



SHS Advisory Committee Meeting

April 10, 2025 | 3:00-4:30 pm

Attendance: Cheryl Carter, Ria Tsinas, Crystal Magaña, Daniel Carrillo, Ed Johnson, Jamar Summerfield, Julia Delgado, Theo Hathaway-Saner, Ty Schwoeffermann, Patrick Alexander, Yvette Hernandez

STAFF: Mack Vohs, Cristal Otero, Anna Johnson, Bill Boyd

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action
Welcome Land and Labor Introductions SHS Updates		
Update on Collaboration Priority	<i>See slides for content</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will focus on the accessibility priority in today's meeting.• In the meantime, the SHS team is using your feedback to refine the draft definition for collaboration.	
Defining Accessibility, Part 2	<i>See slides for content</i> <p>Question: Is the workshop question meant to include both general access to services and ADA accessibility?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Answer: Yes, disabilities can be thought of as a category within access to services—access for a specific population.• Member comment: I'm a disabled person, and those are two very different things. It's the difference between knowing where to go vs. there's nowhere for me to put my wheelchair. Lumping them together is concerning.• Staff comment: This distinction is important. When we're talking about our ideas in small groups maybe we can mention which of these	

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	<p>categories our idea applies to—ADA or general accessibility.</p> <p>Members then split into small groups to brainstorm responses to the framing question: What are the barriers to services across the housing continuum that you witness in your work or community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where to go for housing resources for low-income families to prevent homelessness. • Stigma or trauma (+1). • Mental health (+1), substance use and lack of access to these programs. • Economic barriers - Employment challenges, maintaining residency, identification . • Housing programs that aren't compliant with accessibility requirements (accountability). • Units aren't ADA accessible (showers, appliances); lack of ADA spaces. • Physical barriers - Transportation and getting to facilities, buildings accessible for mobility issues. • Social barriers - Cultural differences or perceptions of homeless individuals can alienate potential participants. • Systematic barriers - Insufficient services to meet demands, long wait lists, or fragmented services (gaps, lack of coordination between providers). • Discrimination - Not getting services (+1). • Formerly incarcerated/people with criminal records - Background checks, no application fees, no peer support. • Technology, language, cultural understanding, shame, money. • Systemic barriers: social, *economic, *psychological, and physical. • Parking - there aren't enough safe places to park so people are moving further away from services. There isn't enough parking at shelter and housing programs including for bikes and small trailers. • Lack of healthcare services, untreated mental health, substance use disorders. It still seems like accessing programs even for people in housing programs is hard. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There aren't services available for people to help keep their housing. • Lack of trauma informed approach- it doesn't always feel safe to show up in an office and people don't always feel safe to seek support from staff at the programs. • Lack of safe places for women within all programs, not just in DV programs. • Lack of consideration for housing location preference. People may be able to find an opening in a program but it may not take into account their preferences. • *Not knowing where to start. • *Arbitrary organizational policies that create barriers and use power over people such as curfews. • *Feeling hopeless, and not being able to access services after going around the housing system. • Not having an ID. • Waitlists are long and shelters can't handle the volume. • Inadequate shelter resources and poor conditions. • Inability to have partners, families, kids stay together. • Lack of alternative shelters--motels, etc that provide a better environment for folks. • Lack of childcare support. • Underpaid and overworked staff and exploitation of peer workers as drivers of service delivery. • Criteria that excludes families who are just above income thresholds. • There are a lot of steps and it takes a long time to get services. Not everyone can make their way through the system and it's especially difficult for chronically homeless folks. • Because of the income limits around accessing services, folks sometimes have to become homeless or have their homelessness become worse before they can get help. • You have to fall below a very low income to access services--opportunities to intervene when people are more stable can be limited, 	
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	<p>which pushes more people into homelessness.</p> <p>Whiteboard Activity: Identifying & Grouping Themes from the Brainstorming Segment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Feedback on wording in whiteboard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not sure I like using the term "psychological barriers" because it's not on us to fix the system. It's not that individuals are inadequate, but that the system is not serving them well. It is completely unclear and opaque and confusing about how to access the system. ○ Chronic failures of the system can lead to a self-deselection, which is a barrier to access. ● There is a fundamental misunderstanding of the experience of being in these programs—people are exhausted from trying to get help—"overserved and underhelped." ● Another idea: Mistrust of the services from folks dealing with immigration enforcement. People are afraid to share any information or be identified as an immigrant, more than ever. ● Theme- structures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Run down buildings ○ Lack of housing stock ○ ADA accessibility/ ADA housing stock ● Theme - first door of entry—how people initially engage the system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Streamlined entry point, don't know where to go or where to start. ● Theme - gaps in services for particular groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lack of supportive services, not enough parking spaces, etc. ● Theme - policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It may be worthwhile to name macro and micro things. Some could be more focused on individual organizations whereas some are HUD policies. Knowing the difference makes it easier to know how you're going to approach it. Across the system vs. org specific. 	
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Member Updates/Advocacy Opportunities	<p>Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Forward is opening their Section 8 waitlist and property management waitlist next week from the 15th through 21st. People can apply online. • Question: Are there still folks on the old waitlist? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Yes, but there are fewer now. • Question: Is there an in-person application option? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Right now it's just by phone and electronically. <p>Advocacy Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On April 16 the Oregon Justice Resource Center is bringing attention and awareness to legislators about justice for women in prison. If anyone is interested in writing letters of support you can look up Oregon Justice Resource Center—they have a link where you can submit your testimony. <p>Question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If members of the committee want to connect with other members, can we email each other about things that aren't related to the committee, but are about general organizing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Because of public meeting law members can't connect about committee business outside of meetings, but as long as it is not committee-related, this is okay. ◦ Folks expressed an interest in this. 	
Next Steps	The SHS team will take your input from the March and April meetings and create a draft definition of accessibility to share and refine in an upcoming mtg.	

Zoom Chat:

15:11:27 From Daniel Carrillo to Everyone:

Hello, Daniel Carrillo, He/him pronouns, I represent NAYA and the Latinx community.

15:12:10 From Ed Johnson to Everyone:

Ed Johnson

He/him pronouns

Volunteer community member

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15:12:46 From Nicole Maupin (she/her) - MHAAO to Everyone:

Nicole Maupin, she/her, MHAAO - filling in place for Melissa Bishop while she is out of office.

15:12:50 From Bill Boyd (he/him) - HSD to Everyone:

Good afternoon. Bill Boyd (he/him) with the homeless response system (aka JOHS). Here to listen to your work!

15:13:11 From Cristal to Everyone:

Cristal Otero, She/Her, Joint Office

15:14:30 From Glyceria Tsinas to Everyone:

We are happy to have you back!

15:28:31 From Anna J, she/her SHS team to Everyone:

What are the barriers to accessible services, across the housing continuum, that you witness in your work or community?

15:31:46 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Everyone:

technology, language, discrimination, cultural understanding, shame, trauma, money, mental health

15:33:22 From Ed Johnson to Everyone:

Systemic barriers

Social

*Economic

*Psychological

Physical

15:37:23 From Daniel Carrillo to Everyone:

This was my star idea: Feeling hopeless, and not accessing services after going around the housing system.

This is my additional idea: Criteria that excludes families who are just above the income thresholds.

15:46:40 From Cheryl's iPad to Everyone:

It's all good

15:48:17 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Everyone:

Thanks yall for making the breakout rooms possible. Everyone in our group got to share.

16:15:32 From Glyceria Tsinas to Everyone:

Underpaid and overworked staff and exploitation of peer workers as drivers of service delivery

16:28:59 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Everyone:

what is the property management waitlist?

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16:30:42 From Mack Vohs (they/them) to Everyone:

If folks want to share updates with us (email Anna or me) we will include them in our follow-up email!

16:33:14 From Ty Schwoeffermann to Everyone:

State of Oregon Ways and Means roadshow is having a Salem Virtual hearing on April 16th. taking virtual testimony on the state budget

Mack Vohs (they/them): 👍

16:33:27 From Cheryl's iPad to Everyone:

Gd meeting 🤝

Mack Vohs (they/them): ❤️

16:34:52 From Theo Hathaway Saner to Everyone:

theohathawaysaner@gmail.com yes

16:35:16 From Cheryl's iPad to Everyone:

I'm okay with that

16:35:37 From Crystal Magaña to Everyone:

Crystallmagana@gmail.com

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