



SHS Advisory Committee Retreat Notes

June 13, 2024 | 3:00-5:00 pm

Attendance: Jessica M, Desiree', Sandra

STAFF: Breanna Flores, Cristal Otero, Anna Johnson, Bill Boyd

Time	Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
3:00	Introduction		
3:30	-Welcome/Housekeeping -Goals -Intros/ Icebreaker -Group agreements	One of the key things we will do today is start brainstorming committee priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. What we come up with today will be shared with those who weren't able to make it, so that we continue to build and refine them collectively.	
3:45	Opening Remarks from JOHS Director Dan Field	<p>Dan will share some things that are happening at the JOHS in general, as well as specific to the SHS advisory committee.</p> <p>Looking Back</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It has been quite a year for the JOHS and I am proud of the work our team has done. ● Since its inception, JOHS has had an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the city of Portland and has been working to extend the partnership. The board of county commissioners approved the extended agreement today and the city will vote on it soon. Our jurisdictions work in different realms but also coordinate so we aren't working at cross-purposes. The IGA will allow us to continue working together effectively. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$30M in city general funds will 	

		<p>come to the JOHS via the IGA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee feedback-Some of the challenge with Housing Multnomah Now (HMN) was the disconnect between the city and county–lack of coordination and common strategy (i.e. street sweeps happening in areas where HMN work was happening). ○ Emergency shelter question–is there still a very strict reliance on temperature thresholds to determine if there will be a severe weather event? ○ Committee feedback that this should be based on health impacts, rather than temperature. Medical professionals weighing in during severe weather is important. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multnomah County Chair's Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP). This plan is helpful because it acknowledges that a successful homeless services system requires partnership with entities beyond the Joint Office. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: behavioral health services taking place through the Health Department, etc. The HRAP envisions a one-county approach to deploying SHS funds. The Joint Office will still continue to lead the way and have oversight. ● Within the Joint Office, we also made progress on some key fronts. SHS spending was lower last year due to our ramping up process. The budget estimate Metro used to build this year's budget (96M) in Nov of 22 was adopted June 23. In September of 23 Metro added about \$60M for a total of \$149M. This year we will spend \$30M beyond the original estimate, and a significant part of the \$149M. 	
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		<p>Spending is only half the story; the outcomes are our north star, but still this is progress that we are proud of.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A number of things we received criticism about a year ago have seen tremendous improvement. ● Another challenge or critique was that the contracting process needed to be streamlined, including contract monitoring and timely invoice payments. A new auditor report coming out soon shows that JOHS is doing really well with our contract management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee feedback from provider perspective—we are seeing the payment process improve across the board and we are seeing more people move into housing. <p>Looking Ahead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We just had our budget confirmed for this next FY, which begins in July. Some exciting things include additional funding for permanent supportive housing. This is at the core of the measure, so it's critical that we are able to grow those services. ● There are also some significant investments in shelter in the budget. This is not just investments in capacity (beds), but services. We are rebasing outdated shelter provider contracts to help providers staff appropriately. Also will help create uniform service levels so that no matter what shelter you go into, you can access the same services. Moving from shelter to housing shouldn't depend on what shelter you are in. This funding attempts to address that and make sure our shelter investments are helping lead to folks getting housed. <p>SHS Advisory Committee Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recommendations from the committee last summer about 	
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		<p>spending priorities—I'm excited that the Joint Office has done a lot of this. We are going to focus on culturally specific shelter services and LGBTQ communities, which aligns directly with recommendations from this group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increasing investments in identity-related housing/retention services is also something we're doing that the committee recommended. ● Capacity building was also a big focus for this group, and we were able to leverage \$10M in organizational health grants to help providers with capacity building. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee feedback from provider perspective—My organization was able to get dental and health care thanks to that funding. ● It will be a multi-year effort to get the provider workforce to a living wage but we are committed to moving the needle forward. ● We also held a second provider conference in May to support our providers through professional development and relational connections. ● Another thing that aligns with the capacity building recommendations is our work expanding the pool of culturally specific providers by providing technical assistance and customized support. We prioritized this with funding and staffing on our equity team. That work is underway now and will carry into the next fiscal year. <p>Metro Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Metro has a housing bond that will expire next year and based on polling there isn't a will from voters to continue to fund this. ● Question: There has been talk about using SHS funds for affordable housing units. Is that going to happen? And if it does happen, will it have money 	
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		<p>attached for services? What is the position of the JOHS on this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer: It will be challenging to divert dollars, reduce the tax level, and still fund all of our SHS programs. There are also signs that actual collection amounts are dropping below the forecast. Lower tax, lower collections, and diverting to housing—that could have a big impact overall on the stability we are trying to build. ● Committee feedback—SHS was passed as a services measure to pair with the bond—not to become a housing bond. ● Committee feedback—our region underestimates how willing people are to support things. We could commit to education and helping people understand the decades-long crisis. If it's an overnight process it won't be equitable, it will be about making people disappear. It would be much better to really work to pass the bond than take funds from SHS to do this. ● Dan response— Please reach out to Metro with this feedback. It would be helpful for them to hear this because they are hearing from some loud voices in favor of diverting the funds. ● Even with the full amount of SHS dollars, we don't have enough to serve every person experiencing homelessness in Multnomah County. This is partly why prioritizing populations is so important. <p>Final Thoughts from Dan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I can see how the committee's input and discussions are impacting JOHS work through the budget, through culturally specific initiatives, through capacity building work for providers, etc. Please keep leaning in to keep pushing us forward. 	<p>Optional Action: Committee encouraged to reach out to Metro if you have thoughts about the possible diversion of SHS funds to affordable housing.</p>
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3:55	Co-Chair Announcement	Jessica Mathis is stepping down from the committee and co-chair role, as she has accepted a position with the Joint Office in the Youth/DV systems of care.	
4:00	10-minute break		
4:10	Identity: Revisiting the Purpose and Role of the SHS Advisory Committee	<i>Skipped this section due to time; will revisit in an upcoming committee meeting.</i>	
	-Role/Purpose of the Committee		
4:30	Iterations: Setting Committee Priorities for the Coming Fiscal Year		
	-Committee Milestones -SHS Priorities in FY25 -FY25 Committee Priorities	<p>Sticky Note Activity</p> <p>What are you most proud of? Gave members an opportunity to reflect on their experiences with the committee so far.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work we did on evaluation recommendations (although a lot of that remains to be implemented). • Improvements toward coordinated access. • Uplifting direct cash assistance as a need—got into the ears of leadership—it won't happen overnight but glad it was heard. • Revamping definitions of equity to be more inclusive. <p>What are your priorities for next year (a couple highlights):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeper collaboration on evaluation criteria with JOHS staff. • Maintaining and building relationships with researchers to help produce good evaluation measures that center and prioritize people with lived experience. Would like the committee to have a relationship/interaction with the folks 	Action: SHS team will sort the sticky priorities into themes to share back with the group and continue to refine

		<p>doing that. We shouldn't create the materials, but we should have a voice and help inform it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The data that we produce and give to the JOHS should also be usable by providers, who should be able to ask their own questions of the data and understand what is or isn't working. HMIS is limited and doesn't allow providers to see trends. Open data agreements and having a data platform that is accessible, vs depending on another entity to share info. Also helps with accountability. ● Making some mandates about training—especially for giant shelters. Training standards, best practices, parameters, and criteria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data team is working on a public facing dashboard ● Improved coordination between the city and county re: homelessness work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Question/request from committee-Are there opportunities for the committee to have a conversation with the new homeless czar at the city of portland to talk about the importance of coordination between the city and county? ● Question: I would like to know how Coordinated Access is being implemented and understand more about it in general. Is there some kind of document that shows what people can get access to and what they can't? What is the menu of services? What is the diagram of what happens when I call, and what happens after that? Is Coordinated Access just for shelter, just for housing? Both are extremely important. You have to go to so many places to access shelter. There are many concerns related to the old VISPDAT. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer: We shared some of 	<p>Action: SHS team will look into opportunities for discussion around city/county coordination</p>
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		<p>these documents with the committee as part of the Coordinated Access conversation back in December/January. Part of the goal of the redesign was also to address the pitfalls of the VISPDAT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some conversations are happening at the tri-county level to regionalize coordinated access as well. 	
5:00	Close		