

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



Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Action
3:00	Welcome Land and Labor Acknowledgement Introductions SHS Updates	Mack Vohs	Inform
3:15	Priorities Discussion <i>Review Draft Definition for Collaboration</i>	Mack Vohs	Inform, Discuss
3:45	5 Minute Break	–	Break
3:50	Priorities Discussion <i>Brainstorm Accessibility Definition</i>	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

SHS Updates

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](#)
- **May 8:** Budget is approved
- **May 14, 21 & 28:** Public Budget Hearings
- **June 12:** Budget is adopted

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.

Priorities Discussion

Review Draft Definition for Collaboration



Framing the Conversation: Collaboration

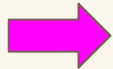
What are we talking about?

Each year the committee identifies its top two SHS priorities and prepares recommendations. Last month the group started to define **collaboration**.

Why is it important?

Having a clear definition of each priority will provide a framework that the committee can use when developing recommendations.

Recommendations Process



Define Priorities

Whiteboarding activity. Also: understanding the landscape of existing work in the two priority areas.

Brainstorm recommendations

Using the definitions as a framework and committee experience/expertise and JOHS staff presentations as resources.

Vote / Approve Recommendations

Gather Information

SHS team to coordinate presentations/ Q&A with JOHS staff.

Develop, discuss & edit recommendations

Creating and refining recs in preparation to vote.

Submit Recommendations to Leadership



Definition Process

Your Feedback  Draft Definition

How did we get there?

Definition Process

Step 1: Review & Sort

I **reviewed** the brainstorm activity, google survey, and original description we used when folks voted on priorities initially.

I then **sorted** feedback by question (where not already): *what does collab mean to you, what does it look like in your work, SHS, personally, etc*

Step 2: Find Themes

After that I **analyzed** the sorted feedback and identified several themes that emerged.

Some feedback helped inform the definition and are also flagged as potential recs. Some feedback was very specific and fit best just as a recommendation.

Step 3: Draft & Organize

Finally, I **synthesized** as much as possible from all of the feedback and **wrote** the draft definition (see meeting packet).

I **organized** the document with the definition at the top, and charts below with the feedback, themes, and where each piece of feedback ended up.

Emerging Themes

Theme	Examples
Who is the audience for collaboration?	providers, government, broad community stakeholders, new partners
What do we mean by collaboration?	coming together, partnerships, shared responsibility, etc
Why do we collaborate?	equitable decision-making, better services, meet goals, share info/resources
Qualities of good collaboration.	equitable, transparent, inclusive, fosters trust and accountability
Barriers to collaboration?	power structures, siloed work

Draft Definition

The SHS advisory committee **defines collaboration** as **bringing everyone to the table to serve people affected by homelessness better together than we could apart.**

covers the who / what / why at a high level

Draft Definition, cont.

While bringing together many perspectives can be challenging, building these relationships is **necessary** for growth and success.

Good collaboration intentionally **brings in communities** who have been historically excluded from the table so that we are **aligned in solutions** that will work for everyone. It is **equitable, inclusive, transparent**, and rooted in **respect, trust, and accountability**.

Healthy collaboration requires **good listening, compromise**, and **communication** from all parties, and is done **intentionally** rather than performatively. Collaboration **expands our impact** and leads to **better decisions** by **connecting us** to one another and the **resources** and **knowledge** we each have to offer.

**Qualities
and the Why**

Draft Definition, cont.

The barriers and risks in not collaborating, or not doing it well, include **existing power structures** and **silos, disconnected** and **duplicated** work, **miscommunication**, and **frustration** among partners.

barriers & risks

Draft Definition, cont.

The committee would like to see enhanced collaboration and engagement both **within Multnomah County** and **between Multnomah County** and **external partners**. In addition, more collaboration is needed amongst **providers, community leaders, government jurisdictions**, with external partners like **property management**, and **across sectors**.

audience

All Together

The SHS advisory committee defines collaboration as bringing everyone to the table to serve people affected by homelessness better together than we could apart.

While bringing together many perspectives can be challenging, building these relationships is necessary for growth and success. Good collaboration intentionally brings in communities who have been historically excluded from the table so that we are aligned in solutions that will work for everyone. It is equitable, inclusive, transparent, and rooted in respect, trust and accountability. Healthy collaboration requires good listening, compromise, and communication from all parties, and is done intentionally rather than performatively. Collaboration expands our impact and leads to better decisions by connecting us to one another and the resources and knowledge we each have to offer.

The barriers and risks in not collaborating, or not doing it well, include existing power structures and silos, disconnected and duplicated work, miscommunication, and frustration among partners.

The committee would like to see enhanced collaboration and engagement both within Multnomah County and between Multnomah County and external partners. In addition, more collaboration is needed amongst providers, community leaders, government jurisdictions, with external partners like property management, and across sectors.

Mapping Collaboration..

Multnomah County

JOHS (HSD)

Community Advisory
Committees (SHS, Lived
Experience, Equity, etc.)

Other Departments
(DCHS, DCJ, Health)

Board of County
Commissioners

Government Partners

Metro / Tri-County

State

Cities
(Portland, Gresham, etc.)

Community Partners

Housing Providers

Other Social Service
Providers

External/Private Sector
(property managers, etc.)

Community Members

5 minute break



Priorities Discussion

Brainstorm Accessibility Definition



Framing the Conversation: Priorities

What are we talking about?

The committee has identified two priorities. We've made progress defining **Collaboration**. Next, we'll define **Accessibility**.

Why is it important?

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

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.

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.

Activity: Defining Accessibility

What does **accessibility** mean to you?

More nuance

How does accessibility (or lack of) show up:

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

Next Steps

- **Survey:** The SHS team will send out a survey form to allow committee members to provide additional feedback on how to define Accessibility.
- **Synthesize:** The SHS team will take the input received and create a working definition of accessibility to share in the **April** meeting.

Close

