



## SHS Advisory Committee Meeting

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

**Attendance:** Theo Hathaway Saner, Yvette Hernandez, Patrick Alexander, Melissa Bishop, Daniel Carrillo, Crystal Magaña, Ty Schwoeffermann, Jamar Summerfield, Sandra Comstock, Lauren Link, Ed Johnson, Ria Tsinas, Cheryl Carter, Julia Delgado

**STAFF:** Mack Vohs, Breanna Flores, Lawashia Mowe, Anna Johnson

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
Welcome Land and Labor Introductions SHS Updates		
Priorities Discussion Review Draft Definition for Collaboration	<p><i>See slides for content</i></p> <p><b>Ideas that should be added about the “why” of collaboration:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Collaboration is important because we don't have an actual system of getting people from homelessness to housing.</li> <li>● Collaboration is an essential part of trying to create a system where we have shared alignment in overall goals and shared understanding around a plan for change.</li> <li>● Creating a system where we're not all pulling in different directions.</li> <li>● It's less about providers, and more about different jurisdictions.</li> <li>● We need people with lived experience, we need people who have experience, we need bureaucrats, political will, etc. Everyone has something to bring to the table, but one of the biggest issues is people just don't know where to go. It's a patchwork of access points that can be very confusing. That should be highlighted.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● People would like to access services, but they don't know where to go. That's why collaboration is so important.</li> <li>● When we think about collaborating with people, we should add something about the importance of committing to be curious about and search yourself for implicit bias. Collaboration requires a thoughtful examination of our own implicit biases.</li> <li>● For me, collaboration means giving more space for communities of color, black communities, and those with lived experience to speak truth to power. To have those uncomfortable conversations and develop communication, build relationships, and also tie these things to outcomes. Maybe put that in the conclusion—how are all these things tied to outcomes. We have to work toward something.</li> <li>● Another member affirmed that they like the humility piece and calling out power dynamics.</li> <li>● When we talk about collaboration, it can be really challenging with different entities. We need outcomes that we are all working towards. What do we need to do to all work together? Example: increased community input in decision making for the county budget. I would like to see more collaboration in terms of where the money is going.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mapping Collaboration:</b>  <i>Question: Are there any relationships the committee would like to learn about more?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Joint Office and the City—that relationship is confusing. There doesn't seem to be as much collaboration between them. Is there a cohesive document that provides an overview of how these systems work? I've been in social services in Pdx here for a while and it is still confusing.</li> <li>● I'm curious to hear how the Joint Office works with other counties? Each county does different things, so how does JOHS work with that? And how do they all collaborate to meet the needs of the region?</li> <li>● Important to remember that Metro is also in the mix—there is a lot of movement now about how</li> </ul>	
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	<p>to make a more aligned system along regional lines. The Homelessness Response System (Multco plan) includes the city and county but the city is also doing its own thing outside of that. There is still a lot of jostling going on regarding what jurisdiction is doing what.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What role does the state play, other than as a funder?</li> </ul> <p><b>Other comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of people with lived experience—can they have more than a token role in collaboration? Can their input have more sway? Can committees make more than just recommendations? Especially as the work is changing.</li> <li>• Here Together, Welcome Home, Coalition of Communities of Color <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Welcome Home Coalition—folks are welcome to join. There is a specific SHS subcommittee right now.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>Priorities Discussion Brainstorm Accessibility Definition</p>	<p><i>See slides and whiteboard activity for content</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Useful to look at the <a href="#">auditor's report</a> from last year about access—there is a lot of info about folks with lived experience accessing shelter.</li> <li>• Question: Do we mean accessibility as access to services, or physical accessibility? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ In initial conversations it was access to services, but it could include disability justice as well.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• As a person who is disabled, to me increasing accessibility for folks with disabilities is important to put on the list.</li> <li>• Insufficient/inadequate housing stock contributes to lack of accessibility.</li> <li>• Starting where people are at and making sure we are putting the perspective of houseless folks first, aiming our efforts there, rather than getting people to come to us.</li> <li>• Street outreach and engagement/outreach workers—so important for folks who don't have internet access, or lack transportation to get to a service. When you have people meeting you where you're at, it helps bridge access.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All the different systems within the system are very conditional to your circumstances at that point in time. They are not always holistic, and having to work in these siloed services is very difficult. Pop A/B, etc—breaking that down into much more flexible things—direct cash assistance—breaking that down would be incredibly helpful for access.</li> <li>● Wages paid to providers are a priority. Low wages limit people's long term support and stability. Increasing wages would also expand access to services.</li> <li>● Reducing barriers to entry—demystifying definitions, eligibility, etc. Making a more fluid / streamlined entry.</li> <li>● Promoting community integration/accessibility to housing options. It's important for participants to have a choice in their housing and reduce the social isolation people experience. Fostering more of a greater community—that's part of accessibility to me.</li> <li>● When there aren't enough people there to support, there isn't consistency in services, there are just a lot of programs. here are pockets of different types of resources, and it would be nice for it to be more streamlined. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How do all the entities work together? Who can do this and who can do that—how do we streamline it so that there is better access?</li> <li>○ Sometimes people don't know there are resources and solutions to the problems they're having—letting people know these things do exist.</li> <li>○ Families fleeing DV/released from incarceration—there are resources for these folks so more people knowing about that is important.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Followup survey will go out so folks can continue adding thoughts about what accessibility means to you.</li> <li>● SHS team will synthesize the information and bring back a definition to share with folks in the next meeting.</li> <li>● Next phase will be information gathering. Let us</li> </ul>	

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	know if there are facts you'd like us to track down or things you'd like to know more about.	
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**Zoom Chat:**

15:07:44 From Daniel Carrillo to Hosts and panelists:

My name is Daniel Carrillo, He him, I am representing NAYA and the Latinx community

15:08:40 From Jamar Summerfield to Hosts and panelists:

Jamar Summerfield Representing the Elderly,Black community and formally incarcerated individuals

15:09:01 From Ria Tsinas she/her to Hosts and panelists:



15:19:07 From Anna J, she/her, SHS team to Everyone:

Welcome Yvette and Patrick!

15:19:25 From Patrick Alexander to Hosts and panelists:

Hello

15:20:04 From Yvette to Hosts and panelists:

Hi All, I apologize for my delay. I got stuck in traffic.

15:20:16 From Anna J, she/her, SHS team to Everyone:

No worries, glad you're here!

15:30:26 From Ed Johnson to Hosts and panelists:

I see it

15:46:42 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:

<https://www.portland.gov/auditor/audit-services/news/2024/4/17/audit-report-joint-office-homeless-services-sustained-focus>

15:53:30 From Ria Tsinas she/her to Hosts and panelists:

There is no word of people with lived experience in that!!

15:54:55 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:

Ria - there actually is a lot of reference further in the report from interviews with people with lived experience

15:57:43 From Ria Tsinas she/her to Hosts and panelists:



15:58:57 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:

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Please come to the Welcome Home Coalition

15:59:28 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:  
<https://welcomehomecoalition.org/get-involved-2/>

16:05:22 From Ed Johnson to Hosts and panelists:  
inclusivity and equal opportunities for all individuals.

16:06:31 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:  
Bigger

16:09:17 From Melissa Bishop to Hosts and panelists:  
Having a centralized access point ... no wrong door

16:09:53 From Yvette to Hosts and panelists:  
Supporting Mental and Physical Health

16:09:56 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:  
Accessibility is about equity, dignity, and hope. Housing can be so transformative for people - systems should address historical harm and eliminate disparities

16:11:33 From Yvette to Hosts and panelists:  
Promoting Community Integration

16:11:40 From Melissa Bishop to Hosts and panelists:  
Creating diverse housing stacks /options

16:12:20 From Yvette to Hosts and panelists:  
Improving Independence and Quality of Life

16:12:36 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:  
We need more caseworkers in our agency through out the houseless community and we could have more street work engagements

16:13:29 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:  
Thank you Brenna

16:14:11 From Yvette to Hosts and panelists:  
Equal Access to Housing Resources

16:14:14 From Ria Tsinas she/her to Hosts and panelists:  
Perhaps when sorting we can put accessibility into three categories :  
People living with mobility and physical disability issues  
People living with mental or intellectual disabilities  
People living with any other impairments that may create obstacles towards intake procedures, congregate environments, or any additional assistance while on the journey to stable housing

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16:14:43 From Yvette to Hosts and panelists:  
Improved Access to Services


16:14:56 From Ria Tsinas she/her to Hosts and panelists:  
I meant mental health and SUD issues


16:15:03 From Melissa Bishop to Hosts and panelists:  
Stream line the process to move people through the housing Continuum

16:15:17 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:  
Agree JULIA !

16:15:47 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:  
Yes!

16:16:02 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:  
Indeed !

16:16:13 From Ria Tsinas she/her to Hosts and panelists:  


16:16:24 From Ria Tsinas she/her to Hosts and panelists:  


16:16:48 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:  
I've seen the 10th street library getting more involved with assistants to the homeless I'm wondering if SHS has engaged with them by given them some information on where to go if they couldn't help ( meaning the library.

16:17:15 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:  
SHS pays for peer support specialists in the libraries

16:18:45 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:  
Accessibility should consider the full journeys from streets to housing - where success is housing for all - with special emphasis on underserved communities

16:20:00 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:  
Thank you Mack & Anna for all this great information we're embarking upon

16:20:01 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:  
Identifying and Reducing known barriers to affordable and appropriate/ desired housing

16:20:02 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Hosts and panelists:  
Accounting for any and all barriers to housing

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16:21:45 From Julia Maria Delgado to Hosts and panelists:  
it's so hard to define without using it I really struggled.

16:22:56 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Hosts and panelists:  
Showing up is enough. People can come as they are and not be expected to perform, reform, change or what every. Presence is enough and we welcome that in these SHS programs and services.

16:23:17 From Ria Tsinas she/her to Hosts and panelists:



16:23:22 From Melissa Bishop to Hosts and panelists:

Sorry I have to jump to prepare for my next meeting, looking forward to continuing this work with you all.

16:23:27 From Ria Tsinas she/her to Hosts and panelists:



16:23:33 From Mack Vohs (they/them) to Hosts and panelists:

Thanks for being here Melissa!

16:23:58 From Ria Tsinas she/her to Hosts and panelists:



16:27:57 From Cheryl's iPad to Hosts and panelists:

Thx everyone

16:28:07 From Sandra Comstock to Hosts and panelists:



16:28:09 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Hosts and panelists:

Thanks Ty

16:28:30 From Julia Maria Delgado to Hosts and panelists:

thank you all!! bye!!!

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