

SHS Advisory Committee Meeting

November 14, 2024 | 3:00-4:30 pm

Attendance: Ty Schwoeffermann, Dwight Minnieweather, Lauren Link, Cheryl Carter, Ed Johnson, Theo Hathaway Saner, Jessica Harper, Rebecca Battin, Julia Delgado, Yvette Hernandez, Daniel Carrillo, Jamar Summerfield, Sandra Comstock, Patrick Alexander, Xenia Gonzalez

STAFF: Breana Flores, Anna Johnson, Cristal Otero

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
Welcome Land and Labor Introductions SHS Updates	 SHS Annual Report- We recently published the FY 2025 (year three) SHS Annual Report. We may do a deeper dive in December. Some key highlights: SHS supported 2,322 people to move into housing (76% increase over last year). Served 2,675 people with outreach, legal services, employment assistance. 105 new recovery and stabilization beds added in the community. SHS provided funding for day centers for the first time-funded capacity of more than 90,000 visits. Provided \$17.7M to culturally specific providers-91% increase over allocated amount from last year. BIPOC households represented 66% of permanent supportive housing and 64% of rapid rehousing placements. 	Action: Committee members will receive the SHS annual report in the followup email next week.
	 Co-chair nominations Our two co-chair positions are open and nominations have been submitted. Nominees: Ty Schwoeffermann, Sandra Comstock, Patrick Alexander, Lauren Link. One other person was nominated but declined the nomination. 	Action: SHS team will provide a co-chair voting form in the followup email next week.

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	 SHS charter has info about co-chair roles. SHS team will send followup email next week with a voting form. Community Agreements Reviewed community agreements as framing for our conversations—see slides for content. 	
SHS Advisory Committee Priorities for FY25	 Each year the committee sets two top priorities. Can produce recommendations based on these topics or they can just be areas where the committee wants to learn more or go deeper. These priorities help the committee set focused intentions for meeting agendas and ensure time is spent on the things folks really want to talk about. 	Action: SHS team will follow up with the members who were not here today so that everyone can submit a vote.
	 Voting In-meeting votes recorded via Zoom poll. SHS team will follow up with the members who were not able to vote/ not here today. 	
Equity Workgroup Recommendations	 Today we will add language to section 1 based on feedback from the September meeting—to incorporate voices of formerly incarcerated folks. Question—is this first part the lens we are looking through, and the next two sections are how to operationalize it? I agree with the lens, but I was a bit confused how it would play out in practice. Yes, section I sets the stage for the recommendations in sections 2-3. Section I—Is this where we would include folks who were formerly incarcerated? Yes, and/or section 3. Some people coming out of prison have not been able to access SHS dollars because they have not been considered homeless. That might be something to highlight. 	

- The HUD definition is more restrictive but our local definition accounts for time spent in prison.
- A lot of organizations are braiding together funds, and each funding source has their own definition—often they will go with the most restrictive definition.
- There may be an absence of guidance for those who don't know the system—so maybe not everyone is aware that the SHS definition is more expansive.
- Committee is concerned about the accessibility of SHS funding for this population, especially in cases where there are competing funding streams. Asking for the County to give guidance that is more specific so that ongoing disparities aren't perpetuated.
- Is there a disconnect between the internal messaging and the reality on the ground?
 Want to make sure our messaging is aligned and that we're not "overselling" the programs to the community.
- Can we modify the language to a less academic tone?
- Two parts of the doc that are counterintuitive to me—the accountability and evaluation section, and equity investments.
 - Feels like they aren't in alignment.
 - There is a focus on moving funds into smaller orgs that can better serve communities. But the administrative onus that would be added for some of these orgs would be restrictive because of how instructive SHS programming is. It's very specific regarding what orgs must do to receive the funds. This would add more layers to what the contractor would have to do. All these layers of admin burden may have the opposite effect of what we're hoping for.
 - The call for accountability was largely gathered from folks with lived experience, as there have been

- barriers when trying to hold providers accountable. JOHS has not always been able to back up accountability when requested.
- Equity plans, grievance processes, handbooks...does all of this need to be bureaucratic, or is there a different way to think about it? Can accountability happen in different ways? Does it have to be centralized?
- Agree with the idea of not saddling smaller orgs with more admin tasks.
 Also though, I was reading this section more as JOHS putting together a guidance doc and templates that smaller orgs could be encouraged to use. Some of the things in evaluation and accountability might not require reinventing the wheel. There could be city and county processes already around those things.
- There are a few ways of interpreting this section—it's not super explicit as-is.
- Peer support specialists for formerly incarcerated people—can we add that? Could fit well in equity investments.
- The doc positions JOHS to hold a lot of power/responsibility with these things— very top down. Can we soften the language so it becomes more org/peer driven?
 - We don't want to break orgs down, we want to build them up.
 - Orgs would need resources to support any changes that need to be made.
 - Can orgs work with and support each other, learn from each other, share best practices?
- Affirming the need for practical guidance and templates to do the eval/accountability work.
- There is a need to draw out the distinction between JOHS role vs. organizational role in evaluation and accountability section—it's a little fuzzy currently.
- Grievance processes—standardized to one JOHS process or each org has their own?

	 Where can the county step in to reduce administrative burden? Culturally appropriate staffing–JOHS providers would need to report compensation, professional development opportunities, different trainings. Anyone who has SHS funding has to do separate reporting and it can be a burden to think through what trainings, etc, those particular SHS staff went through, their wages, etc, and separate those from the rest of their employees. For UL-we would rather be held accountable by the black community, who we serve, rather than the funder, Multnomah County. Could we recommend to the JOHS that their eval people do regular audits of people who have used the service/front line workers? Is there a workaround to take the burden off organizations and put it back on the county? We are required to put together a summary of staff wages for SHS-is there a way to leverage information we are already giving for other evaluation purposes? NAYA-grievances go straight to the CEO. Clearly delineate the role of the Joint Office vs the provider in our next revision process. 	
Next Steps		Action: SHS team will request equity recommendations feedback via email for those who weren't able to share their thoughts today. A revised version will be ready by Dec.

Zoom Chat:

15:09:09 From Daniel Carrillo to Anna J, she/her(direct message):

Hey Anna, I thought I could attend for the full session but I will have to leave early, I did want to give my vote while I am in person for the proposal. I can give it through the chat to make it easier.

15:10:25 From Jamar Summerfield to Hosts and panelists:

Jamar Summerfield I represent Black, Elderly and formally incarcerated community

15:10:27 From Rebecca PRSG to Hosts and panelists:

I can't talk currently, sorry. I'm Rebecca from Pacific Refugee Support Group and I use she/her pronouns. Thanks!

15:12:50 From Anna J, she/her to Daniel Carrillo(direct message):

Thanks for letting me know Daniel! Yes please feel free to vote via chat.

15:16:47 From Daniel Carrillo to Anna J, she/her(direct message):

Thank you, Anna, my vote is for Collaboration and Programming as the top two priorities for FY25, my reasons is that collaboration has been incredibly important to share knowledge from various experts in the field. I also believe programming keeps the community engaged with current issues/solutions in the community.

15:28:27 From Daniel Carrillo to Anna J, she/her(direct message):

I was able to stay for the vote

15:29:06 From Rebecca PRSG to Hosts and panelists:

I need to leave for a few mins - I'll be back

15:29:45 From Cristal Multco She/Her to Hosts and panelists:

I am abstaining

15:31:19 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:

I voted

15:49:57 From Cristal Multco She/Her to Hosts and panelists:

I shared a link to our landing page with webinar attendees

15:50:25 From Cristal Multco She/Her to Hosts and panelists:

here is what I shared publicly: https://johs.us/shs-advisory-committee/ - this is where this information is on our website -- click on the icon to the left of past meeting and then that information will open up - you can get access to past agendas, meeting notes, and slides

16:03:24 From Jessica Harper - City of Gresham to Hosts and panelists:

It is worth noting that the Homelessness Response Action Plan includes efforts to "Establish rapid and long-term interventions aimed at preventing unsheltered homelessness among:

- a. Youth aging out of foster care
- b. Individuals exiting the justice system
- c. People at-risk of becoming homeless being discharged from healthcare or behavioral health setting"

16:15:08 From Jessica Harper - City of Gresham to Hosts and panelists:

I agree with Lauren's point that practical guidance and forms/templates for organizations is a great practical way to help the organizations using these funds to comply with the requirements without having to spend lots of time interpreting contract requirements into forms. I know from experience that it can be confusing with all the requirements and no examples from Multnomah County, especially specific to SHS funding.

16:21:35 From Lauren Link to Hosts and panelists:

The compensation piece sounds similar to PCEF in terms of a wage requirements for work funneled through PCEF \$\$. There is model language related to fair compensation requirements.

16:24:02 From Julia Maria Delgado to Hosts and panelists:

i would love to advocate for a wage standard identical to pcef that no johs contractor could be paid less than 180% of minimum wage. that;s 28.75/ish per hr but JOHS would need to redesign contracts to increase funding.

16:27:15 From Cristal Multco She/Her to Hosts and panelists:

I think a question might be how does the ambiguity about processes impact organizations - esp. small orgs?

16:28:37 From Cristal Multco She/Her to Hosts and panelists: thank you for sharing Cheryl

16:28:42 From Lauren Link to Hosts and panelists:



16:29:56 From Julia Maria Delgado to Hosts and panelists: thank you all!!!