Budget Update	<p><i>See slides for presentation details</i></p> <p>Do we have \$68M less than last year's budget?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The actual gap is \$84M but the reduction we had to make was \$68M because some of the items from last year's budget were "one time only" rather than ongoing investments. <p>How many shelter beds/units will be cut?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are proposing to reduce 675 adult shelter units and 90 scattered site vouchers in the family system. Halfway through next fiscal year another 120 units may close. ● These numbers could change depending on what the county Chair decides to do in her final budget. County commissioners and the public will also have a chance to weigh in. ● To protect permanent supportive housing and minimize cuts to rapid rehousing we chose to reduce shelter. However, we may receive some one time only funding from the chair to help provide more housing resources to shelters. <p>Committee member feedback</p>	

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Homeless Services Department

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm glad to see the priority on keeping folks housed. <p>Leadership response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We did a lot of community engagement to arrive at our priorities. <p>What types of shelter are being cut?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a mix—the Oregonian published the list. • We looked at a lot of things when considering the cuts. Our office recently published an analysis of our adult 24/7 shelter units that looked at outcomes, geographic location, type, condition of the facility, whether we own or lease, etc. • We chose a mix of cuts because the analysis found that access to housing resources is more important than the shelter type. <p>Partnership with the City of Portland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the reasons for the funding gap is because the city is likely not sending the county any funding next year. Our partnership is still intact however. We're both building our budgets on the understanding that we won't be sending each other money and will be using our funding to support our own programs instead. • We don't anticipate any HSD funding going to support the city's overnight only shelters at this time. <p>How would this impact people who struggle with accessing shelter, i.e. people with disabilities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a joint agreement with the city to ensure we have equitable referral processes for shelter. The city has more of a closed referral system and ours is a mix of closed and open. But we know there are gaps so we are working on making the process more equitable. 	
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<p>HSD Leadership Response: Access Recommendations</p>	<p>Introduction from Anna Plumb, Interim Director of the Homeless Services Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you for the recommendations! • Your work is crucial to what we do and how we do it. The exec team was impressed by the level of detail in the recommendations. • Won't respond to each bullet point but will speak to some things we are able to do for each recommendation category and what we can do in the future. <p>Response to coordinated access & intake recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our system of care is split out by adults, families, youth, and DSV • Some of these do have a centralized access point—in the adult system all PSH and a small amount of federally funded RRH is coordinated. • The family system is centralized and all service types are coordinated through 211 (which we know has its challenges). • There is also centralized access to services in the homeless youth continuum through the Janus Youth Access Center, which offers screenings to help youth understand what services they're eligible for. NAYA also has a mobile version of this. • DSV services are also centralized. <p>Coordination meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have coordination meetings with our systems of care. For instance, the adult system has a weekly meeting for outreach workers. Some coordination is related to geographic coverage and some is person-based. <p>Barriers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can have a centralized access system but if the resource isn't there there is still an access 	
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	<p>problem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The adult system is not as coordinated and represents the most opportunity for improved coordination efforts. <p>Adult system coordination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there is coordination in the adult system, it is mostly around permanent supportive housing. This takes place through a screening tool called the MSST that we created as a more trauma-informed and simpler tool to navigate than the VISPDAT. An advisory committee was part of the redesign. • Providers across the adult system are trained to offer the MSST assessment. The goal is to understand the person's challenges and whether they would make it into the priority pool for available PSH placements. • Rapid rehousing (RRH) in the adult system is not done in a coordinated manner. It's more of a "serve the person in front of you" situation; there isn't an assessment or a priority list. • We would like to do better prioritization in RRH. There are differing opinions on how to do that. It's something we have started to think about. <p>Shelter referral process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's important that we make access to shelter more coordinated especially since we're reducing our shelter footprint. • We will keep these recs in mind as we start designing what the new shelter reality looks like. How we build the new shelter referral process, standard waitlists, etc <p>Wait times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the turnaround time currently for 211 and what is reasonable? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is not great right now. Reasonable 	
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	<p>would be not being on hold very long, perhaps a couple of days for responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our ability to fund 211 is very limited in our current budget scenario. ○ We need to figure out as a community what the best route is—211 or a different model? ○ Might need a regional answer for this, since SHS is a regional initiative. <p>Are you open to visiting organizations to get feedback?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Request for Anna Plumb from committee member Jamar ● SHS team to coordinate <p>What is the average time from screening to housing for the family system and PSH?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SHS team to include this in followup materials. <p>Leadership response to homelessness prevention recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This is vital to the health of our community—more people are becoming homeless (inflow) than we can exit into housing (outflow) ● HSD is struggling to support prevention alongside housing. Traditionally we focus on outflow. Another county department, the Department of County Human Services (DCHS), historically has done the prevention work. ● When we had a lot of SHS and ARPA we sent a lot of money to DCHS for prevention. ● When we're talking about keeping people housed (in our budget priorities), we're focusing on folks housed in our programs and making sure they can retain that housing. ● We are talking with DCHS about how they can find prevention funding, because we won't reduce homelessness overall without this piece. 	<p>Action: SHS team connect Jamar with Anna Plumb for followup</p> <p>Action: SHS team provide coordinated access wait times for the adult and family system in the followup materials.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do have some prevention funding scattered throughout the system. For instance, if someone is behind on rent and just needs a few months of funding to get back on their feet. • We are also building relationships with landlords to encourage them to rent to our folks or solve issues before eviction happens. • We shared your recommendations with our landlord team because they are working on rebuilding their landlord strategy. • We also need to leverage the power of the Homelessness Response System to bring more prevention resources to the table because prevention is one of their goals. This group was founded by the city and county and is governed by our two jurisdictions plus behavioral health providers, business folks, etc. • HSD is struggling to do prevention work on our own so we need these collaborative partners. • Eviction prevention is tricky because it is part of SHS but it is a resource mostly for what we call Population B (folks experiencing short-term or intermittent homelessness). The majority of SHS funds (75%) are for Population A (chronically homeless) folks so we keep that in mind too. <p>Is there a record of scattered sites having a lot of problems with neighbors?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When we have people renting on the market we do have some challenges. There's a pool of funds for landlords renting to folks in our housing programs to cover any damages. This is one example of landlord work we do. <p>Do you know how much funding for regular eviction prevention is going to be recommended for DCHS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can get that. <p>Does the county work with Housing Connector? What you're describing sounds like what they do.</p>	<p>Action: SHS team will follow up with DCHS eviction prevention proposed funding for the FY27 budget.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We do have a contract with Housing Connector. We're looking at how we can improve that work across the three counties. <p>With eviction prevention there are two sides. We're doing landlords a favor as much as they are doing us a favor. What has participant experience been like with the landlords? Are we evaluating the landlords as well?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That is a really good question—not sure we have a formal strategy but I will bring this up with the landlord team. <p>Leadership response to housing options recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost all of our rapid rehousing is scattered site; these units are not concentrated in a physical affordable housing complex. The exception is we do have some primary leasing situations where an organization leases a whole building and sublets to participants. For PSH we have both project based (entire building) and tenant based (tied to the person). There is some critique of PSH, but we are not funding PSH to the level it needs to succeed and the level of support folks actually need. PSH includes both rental assistance and supportive services. Home Forward pays the rent and nonprofit orgs provide a per-household amount of services. We increased the services amount in the past year based on provider input. It went from 10k to a minimum of 15k and up to 17k for culturally specific projects. There are a lot of SRO units out there. A lot of times folks don't want to live in those units so they have higher vacancies. <p>Feedback on SRO units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a woman coming out of jail and having experienced trauma, mixed gender SROs can 	<p>Action: HSD exec leadership to connect with landlord team re: participant experience</p>
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	<p>be a really unsafe environment and the staff aren't trained properly to address the situations that come up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coming out of incarceration we may have no other option than to be at one of these facilities in order to continue getting help. It makes it really difficult to do what we need to do post-incarceration on parole. Formerly incarcerated folks really struggle in this environment but can feel like there isn't another choice. • Another barrier—can't have your children at SROs for overnight stays. <p>Is there a one-stop shop for housing in downtown Portland, to know which buildings have affordable units included? It's hard to know where to find those kinds of units. If there isn't a resource, there should be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We don't have this yet but we're trying to figure out how. We don't know if this will be available to the whole public, just outreach workers, etc. We're working through what that looks like. • Housing Connector is the closest thing at the moment. Lists the units, size, requirements, etc. • This is a priority for the mayor. <p>Leadership response to contracted provider requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant eligibility and termination. There's a needle to thread in how specific we get in our contracts around policies. We don't do this now and it warrants more conversation about why we would or wouldn't. • We don't mandate certain termination policies for shelters. We will intervene though if it comes to our attention that a process is problematic. • There are times we have stepped in to ask orgs to change their policies, but we may not always know the policies exist. 	<p>Action: SHS team to share Home Forward available housing list and Housing Connector if possible</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to think more about this one. Power dynamics are really tricky in homeless services. • Staff wellbeing and capacity—it's a cycle, if you're burnt out it's hard to do assertive engagement. • We should come back and talk about this one more with our programs director or others with contract knowledge. • There is a huge inconsistency in training that makes a big difference for participants. There should be standards for staff training. • The city has their own shelter system—they need to be evaluated too by a neutral party. We shouldn't have two separate systems. <p>Opportunities to engage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in the budget process • Today the metro elected board passed a resolution for SHS reform, mostly around governance and accountability. • Anna Plumb suggestion—Read the resolution and think about what it might mean for programs and services and what is regional and what is county-determined. SHS committee should weigh in on what they're aiming for. There is a lot of focus on the 5% RIF fund for regional work. Training across all three counties would be a perfect concept for regionalism. Find ways to engage on that as a board. 	<p>Action: SHS team to include recent Metro SHS resolution in follow up materials</p>
<p>Committee Debrief & Planning for 2026</p>	<p>Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That was really helpful and fascinating • Could we have Anna Plumb back or do something similar, or have Emily as well? That was so informative. • A lot of the networks of support with the county and city can be really confusing. Just 	

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	<p>having a discussion with everyone here highlighted a lot of information that put the pieces together for me.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That was very informative. It makes me think about what we are here to do. With so many shelter beds leaving, how do we make housing more equitable for everyone? Shelters will take a big hit and I'm curious how this will play out in society. I was doing some home visits today and I noticed there were a lot of homeless folks out in the rain. There is still a need to support folks outside and make sure services are available for them. ● In addition to shelter closures, tent policies may also be impacting folks who are outside—less opportunity to stay dry. ● I'm excited people are recognizing that we need a path to housing. That hasn't been the case in the past five years. And I'm excited to work with this group! ● Do we know anything about updating HMIS and that process? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a big HMIS replacement process happening right now. The new system may allow folks to access their own information. We will follow up either in writing or have a presentation. <p>Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WeShine is looking for board members—feel free to apply or share. 	
<p>Closing and Next Steps</p>		

Zoom Chat:

15:02:45 From Crystal Magaña to Hosts and panelists:

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My internet is being weird, Crystal she/her pronouns

15:03:23 From Anna J (she/her) Homeless Services Dept to Hosts and panelists:
Thanks for being here Crystal, hopefully the internet chooses to behave :)

15:04:51 From Anna J (she/her) Homeless Services Dept to Hosts and panelists:
Anna J, she/her, admin analyst for the SHS team and I will be taking the notes today :)

15:04:53 From Edward Johnson to Hosts and panelists:
Ed Johnson
Community volunteer

15:04:53 From Daniel Carrillo to Anna J (she/her) Homeless Services Dept(direct message):
Hey Anna, I'm having connectivity issue, if I lose connection I might try by phone

15:05:30 From Anna J (she/her) Homeless Services Dept to Daniel Carrillo(direct message):
Okay no worries, I will look out for that just in case!

15:06:31 From Breanna Flores to Hosts and panelists:
I hope you are taking care, Sandra. That's a lot to carry

15:10:52 From Anna J (she/her) Homeless Services Dept to Hosts and panelists:
Thank you for being here Mz Cheryl!

15:13:03 From Anna J (she/her) Homeless Services Dept to Hosts and panelists:
I think we got everyone :)

15:16:27 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
interrupting on zoom calls makes you look like a real jerk!

15:16:53 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
and yet i still do it someimes

15:18:37 From Anna J (she/her) Homeless Services Dept to Hosts and panelists:
The previous slide incorrectly stated the dept budgets are submitted Feb 6th--this slide correctly says Feb 13th. That was my bad, apologies folks

15:22:27 From Anna Plumb, she/her, HSD to Hosts and panelists:
675 shelter units across the adult shelter system and 90 scattered site vouchers in the family system. Of the 675 units in the adult system, 90 have not yet opened, meaning a reduction

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of 585 currently operating shelter units. The 90 scattered site vouchers in the family system are also not fully operational as of yet, meaning the system will lose fewer than 90 occupied shelter units. After these reductions, HSD will be funding 1,226 remaining adult shelter units, and 1,597 units of County-funded shelter overall.

15:22:55 From Breanna Flores to Hosts and panelists:

Hi, Jamar. Welcome! We are just getting started. Discussing budget timeline

15:23:24 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:

I appreciate protecting housing

15:23:38 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:

yes

15:23:50 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:

Shelter is not housing

15:25:10 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:

Yes let's keep housing going and thank you for this update 🙌

15:26:08 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:

Hoping theree will be no county funding of city over night only shelter please this year :-)

15:27:04 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:

Appreciated very much our analysis of the shelter system

15:27:16 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:

Your analysis

15:27:38 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:

i am curious about how this would impact people who struggle with accessing shelter ie people with disabilities

15:28:10 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:

respite

15:28:28 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:

that sort of thing.. theres already so little of it

15:28:50 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:

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Let us know how we can support your position on those overnight shelters

15:31:08 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
indeed it is

15:32:13 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:
Yes - also the city is very inequitable - in particular referrals reserved for policee fire and pbot as gate keepers - the 10% lower serving of bipoc communities at city shelters is v concerning - it woud be good to also review the serving of folks w disabilities that Ria raised

15:36:33 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
Yes! Im always a little sus when it comes to any law enforcement giving any sort of referrals to anyone trying access services or care

15:40:16 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
ugh? 211

15:40:35 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
its awful

15:41:41 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
So can 211 get more volunteers in place?

15:42:03 From Breanna Flores to Hosts and panelists:
Multnomah Services & Screening Tool (MSST)

15:43:21 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
thats my question, would it be possible to train more people on giving the assessment?

15:44:48 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
i mean, all screening tools are problematic in their own right by their design..

15:48:21 From Mack Vohs (they/them) to Hosts and panelists:
We've also gathered materials on the average wait times and can share those numbers with folks again!

15:48:28 From Anna J (she/her) Homeless Services Dept to Hosts and panelists:
Yes we can!

15:51:36 From Anna J (she/her) Homeless Services Dept to Hosts and panelists:

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ARPA--American rescue plan act

15:52:40 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
I mean, that's pretty important and I'd say it's prevention

15:53:28 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
yes!

15:55:15 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
Landlord piece is very important

15:57:32 From Anna Plumb, she/her, HSD to Hosts and panelists:
I'm here to answer questions!

15:57:52 From Anna Plumb, she/her, HSD to Hosts and panelists:
we can get that to you - don't have off top of head

15:59:33 From Breanna Flores to Hosts and panelists:
Housing Connector has been piloted with SHS regional investment funds over the past couple of years for more context

16:00:02 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
Thank you Mack

16:00:08 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
I guess my questions were around scattered sites and tenants who live with more severe occurring disorders. Often these issues are what cause people to get in the system in the first place

16:00:49 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
So, from a housing first perspective, my question was around how much support are we giving to a scattered sites model

16:02:33 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
HA!

16:04:32 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
I'm from Seattle and worked at a really large Housing First organization called DESC

16:04:34 From Crystal Magaña to Hosts and panelists:

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lot of CCC buildings are not good. especially for women and those with kiddos.

16:05:17 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
similar to what youre describing here

16:05:32 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
it is VERY EFFECTIVE!!!

16:05:42 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
thats why i am asking the questions

16:05:46 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
that i am asking

16:05:50 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
about support

16:07:37 From Anna Plumb, she/her, HSD to Hosts and panelists:
I agree, the supportive scattered site model is a best practice

16:09:27 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:


16:11:07 From Mack Vohs (they/them) to Hosts and panelists:
Thanks Lauren, feel free to follow up with us with any questions and we'll make sure you
get all follow up materials. Take care and thanks so much for being here!

16:11:16 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Hosts and panelists:
Home Forward has a list updated monthly

16:14:55 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
It becomes a power trip

16:15:01 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
its really sad

16:15:04 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
and gross

16:15:20 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:

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staff get burnt out

16:15:25 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
and dont know it

16:16:10 From Mack Vohs (they/them) to Hosts and panelists:
Anna Plumb, to wrap up - do you have any guidance or direction you would suggest for the committee over the next year? Are there areas they should focus on or opportunities for them to provide feedback?

16:17:20 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
totally!!!

16:17:56 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
consistency is so important for folks whose lives are often incredibly chaotic

16:19:42 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:
TO our group - right now the metro plan is woefully inadequate

16:20:30 From Breanna Flores to Hosts and panelists:
We will make sure that is included in the follow-up

16:20:54 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
YW

16:22:11 From Breanna Flores to Hosts and panelists:
Here is the link to the Metro council resolution that Anna was just talking about:
<https://oregonmetro.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=15309033&GUID=258A9C53-7C3F-452C-94DB-CB4BFDC19970>

16:22:19 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
It was incredibly helpful

16:22:45 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:
Especially more on accountability plans and assessment from county leadership would be great

16:23:18 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Hosts and panelists:
WeShine is looking for a few new board members. If you are interested please reach out to me. The link is here

Accessibility: To help ensure equal access to services and activities, the Joint Office of Homeless Services will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Reach out 3 days in advance to request ADA assistance and 2 days in advance for translation services. Reimbursement for travel and childcare costs are available. Please contact SHS Admin Analyst Anna Johnson by email at anna.johnson@multco.us.



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZ5tEQmYzFNoUdKWam0ImNus35glXGhAiPgimwQz7dKBTtyA/viewform>

16:23:45 From Edward Johnson to Hosts and panelists:
Scattered sites

16:24:16 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:
Bybee lakes actually has a very high vacancy rate - like 50% of the beds

16:25:05 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:
Also - no one has access to tents anymore due to city county policy so they are wet and cold

16:25:31 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:
Which ends up encouraging fires and mental health anxiety and physical illness

16:26:23 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:
I need time to digest all that was shared personally

16:27:28 From Daniel Carrillo to Hosts and panelists:


16:27:57 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
Wondering if anyone at SHS has awareness of Trumps policy guy coming to Portland next week for a meeting on homelessness?

16:28:25 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
No had not heard

16:28:27 From Breanna Flores to Hosts and panelists:
Not to my knowledge, Ria

16:28:58 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
Had not heard

16:29:08 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
<https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2026/03/trump-homelessness-policy-leader-will-visit-portland-meet-with-local-officials.html>

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16:30:21 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
if you need to get through the paywall go to this link

16:30:50 From Daniel Carrillo to Hosts and panelists:
🎉🎉

16:30:59 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
<https://www.removepaywall.com/>

16:31:52 From Daniel Carrillo to Hosts and panelists:
Thank you, everyone, have a great day yall!

16:32:01 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:
😊 very informative and good questions!

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