



SHS Advisory Committee Meeting

February 13, 2025 | 3:00-4:30 pm

Attendance: Sandra Comstock, Theo Hathaway Saner, Daniel Carrillo, Ed Johnson, Patrick Alexander, Lauren Link, Ty Schwoeffermann, Ria Tsinas, Jessica Harper, Yvette Hernandez, Cheryl Carter, Xenia Gonzalez

STAFF: Breanna Flores, Mack Vohs, Cristal Otero, Anna Johnson, Anna Plumb, Emily Nelson

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
Welcome Land and Labor Introductions SHS Updates	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The JOHS equity advisory committee is working on updating our land and labor acknowledgement—stay tuned. The landscape of homelessness work has shifted recently—we really appreciate you all being here amidst the challenges. <p>SHS Measure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The best way to stay up to date on possible changes to the SHS measure is Metro's public committee meetings (SHS Oversight Committee and Tri-County Planning Body). <p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every County dept turns in their recommended budgets Feb 14th. Those will be public online by February 21st. 	
Equity Recommendations Leadership Response and Q&A	<p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership is here today to provide a response to the committee's equity recommendations. They will also provide a response in writing, to be included in a followup email. <p>Response and Q&A</p>	

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	<p>Section 1: Intersectionality & Equity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The first section of the recommendations discusses the meaningful inclusion of folks with intersectional identities in decision making. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is important to JOHS—something we strive to do and can always improve. ○ Our community advisory committees are an example of this. We have 5 committees, including a lived experience and an equity committee. ○ The lived experience committee is well represented by folks with identities included in these recommendations. ○ Feedback from the lived experience committee recently influenced a JOHS redesign of data collection practices in light of how those changes might impact people accessing services. ○ In 2023 JOHS also commissioned a policy paper from the LGBTQ housing collaborative. Our equity team is implementing those recommendations now. One suggestion was to increase culturally specific shelter for LGBTQ adults. We are scoping that out and are looking to provide culturally specific housing vouchers for this population. ○ We are also partnering with Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice (DCJ) to provide long-term vouchers for folks exiting incarceration. ○ One area where incorporating community feedback is challenging is with the budget. We can do a better job on the front end of collecting feedback and providing followup about how that feedback was considered. <p>Section 2: Evaluation & Accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comment: Some large orgs that are not culturally led or culturally specific have caused identity related harm. These orgs seem "too big to fail," which has made accountability difficult. We would like to see JOHS Investing in a broader portfolio of orgs, and especially those 	
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	<p>who invest in practices that work for everyone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response: Yes, we affirm this. A lot of the work of our equity team is to increase the capacity of culturally specific orgs and hold the entire system accountable to being culturally responsive. Not letting anyone off the hook for harm and doing the learning and growing they need to be culturally responsive. This work is done in partnership with the program team. ● Question: Is there any public reporting on the accountability work you do with providers? Not about specific orgs, but overall about challenges, wins, etc. that the public can review. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer: We don't currently have public reporting specifically on this but that is a great suggestion we can look into. On a related note, the JOHS was recently audited by the City and County. A City audit evaluated whether our shelter system is designed to reduce racial disparities and found that yes, it is. Another audit describes where we're at regarding equity accountability planning on a broad level—what are we doing, how are we training folks, etc. We can send that out when it's public. ● Question: You mentioned working with DCJ to provide vouchers—how many vouchers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer: We will follow up with this information. ● Question: How does the JOHS ensure provider accountability to equity evaluations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer: We will follow up with more detail on this. ● Question: Does the JOHS evaluate provider quality of care? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer: We don't do that currently but we have considered a survey. ○ Feedback: Whatever evaluation we do, 	<p>Action: SHS team will share equity accountability audit when publicly available.</p> <p>Action: JOHS will follow up with number of housing vouchers assigned to DCJ.</p> <p>Action: JOHS will follow up with more info about provider</p>
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	<p>it should be incentivized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Question: Can we create pathways for service users to file grievances with the JOHS? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer: There is a lot of support for this among JOHS staff. The County attorney's office is helping us to understand what this could look like. It is a bit complicated because we are a funder. We've been working on this for about a year. ○ Feedback: Consider alternatives as well. Can a building mentor or other trusted person deliver the grievance? Someone in the community folks can go to so there isn't a power dynamic? <p>Section 3: Equity Investments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We talk about small, emerging orgs a lot in our equity team. Our budget recommendations aren't public yet, but we have had to make some difficult decisions because of reduced funding. During this process we've talked a lot about how funding decisions would impact smaller vs larger providers. We want to minimize the impact to smaller orgs. We will continue to elevate the capacity building needs of our smaller, culturally specific providers. ● We prioritized investments for key populations in the SHS Local Implementation Plan (LIP) by developing a prioritization tool for all the program offers and asked staff to review them through an LIP lens and evaluate if they serve priority populations in the LIP and Homelessness Response Action Plan. Is the program designed to reduce disparities? Does it have a track record of doing that? ● Peer support, especially for the elderly—that is a great idea that we want to look into. ● Examining distribution of services for different groups (women and gender diverse folks, families, pregnant people)—there might be an opportunity to incorporate this in our Pathways Study, which is performing research to improve the quality and effectiveness of shelter as a 	<p>accountability process & equity evaluations.</p>
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	<p>pathway to permanent housing. It is looking at how folks move through these services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the study is designed to examine the needs of different groups, we could incorporate this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Question: For the Pathways Study, are you intentionality working with different kinds of demographics? I would also be curious to find out how the project tries to get at various barriers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer: We will find out and follow up. ● Comment: How can we support provider to provider technical assistance ? We don't have a provider that works with the elderly <i>and</i> has a peer service model, but we have some of each. How could we connect these orgs? How can we create opportunities for providers to become a TA provider with us and support other orgs? ● Comment: Undocumented people are spending years waiting for housing. They are an incredibly underserved group of folks. A main reason people are leaving shelter is there isn't enough housing and people aren't able to access what we do have. ● Question: How have you been thinking about the federal funding landscape and its impacts on services so far? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are figuring it out as fast as we can. We require our providers to have equity plans and speak to this in their contracts. However, this could put some of their funding at risk. We're talking about this with our attorney. ○ Our county Chief Operations Officer has formed a countywide group to process all the things coming out of the federal govt and identify what could impact our services/providers. We are figuring out how to stabilize things for our providers as quickly as possible. ○ We have a stated commitment to 	<p>Action: JOHS will find out the demographics for the pathways study, and approach to barriers.</p>
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	<p>remain aligned with our equity values. As long as disparities continue to exist, we can't meaningfully address homelessness. Equity is a requirement of us doing this work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final comment from leadership: Thank you for these recommendations. Our written response will include more info overall as well as how these recommendations relate to those generated by other committees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If there are more questions, please reach out. Leadership can also return if requested. ● Request: Can leadership include information about how the county is protecting folks' information from the federal govt in your response? As well as some best practices for protecting privacy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes we can. 	<p>Action: JOHS to include information about county privacy practices along with written response.</p>
<p>Priorities Discussion Kickoff <i>Definitions & Initial Steps</i></p>	<p>Overview In this section of the agenda, the committee brainstormed how they would like to define their top two priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comment: All my work is collaborative. Equitable decision making can be really difficult, but collaboration helps us gain perspective and do better work together. In the context of this committee, we are collaborating well in that we're able to assist in making some changes through our recommendations. ● Question: Can we collaborate with other counties in Oregon? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer: We have a lot of touchpoints with Washington and Clackamas counties because they also receive SHS funding. Our SHS team is thinking about how we can be mindful of connecting regional conversations and broader SHS work with the work of the committee. ● Question-Will JOHS or anyone working in 	

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	<p>housing services receive opioid settlement funds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer: Not sure, but we can follow up. ○ Feedback: I'm wondering because this might be an opportunity to collaborate with other organizations who receive this funding. Leveraging what resources we have through more collaboration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comment: In education systems, we are seeing higher numbers of families with children not being able to afford housing. That creates a new challenge to our emergency shelter structure. However, school districts have a lot of facilities. Could this be an opportunity for collaboration? Also, not as many organizations focus on young adults. How can we collaborate to meet their unique needs? ● Comment: It would be helpful to hear what collaborative initiatives the County has, and what pain points they might have encountered to help frame our conversations so we don't duplicate efforts. ● Feedback: Will the committee split into workgroups to work on recommendations for these priorities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response: Last year we had workgroups for the two priorities. This year we are using the main committee meeting as a space for these discussions, because not everyone was able to take on the extra time commitment and scheduling that workgroups entailed. ○ However, there is an opportunity for ad hoc meetings as needed. 	<p>Action: JOHS to follow up with information about opioid settlement funds.</p> <p>Action: JOHS can provide more information about current collaborative efforts.</p>
Next Steps	<p>Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are just starting this process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In March we will do a similar exercise to determine how the committee would like to define accessibility. ○ The SHS team will use this information to create definitions for the two priorities. Anything that doesn't fit in the 	<p>Action: SHS team will send the whiteboard document and a followup survey to collect additional thoughts about how the</p>

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	<p>definition, we will capture as potential recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We will also work with our co-chairs to make sure we're aligning our overall conversations with the committee's desired pace for creating recommendations. ○ In our followup email we will include the link to the whiteboard and/or a survey to capture additional feedback. ○ If you would like to submit info/engage in a different way, just let us know. 	<p>committee is defining collaboration.</p> <p>Action: SHS team will bring a draft definition for collaboration to the March meeting.</p>
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Zoom Chat:

15:07:28 From Cristal Otero to Hosts and panelists:

Hi, this is Cristal Otero, she/her, I'm a program specialist senior at the joint office.

15:12:23 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:

Thank You Ty 🙏

15:12:28 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:

Regarding your introductory statements. I was wondering if you might be able to speak to how the current funding conundrums could or would impact JOHS or any of the other folks on the continuum of care?

15:15:29 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:

I'm asking if the JOHS office have put funds towards opening up E-services downtown between national up to 13th NW to SW thank you

15:17:18 From Anna Plumb, she/her, JOHS to Hosts and panelists:

I can also speak to severe weather decisions, etc. if folks have questions

15:17:30 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:

Thanks for that information

15:21:09 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:

Okay and thanks

15:27:24 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:

If you know anyone who needs a ride, I have SUV, tonight I will drive past 11pm and I can be reached via email tyschwoof@gmail.com

15:28:24 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:

I would definately sign up for that.

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15:28:48 From Breanna Flores to Hosts and panelists:
Here is Anna's email, Ty. anna.plumb@multco.us

15:29:29 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
also people who use drugs or struggle with SUD

15:31:04 From Emily Nelson (she/her)___JOHS to Hosts and panelists:
we are also engaging the LGBTQIA2S+ Housing Collaborative on an ongoing basis in the scoping of that culturally specific shelter, so their expertise is really driving that scoping process

15:38:02 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
Didnt we discuss giving people who access service do a sort of evaluation. Sort of an audit on quality of care.

15:38:07 From Emily Nelson (she/her)___JOHS to Hosts and panelists:
I think we are well positioned to start reporting, of course not at the specific provider level, but at the system level about our progress on system-wide equity work, trainings, etc.

15:38:20 From Emily Nelson (she/her)___JOHS to Hosts and panelists:
that is one of the recommendations yes

15:39:01 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
thanks!

15:44:34 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:
BRB.

15:45:00 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
thank you!

15:46:13 From Emily Nelson (she/her)___JOHS to Hosts and panelists:
also to clarify- it is a requirement of our contracts that providers have a grievance process. I know that doesn't speak specifically to this recommendation, but it's important for us to have shared understanding of the baseline :)

15:49:15 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
we were speaking about families as well or pregnant people

15:52:16 From Breanna Flores (she/they) JOHS to Hosts and panelists:
Hi Xenia, welcome - we are hearing from the Joint Office's Deputy Director, Anna Plumb, on the equity recommendations y'all approved in December

15:52:22 From Xenia Gonzales to Hosts and panelists:
Sorry I'm late y'all tech problems storm nick out my power

15:53:20 From Breanna Flores (she/they) JOHS to Hosts and panelists:
Oh no, Xenia. Let us know if you need anything

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15:56:41 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
Gd response

15:57:32 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
Absolutely 👍

15:57:44 From Sandra Comstock (she/her) Hygiene4All to Hosts and panelists:
Thank you Emily !!!!!

15:57:48 From Lauren Link to Hosts and panelists:
That is great to hear, thank you!

15:57:52 From Glyceria Tsinas to Hosts and panelists:
the sad and real question is does he even care?

15:57:59 From Jessica Harper - City of Gresham to Hosts and panelists:
I have to jump to a 4:00 meeting. Thanks Anna and Emily for being here. Stay warm everyone.

15:59:46 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
Thank you both for the updates on our recommendation

16:00:00 From Daniel Carrillo to Hosts and panelists:
I'm glad to hear about the counties quick reaction to the changes the federal administration might make that might affect vulnerable populations.

16:00:01 From Sandra Comstock (she/her) Hygiene4All to Hosts and panelists:
So much appreciation to you all !!

16:00:46 From Sandra Comstock (she/her) Hygiene4All to Hosts and panelists:
Any advice from you all on best practices for protecting privacy too ?

16:01:09 From Sandra Comstock (she/her) Hygiene4All to Hosts and panelists:
Fabulous!!!

16:01:13 From Sandra Comstock (she/her) Hygiene4All to Hosts and panelists:
That's great

16:06:00 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Hosts and panelists:
Collaboration

16:06:07 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:
Sorry my zoom dropped on me. My main question is the future plans for Medicaid and Medicare recipients getting support for housing stabilization especially seniors, is that building momentum through OHCS and local action agencies?

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16:06:26 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:
that was last segment.

16:06:30 From Lauren Link to Hosts and panelists:
i don't have a preference, either one

16:06:36 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
Collaboration

16:06:55 From Ed Johnson to Hosts and panelists:
Collaboration

16:06:57 From Patrick Alexander to Hosts and panelists:
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16:06:58 From Sandra Comstock (she/her) Hygiene4All to Hosts and panelists:
sure

16:07:00 From Daniel Carrillo to Hosts and panelists:
Collaboration

16:07:13 From Xenia Gonzales to Hosts and panelists:
accessibility

16:07:35 From Xenia Gonzales to Hosts and panelists:
Sure

16:09:49 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
People coming together with ideas that would work for the masses

16:11:01 From Sandra Comstock (she/her) Hygiene4All to Hosts and panelists:
Access to, knowledge of, and linking to partners that specialize in areas other orgs may but have expertise and resources they can share

16:11:05 From Ed Johnson to Hosts and panelists:
What about collaborating with other counties that experienced success with the homeless population?

16:11:43 From Sandra Comstock (she/her) Hygiene4All to Hosts and panelists:
Alignment of definitions and goals across organizations and counties

16:11:43 From Lauren Link to Hosts and panelists:
working with different stakeholders to address an issue or to make a change

16:11:51 From Yvette Hernandez to Hosts and panelists:

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Working together to achieve common goals. involving partnerships, shared responsibility to improve access to housing and supportive services.

16:12:05 From Sandra Comstock (she/her) Hygiene4All to Hosts and panelists:

Specific grants or segments of same that pay for orgs to go out and seek collaborative relationships in specified areas

16:12:52 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:

When we do one thing and end up changing what fits for others because this work that we do is long term no shortcuts or just agreeing with what is easy the harder the work the more successful this work will be 🙌

16:15:02 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:

I do think there needs to be some long term funding collaboration. are the worse case scenarios being thought about to maintain funding levels. the reduction of the one time funding through the pandemic relief funds hit non profits really hard

16:15:41 From Sandra Comstock (she/her) Hygiene4All to Hosts and panelists:

Sharing expertise and technical assistance between organizations with more experience securing specific resources with organizations that are just beginning to move into new areas (health care; housing; etc)

16:15:50 From Daniel Carrillo to Hosts and panelists:

Keeping records of collaboration, our work spreads us in various directions and time is spent/wasted going back to discussions we have already agreed on

16:17:03 From Ria Tsinas she/her to Hosts and panelists:

Unrelated kinda. Will JOHS or anyone working in housing services receive any opioid settlement funds?

16:17:48 From Patrick Alexander to Hosts and panelists:

I agree with what has been

16:17:56 From Sandra Comstock (she/her) Hygiene4All to Hosts and panelists:

One pain point I am aware of is not enough support and advice for organizations moving into rapid rehousing about best practices for finding apartments for clients and keeping client access very low barrier and swift.

16:19:13 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:

Great question Ria

16:21:40 From Ria Tsinas she/her to Hosts and panelists:

Definitely underserved population!

16:23:47 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:

Collaborating with city and county to have E-shelter at the beginning of winter

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16:23:56 From Mack Vohs (they/them), Multco to Hosts and panelists:
Adding!

16:24:10 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:
Thanks

16:27:22 From Daniel Carrillo to Hosts and panelists:
Yes, I agree

16:29:36 From Ria Tsinas she/her to Hosts and panelists:
I'd love to as well, but I regret it after! Also we can only do as much as the county's pace!

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