Welcome

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

Homeless Services
Department

SHS Advisory Committee Meeting
September 10, 2026
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Homeless Services Department

Introductions

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

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Action
3:00	-Welcome & Introductions -Land and Labor Acknowledgement -Community Agreements	Breanna Flores	Inform
3:10	**Rapid Rehousing Evaluation Presentation** Weigh in on questions for participant engagement	Breanna Flores, Claudia Sharygin	Inform, Discuss
3:55	**Committee Priorities Discussion** Review and discuss the results of the priorities vote	Breanna Flores	Discuss
4:30	**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.

This historical foundation of stolen land and forced labor led to decades of intentionally prejudicial policies and practices that have created racial disparities in every area of society. These practices include, but are not limited to, forced cultural assimilation, Black Exclusion Laws, redlining of BIPOC neighborhoods, "urban renewal" projects that displaced BIPOC homes and businesses, policing and justice system practices that unfairly target communities of color, and chronic underinvestment in essential resources. Furthermore, interpersonal racism and bias compound these systemic challenges for people of color as they navigate social services. These factors create barriers to housing that disproportionately affect communities of color and make it more difficult for people of color to exit homelessness.

We honor the people from these communities who came before us who dedicated their lives to advancing racial equity and resisting oppression despite intentional and ongoing attempts to destroy them. The SHS Advisory Committee is committed to confronting the systemic racial disparities that disproportionately impact communities of color. We commit to centering racial equity in every decision, using an anti-racism lens to recommend investments that reduce racial disparities in chronic and short-term homelessness and make a place to call home accessible to all.

Community Agreements

Self-Awareness and Presence

- Take care of yourself
- Be aware of your own space and positionality
- Be authentic and speak your truth
- Stay focused/stay present
- Be aware of time

Respectful Communication & Engagement

- Make the best effort to be engaged and ready to support one another
- Share the air and give everyone a chance to speak
- Respect and listen to each other, honor each other's perspectives and story
- Respect confidentiality and don't share other's stories without their permission
- Differentiate between opinion and informed knowledge

Community Agreements

Inclusivity, Equity, and Cultural Humility

- Practice cultural humility. Respect the validity of other's perspectives, experiences and cultures
- Interrupt oppression
- Correct with care–assume good intentions
- Respect names and pronouns (help others when they may make mistakes)

Learning, Feedback, and Embracing Growth

- Give feedback and be open to feedback
- Differentiate between safety and comfort
- Be curious and ask questions. Be patient.
- Expect and accept discomfort and ambiguity
- Be open to trying something different
- Be open to hearing something different
- Share gratitude for feedback
- Understand we are all collectively learning and growing

Updates

No meeting in October—enjoy a fall break 🍁

Next meeting will be held Thursday, November 12

Rapid Rehousing Evaluation Presentation

Homeless Services Department

Framing the Conversation: RRH Eval

What are we talking about?

HSD is working with a consultant to evaluate our rapid rehousing (RRH) programs and learn what practices contribute most to participants' long-term housing stability.

Why is it important?

This is an opportunity to advise HSD on a current project related to participant experience. Participant experience has been a long-standing priority for the committee.

Guest Presenter

Claudia Sharygin
Senior Research & Evaluation Analyst
Homeless Services Department

Purpose of This Update

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About This Evaluation

- Countywide mixed-methods evaluation of RRH programs
- Covers the Adult, Family, DV, and Youth systems
- Conducted by Focus Strategies for Multnomah County Homeless Services Department (HSD)

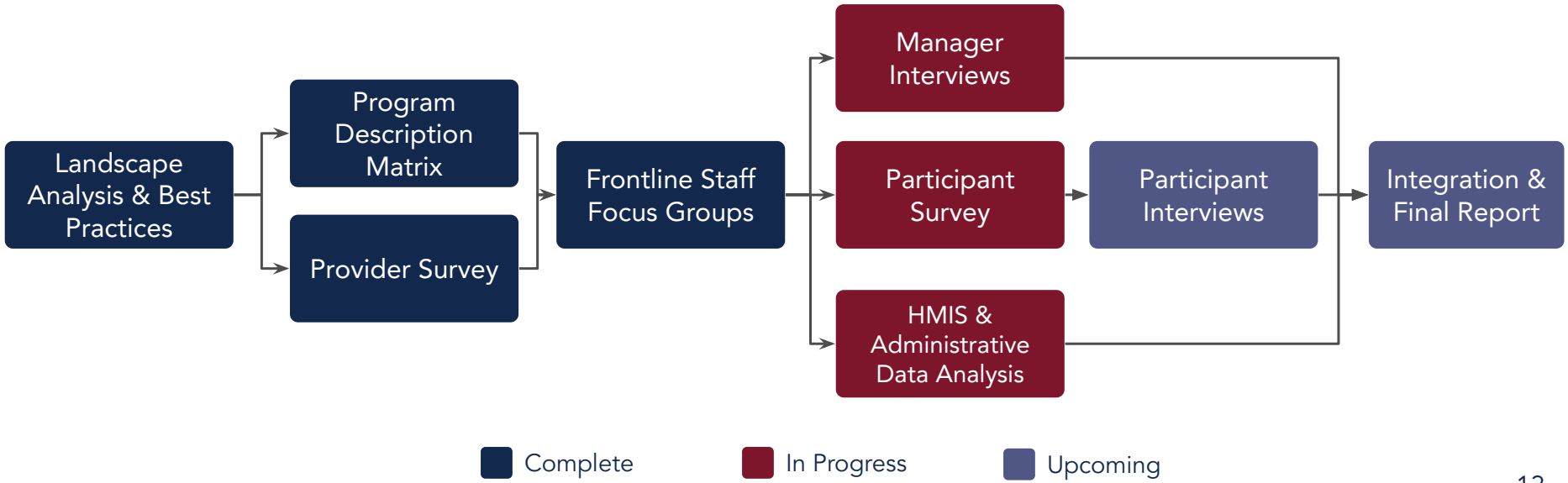
Today's Agenda:

- How the evaluation is being conducted and its status
- Background information, especially for stakeholders new to the evaluation

How the Evaluation Works

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The evaluation moves through the following stages, building toward the final report.



Questions the Evaluation Aims to Answer

Homeless Services Department

Best Practices

- What are RRH best practices?
- Who is the intended target population of RRH programs?
- Are there minimum services best practices for RRH?
- What performance measures should be used to evaluate RRH program performance?

Landscape Analysis

- How is Rapid Rehousing currently structured and implemented across Multnomah County's homeless response system?
- What are the key variations in program models, target populations, service approaches, and funding structures across HSD-funded RRH programs?

Questions the Evaluation Aims to Answer

Homeless Services Department

Provider Engagement

- What is the purpose of RRH programs?
- How are households prioritized for RRH?
- How does the population served affect program performance?

Participant Engagement

- What are the experiences of program participants?

Questions the Evaluation Aims to Answer

Homeless Services Department

HMIS-based Participant Analysis

- How many people are housed in RRH; and their demographics?
- What are the rates of successful outcomes (retention or exit to other permanent housing)?
- Are there significant differences in positive outcomes or key metrics between demographic groups?
- Does the CoC serve a higher need population than is intended with RRH?
- How many households that are eligible for PSH are placed in RRH?

Questions the Evaluation Aims to Answer

Homeless Services Department

Program Budget and Expenditure Analysis

- Summary budget and expenditure data
- Comparing the actual cost of operating RRH programs to the budgeted cost in HSD contracts
- Understanding the total cost of going from homelessness to non-HSD supported housing for people who went through RRH

Questions the Evaluation Aims to Answer

Homeless Services Department

Final Report and Recommendations

- What is the purpose of RRH programs?
- Should there be minimum service standards for RRH?
- How should households be prioritized for RRH?
- Should there be a target for the duration of rent assistance?

Stage 1: Landscape Analysis & Best Practices Review (Complete)

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Data Gathering

- National research literature review with mixed types: experimental/quasi-experimental research, program evaluations, and federal/field standards

Methodology

- Consulted national research on evidence and best practices spanning 2016–2025.
- Included population-specific subsets: families, single adults, veterans, youth, and DV survivors

Synthesis/Analysis

- Assembled and presented a Best Practices Brief for Multnomah County RRH programs
- Organized evidence into categories related to different dimensions of practice

Stage 2: Matrix & Survey Data Analysis (Complete)

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Data Gathering

- Collected data from 119 RRH programs across all four systems, combining matrix submissions
- Survey distributed to program front-line staff

Methodology

- Defined response-quality thresholds and used a reflexive analytic approach merging Program Description Matrix and provider survey data

Synthesis/Analysis

- Reconciled two independent analytic passes to identify themes to inform subsequent steps in the evaluation

Stage 3: Frontline Provider Focus Groups (In Progress)

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Data Gathering

- Conducted six focus group sessions across the four systems
- In total, staff from 27 programs and 19 provider agencies participated

Methodology

- Developed a discussion guide informed by Stage 1 findings, structured to avoid prematurely confirming early impressions

Synthesis/Analysis

- Reconciled themes across independent coding passes into a refined framework

Stage 4: Manager Interviews (In Progress)

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Data Gathering

- Scheduling and conducting interviews with program managers

Methodology

- Managers from agencies that have participated in focus groups have been identified
- Outreach to request participation and schedule interviews is imminent
- Interviews will be held 1:1 or in small groups depending on providers preferences

Synthesis/Analysis

- Findings will be integrated with prior data layers

Stage 5: Participant Survey (In Progress)

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Data Gathering

- Distributed through provider agencies to RRH participants across all systems

Methodology

- Survey design informed by prior evaluation stages
- Blend of scored and open-ended questions
- Includes integrated process to confirm participant consent and manage incentives

Synthesis/Analysis

- Analysis of participant perspectives, to be integrated with other data layers
- Volunteers will be selected for participant interviews (Stage 6)

Stage 6: HMIS Quantitative Data Analysis (In Progress)

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Methodology

- HSD-led analysis of HMIS and administrative data, provided to Focus Strategies for incorporation into the evaluation

Data Gathering

- Program enrollments
- Outcomes
- Participant characteristics — demographics, family composition, and prior history of homelessness
- Program financial information

Synthesis/Analysis

- To be integrated alongside the qualitative data layers in the final report

Stage 7: Participant Interviews (Upcoming)

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Data Gathering

- Phone interviews with 20 selected participants
- Participant incentives distributed electronically
- Interviews are confidential, participants remain anonymous and information only shared in aggregate

Methodology

- Deeper exploration of findings from participant survey, and correlation with other data sources
- Selection of interview participants to ensure a representative sample

Synthesis/Analysis

- Multiple independent coding passes to distill themes and variations; integrated with other data layers

Stage 8: Integration & Final Report (Upcoming)

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Methodology

- Merging findings and evidence from all data layers into a unified findings and recommendations report

Data Gathering

- Not applicable — this stage synthesizes data previously gathered

Synthesis/Analysis

- A final report describing:
  - Methodology and approach
  - Participation and data sources
  - Key findings, system-specific findings, and summary of important variations
  - Recommendations jointly developed with HSD

Where We Are Now

Homeless Services Department

Complete

- Stage 1: Landscape Analysis & Best Practices Review
- Stage 2: Matrix & Survey Data Analysis

In Progress

- Stage 3: Frontline Provider Focus Groups
- Stage 4: Manager Interviews
- Stage 5: Participant Survey
- Stage 6: HMIS Quantitative Data Analysis

Upcoming

- Stage 7: Participant Interviews
- Stage 8: Integration & Final Report

Committee Priorities Discussion

Homeless Services Department

2026 Recap

Ending one recommendations cycle:

Responses to access recommendations from leadership

Starting a new recommendations cycle:

Identifying topics of interest for future recommendations

Exploring current HSD work that connects to committee interests

Committee Scope

Provide guidance and recommendations about SHS programming and investments to Homeless Services Department leadership.

- Advisory vs decision making
- HSD leadership vs outside our dept
- SHS-specific vs all funding sources

2026 Topics, Scope Alignment, Examples

City / County Coordination *There should be more consistency and alignment of resources to help people navigate the system.*	Unclear/limited alignment with committee scope.	Would need to explore further with HSD Leadership.
Coordinated Access *The committee has expressed an interest in improving wait times for services.*	Unclear/limited alignment with committee scope.	Provide guidance on how to implement updates to coordinated access forms that will help us better understand who is chronically homeless.

2026 Topics, Scope Alignment, Examples

Disability Justice & Accessibility *These are sometimes an afterthought but are an essential part of programming.*	Clear alignment with committee scope. Providing guidance to expand housing and support services is a focus area in the committee Charter.	Provide guidance regarding the intersection of disability in SHS programming.
Employment Services *Employment services help people get into and stay in housing, but these resources are limited.*	Clear alignment with committee scope. Providing guidance to expand support services is a focus area in the committee Charter.	Provide a recommendation to fund additional employment services.

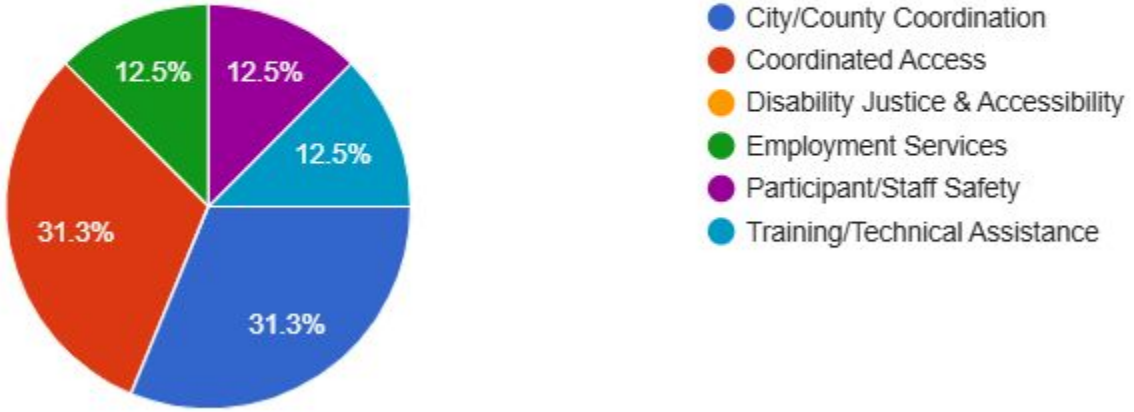
2026 Topics, Scope Alignment, Examples

Participant / Staff Safety *What are organizations doing to protect employees and patrons?*	Clear alignment with committee scope. Systems improvement is a focus area in the committee Charter.	Provide recommendations for the DSV system and other programs.
Training / Technical Assistance *This has come up in the context of training to improve participant experience and safety.*	Clear alignment with committee scope. Advising on capacity-building commitments for providers is a focus area in the committee Charter.	Provide guidance on required trainings for contracted providers; how to implement new standardized guidelines for service delivery; TA for providers on the new HMIS platform; or how to implement our new Outreach Manual.

Survey Results: Top Priority

What is your **highest priority** for the committee to focus on in coming months?

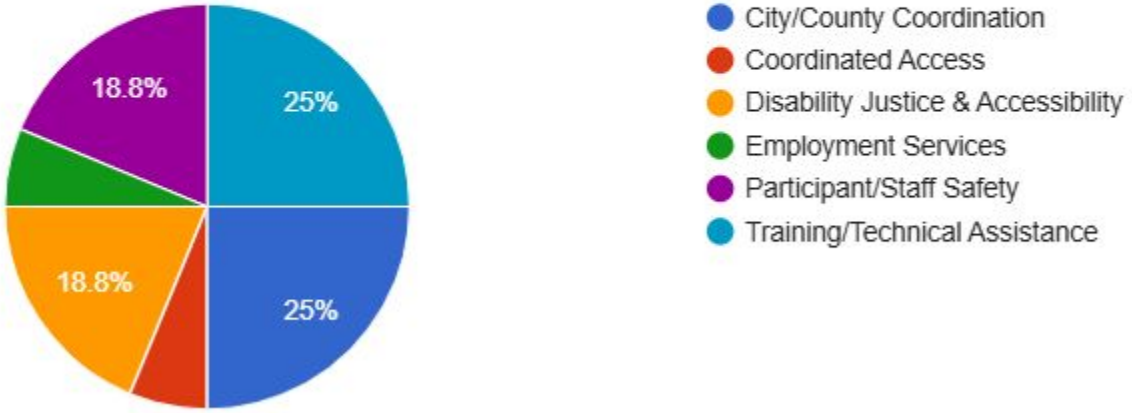
16 responses



Survey Results: Second Priority

What is your **second highest** priority for the committee to focus on in coming months?

16 responses



Discussion

- Was there a clear priority?
- Is there anything that needs clarity?
- What steps do we need to take to arrive at consensus?

Resource List

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Committee Resources

Land and Labor resources:

- The Racist History of Portland, the Whitest City in America- Article from The Atlantic about Portland's history of racist housing policy
- Native Governance Center Guide to Land Acknowledgements- A guide to creating a more in-depth land acknowledgement.
- Native Land Digital Map- An app to help map Indigenous territories, treaties, and languages.
- Ecotrust Alternatives to Land Acknowledgements- Actions to take in allyship with Native communities as an alternative to land acknowledgements.

SHS Measure resources:

- Multnomah County SHS Local Implementation Plan
- SHS Quarterly and Annual Reports (scroll to the bottom of the page)

SHS Advisory Committee resources:

- SHS Advisory Committee page on the HSD website (all the committee's recommendations are linked here)

Close