



SHS Advisory Committee Meeting

January 9, 2054 | 3:00-4:30 pm

Attendance: Ed Johnson, Theo Hathway Saner, Cheryl Carter, Crystal Magaña, Jamar Summerfield, Jessica Harper, Julia Delgado, Lauren Link, Patrick Alexander, Ty Schwoeffermann, Xenia Gonzalez, Cheryl Carter, Yvette Hernandez, Ria Tsinas, Daniel Carrillo (dropped off by 3:30 due to technical difficulties)

STAFF: Breanna Flores, Mack Vohs, Cristal Otero, Anna Johnson, Sara Ryan, An Bui, Heather Lyons

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
Welcome Land and Labor		
Introductions New SHS Team Member & New Co-Chairs	<p>Mack Vohs (they/them) is joining Joint Office staff as the new program specialist on the SHS team, and will be taking on a facilitation role with the committee.</p> <p>Ty Schwoeffermann and Sandra Comstock are our new co-chairs!</p> <p>Ty opening words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Excited to do this work together ● SHS is unique in terms of policy and represents a great opportunity for our community ● Members: please feel free to reach out to me 	
Updates SHS Measure Update	<p><i>See slides for content</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Metro is proposing some changes to the SHS measure that may be on the ballot this year. ● Metro is leading this process. ● Please engage in the materials (in the slides) at the level you feel comfortable, or reach out to us. ● Voters would have to approve any proposed changes. 	

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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For more information, watch the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners SHS work session from January 7, in which the proposed changes are discussed. ● If you are interested in submitting written or verbal public testimony about the proposed changes, you can sign up on the County website using this online form. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You would need to testify as a private citizen, not as an official representative of the SHS committee. 	
Demystifying the County Budget Process	<p><i>See slides for presentation content</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The budget is our roadmap for next fiscal year, which starts July 1, 2025, and ends July 30, 2026. 	
Budget Process Q&A	<p>Q: I have experience going to Salem on behalf of community groups to lobby for funding. Is this budget part of that process, or is this a separate thing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A: This discussion is specifically focused on the Multnomah County budget, which is different from the State budget (although we do receive some State resources). <p>Q: Regarding the equity evaluation mentioned on the "how the budget is made" slide –is that the new evaluation tool we talked about in previous meetings or is that something completely different?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A: That is different—in this case we are describing the equity lens that the County departments and Chair's office use while developing and approving the budget. <p>Q: Where does the County's budget come from? I'm curious if the County receives federal funds and if changes to those funds impact our budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A: This year Multnomah County is seeing a decrease mostly in our general fund, which comes primarily from property tax revenue. We also receive federal, state, and local funds. Our leadership takes into account possible reductions of federal funds during the budget process. Decisions regarding the budgeting of SHS dollars rely heavily on a racial equity lens. There is some uncertainty, but SHS dollars still 	

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.

	<p>have this charge front and center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more information about the County's different funding streams, you can check out the adopted budget for our current fiscal year here. You can also see some of the designated outcomes here as well. The same level of detail will also be available this year after the budget is adopted. <p>Q: If we share testimony with the Multnomah County board of commissioners, can we identify as a member of the committee?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: You can provide verbal or written testimony at any of the board meetings, and our understanding is that you would have to testify as a private individual. You can mention your affiliation with the committee, but be clear that you aren't officially representing the committee. The committee primarily exerts influence through its recommendations process. <p>Q: Will there be efforts to break down bureaucracy and red tape to get money directly into people's hands? Camping laws are pushing people out of the city of Portland, which makes it difficult for folks to access resources that are concentrated in the city. Will there be an easier way to access funding and get it into the hands of the people who need it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: We used to have federal funding to give direct cash to folks in the past, but that funding ended. There are a lot of activists working on this strategy (basic income) like Oregon Center for Progressive Policy, because it has shown positive results, The Chair's office encourages folks to keep talking to elected officials about the importance of this. <p>Continued discussion on the question above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This committee has recommended doing direct cash assistance in the past and the SHS team will continue uplifting this • How we currently get dollars into folks' hands is through flexible client assistance, which is a component of our housing programs. This 	
--	--	--

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.

	<p>could be something for the committee to explore more—like the allowable uses for client assistance and how SHS could fill any gaps.</p> <p>Q: In Washington county seniors living in an apartment complex almost lost their housing because an affordable tax law ended and the facility was purchased by a for profit company that was going to raise rent beyond what the residents could afford. However, Washington County was able to step in and purchase/preserve the property. Does Multco look at these kinds of strategies for elders, especially given the rate of elderly homelessness increasing in our region.?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: Unfortunately we do face this issue in Multnomah County as well, of tax credits running out over time and impacting our supply of affordable housing. Our housing bureau has preservation resources to try to prevent this from happening. In the past Multnomah County has contributed to capital funds that could help nonprofits maintain a property even if tax credits run out. <p>More context from SHS staff on the budget process: Metro projection for SHS funds Metro is projecting that SHS will receive less money this year and next year than originally expected. In previous years we were in expansion phases and had the opportunity to bring on new programs. Since we are going into a budget constraint environment we will not be bringing on new programs next fiscal year.</p> <p>Joint Office vs. Cross-Department funding Joint Office funding is braided together from different funding sources. We have internal staff who prioritize those programs during budget season. They look at the overall impact of reductions across all funding streams.</p> <p>A few examples of SHS funding in other Multnomah County departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County human services • Behavioral health division of the health department 	
--	--	--

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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community justice <p>The SHS team takes an active role in making sure these programs fulfill SHS requirements. We also submit recommendations for how SHS funding is used in the cross-departments. We don't do this for the internal JOHS investments—our program team does that.</p> <p>We consider the committee's recommendations as we go through the cross-dept prioritization process. The recommendations are not the only factor, but they do influence our guidance about the use of that funding. (We also elevate committee recommendations throughout the year, not just during budget season.)</p> <p>Upcoming opportunities to influence the budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the public budget hearings will be in May, after the Chair's approved budget comes out (first the budget is approved, then it is adopted). The Chair's team will come back to the committee and give a more detailed presentation about where things are sitting around that time. <p>Q: Just clarifying—so we aren't funding any new programs this year? We are just going through the existing programs and seeing if they are meeting the recommendations we (the committee) are giving?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: There may be opportunities for other programming to happen around the county this year, but there is less money to go around this time. In a restricted year we have to evaluate if we can continue current levels of funding and if we can we add any new programs. We are using the SHS advisory committee's recommendations to evaluate our cross-department investments because the SHS team has purview over cross-department SHS work. The program team at the Joint Office evaluates our other investments. However, our program director is familiar with the committee's recommendations. 	
--	--	--

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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We won't know the full amount of money we have to work with until the Chair releases her proposed budget in April. Addressing homelessness is a high priority for the Chair's office, so it's unclear how much of a reduction the Joint Office will face. The Joint Office makes budget recommendations to the Chair, including SHS specific ones, and the Chair's office uses that as a tool during the budget process. 	
Next Steps	The SHS team will invite the chair's office to return in a few months with a budget update and opportunities for folks to weigh in (likely in May).	

Zoom Chat:

Due to technical difficulties the Zoom chat for this meeting was not saved.

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.