

**SHS Advisory Committee
Meeting
February 13, 2025
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM**



Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Action
3:00	Welcome Land and Labor Acknowledgement Introductions SHS Updates	Breanna Flores	Inform
3:15	Equity Recommendations <i>Leadership Response and Q&A</i>	Mack Vohs, JOHS Deputy Director Anna Plumb	Inform, Discuss
3:55	Priorities Discussion Kickoff <i>Definitions & Initial Steps</i>	Breanna Flores, Mack Vohs	Discuss
4:30	Session closes	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.

We also want to honor the members of over 400 tribal communities who live in Multnomah County. Many of these people and their cultures still survive and resist despite the intentional and ongoing attempts to destroy them. Let us please take a moment of silence to acknowledge the history of how we are here in this place and to honor the People.

Credit to: Dr. Aileen Duldulao and Heather Heater, Multnomah County

Introductions

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

Welcome New Co-Chair!

Sandra Comstock, *Hygiene4All*

SHS Updates

Multnomah County Severe Weather Activation

- Severe weather shelters are open today through at least 12pm tomorrow
- Website with location, transportation, and volunteer opportunity information:
 - <https://multco.us/programs/care-when-its-cold>
- No one seeking shelter will be turned away, pets welcome
- Call 211 for free transportation provided to warming shelters
- Free TriMet rides to warming shelters

SHS Updates

SHS Measure Changes

- Postponed until November

Where We Are in the Budget Process



February 14: Departments submit budgets and budget summary letters.

- **February 21:** Department recommended budgets available online.
- **April 24:** Proposed Budget released and posted on [Budget Office Website](#)
- **TBD:** Public Hearings & Budget Work Sessions
- **May 8:** Budget is approved
- **June 12:** Budget is adopted

SHS Updates

Budget Engagement Opportunities

- **Budget Survey**
 - Survey responses will inform the executive budget, released in April.
 - Responses are anonymous.
 - Takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete.
 - The survey is accessible in many languages.
 - Closes Monday, March 3rd.
 - A summary of results will be posted online.
- **Chair's Virtual Town Hall and Listening Session:** Open to the public. Saturday, February 15, from 10:30 to 11:30 am. [RSVP Online.](#)
- **May Committee Meeting:** Follow-up budget conversation with Chair's office.

Community Agreements

When the SHS committee was founded, members identified the following community agreements:

- Take care of yourself.
- Make the best effort to be engaged and ready to support one another.
- Be aware of your own space and positionality.
- Practice cultural humility by respecting other perspectives, experiences and cultures.
- Share the air and give everyone a chance to speak.
- Be authentic and speak your truth.
- 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.
- Give feedback and be open to feedback.
- Differentiate between safety and comfort.
- Be curious and ask questions. Be patient.

Community Agreements Pt. 2

- Differentiate between opinion and informed knowledge.
- Interrupt oppression.
- Expect and accept discomfort and ambiguity.
- Be open to trying something different.
- Be open to hearing something different.
- Share gratitude for feedback.
- Be aware of time.
- Correct with care—assume good intentions.
- Respect names and pronouns (help others when they may make mistakes).
- Stay focused/stay present.
- Understand we are all collectively learning and growing.

Equity Recommendations: Leadership Response



Framing the Conversation: Equity Recs

What are we talking about?

The committee developed recommendations designed to enhance equity in SHS programming and submitted them to JOHS leadership in December of 2024.

Why is it important?

This is an opportunity to hear from leadership about where the committee's recommendations currently appear in JOHS work or could be incorporated going forward.

Equity Recommendations

The group's recommendations fell into three categories:



INTERSECTIONAL EQUITY

Consider intersectional identities when developing SHS programming, & involve folks most impacted by disparities in housing & homelessness in discussions, communications, and decision making.



EQUITY INVESTMENTS

- direct cash assistance
- long-term rent assistance
- priority populations
- small, new, and emerging organizations



EVALUATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Identify specific equity goals, provide clear guidelines, and ensure accountability.

Leadership Response

Anna Plumb

Deputy Director of the Joint Office of Homeless Services

Time for Q&A

Time for questions for leadership regarding the equity recommendations.

Priorities Discussion Kickoff: Definitions & Initial Steps



Framing the Conversation: Priorities

What are we talking about?

Each year the committee identifies its top two SHS priorities and prepares recommendations. Priorities help guide meeting content for that year.

Why is it important?

The committee has an opportunity to make recommendations about the topics it would most like to influence.

2024 Priorities Identification Process

- **June:** Initial Discussion at In-Person Committee Retreat
- **July:** Committee Meeting brainstorm
- **August:** Committee Meeting discussion, priorities survey
- **September:** Committee Meeting discussion
- **November:** Committee Meeting vote
- **December:** Priorities finalized for calendar year 2025

Committee Priorities This Year

Accessibility

Improve access to homelessness and housing services in Multnomah County.

Collaboration

Increase service system coordination within Multnomah County and with external partners.

What to Expect

Sample Priorities Process

- **Timeline:** ~6 months per topic
- **Phases:**
 - Define priorities
 - Gather information
 - Brainstorm recommendations
 - Develop, discuss & edit recommendations
 - Vote & submit to Joint Office Leadership

Goals for Today

- **Discuss how the committee would like to define these top two priorities.** *This will give the committee some parameters to work within during the recommendations process.*
- **Identify if there is a priority the group would like to start with first.** *It may be helpful to develop recommendations for one priority at a time, although the topics may have some overlap.*

Defining the Priorities

- What does **accessibility** mean to the committee?
- What does **collaboration** mean to the committee?

More nuance

How do these things show up:

- In your housing/homelessness work?
- In the context of SHS?
- For you personally?

Accessibility & Equity

One way to think about accessibility is through a racial equity framework.

Some resources that help us understand inequities in access:

- **HUD 2023 PIT Count:** Provides demographic breakdowns of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- **Multnomah County Annual Report Racial Equity Analysis:** Compares the percentage of people receiving SHS services identifying as BIPOC to the demographic breakdown of our total population experiencing homelessness.

Next Steps

- **Synthesize:** The SHS team will take the feedback received today and create a working definition to share with the group.

Close

