
**SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD BRIEFING**

LOCATION	<u>Virtual via Microsoft Teams</u> (206) 257-3799; Phone Conference ID 450 138 704# Join the meeting now	
	<u>In-person option at SHA Central Office</u> 101 Elliott Ave W, 1 st Floor Tahoma Conference Room Seattle, WA 98119	
DATE	May 12, 2025, 4:30pm – 6:00pm	
BOARD ATTENDEES	Sally Clark, Chair Robert Crutchfield, Vice- Chair Dr. Paula Houston Rita Howard	Twyla Minor Paul Purcell
DISTRIBUTION	SHA Board of Commissioners; Cabinet	

Commissioner Roll Call

Present:	Sally Clark, Chair Robert Crutchfield, Vice-Chair Rita Howard Paul Purcell Paula Houston
Absent:	Twyla Minor Gerald Smiley

AGENDA:

Briefing Items

- Education and Youth Programs Overview
- Aging In Place (AIP) Overview

Commissioner roll call was given at 4:31 p.m. The Briefing was held via teleconference, with an in-person option at the SHA Central office. Commissioners Minor and Smiley were absent from the Briefing.

Education and Youth Programs Overview

Executive Director Rod Brandon introduced today's agenda, the first item being an overview of SHA's Education and Youth Programs. Mr. Brandon introduced Rachael Steward (Deputy Director, Housing Operations). Ms. Steward provided an overview of the goals of the programs and introduced Marques Gittens (Education and Youth Development Manager), Ariel Davis (Supervisor, High Point and New Holly), and Jaycee Coleman (Supervisor, High Point & Yesler Terrace).

Mr. Gittens introduced the youth programming, family engagement, play-based enrichment, school partnerships, and additional efforts his team handles. 156 youth are served in ongoing programs, 630 youth are served via individual events, and 926 youth are served via third-party organizations. As an example, Ms. Davis described the Girl Talk program at New Holly, which offers consistency, safety, and support beyond home and school. Mr. Coleman also described Finish Strong, a young men's group that is intended to recenter and reframe how young men look at themselves and how the community also views them; participants have increased their school grades and engaged in community volunteering, and parents of participants are overwhelmingly supportive of the program.

Commissioner Clark asked how people join the Finish Strong, and the Girl Talk programs. Mr. Coleman described the partnership that SHA has with Seattle Public Schools and how they present in schools about available programs, as well as hearing from community members which youth might most benefit from these programs and issuing direct invitations. Ms. Davis added that SHA shares program information when hosting cultural events in various neighborhoods as well as going door-to-door and building relationships with residents. Commissioner Howard asked what the relationship is between the programming described and the Yesler Legacy Fund—is there a relationship there? Mr. Gittens confirmed there is a relationship; his team meets with Yesler providers such as MMRTIA weekly, including with Seattle University, as their work is supported by the fund. Commissioner Howard also asked, what is “generational self-sufficiency”? Mr. Gittens stated they are alluding to the idea of self sufficiency for adults in that they can financially support themselves, and “generational” refers to teaching those skills to people when they are younger to set them up for lifelong self-sufficiency.

Mr. Gittens presented details about youth program safety. There is a planning and vetting process for all youth-facing activities, as well as a required adult-to-youth ratio for any program SHA puts together. Adults are required to undergo mandatory training on safety, and program leads obtain feedback about the programs while they are underway. Staff undergo extensive training each year in youth safety. SHA staff tracks the training and procedures third-party contractors have with regard to youth safety, as

well. SHA is partnering with Praesidium to review operations regarding youth programs and safety and staff are undergoing training from Praesidium regarding this topic.

In the near future, summer 2025 will include indoor and outdoor programs for youth, as well as youth access to summer meals and snacks. Commissioner Clark expressed her appreciation of Mr. Gittens and his team's work and asked how the youth advisory panels he described work and what they do. Mr. Gittens stated there are two versions of advisory which are focused on their voice; we want them to be able to speak to the programs and opportunities that happen in their communities. They actively plan events that happen for young people in their communities. Ms. Davis added that In Rainier Vista, there is also a youth leadership-focused council, where their learning culminates in a project related to improving the community, such as building and working on a garden in partnership with elders in their community.

Commissioner Purcell said that there will be programs in six different communities; are there more communities that have lots of kids, and do we provide transportation for them if a kid wants to join a program that's not in their area? Mr. Gittens stated that SHA has provided transportation in the past. Their core focus is on the garden communities at this time that have a critical mass of youth there already. Commissioner Crutchfield commented that, somewhere down the road, The Board will need to talk about third-party evaluations about the programs. Commissioner Purcell wondered if we could have Seattle University do an evaluation, but Commissioner Crutchfield suggested we should have someone from outside of the programs do the analysis instead.

Aging In Place (AIP) Overview

Mr. Brandon and Ms. Steward briefly introduced the Aging In Place (AIP) program as well as presenters Jess Chow (Health & Housing Program Manager) and Patrice Davis (Strategic Advisor, Housing Operations). Ms. Davis started by stating that older adults prefer to stay in their homes and communities as they grow older, and that a growing number of older adults need more support to maintain their housing. Currently, 4,413 residents aged 62+ live in SHA housing, and 75% of them live alone. Ms. Davis continued, describing a continuum of care ranging from Aging In Place, to Permanent Supportive Housing, then Assisted Living, and lastly Skilled Nursing with 24/7 clinical staffing.

Ms. Chow provided an overview of SHA's Aging In Place program, which includes SHA Community Builders, Resident Service Coordinators (RSCs), Clutter Support Team members, and Medicaid enrollment support. SHA also contracts with service partners like the City of Seattle Aging and Disability Services, Full Life Care, Neighborhood House, Somali Health Board, and Hunger Intervention Program, among others. SHA also had Northwest Universal Design Council conduct a field assessment using age-friendly design guidelines at Green Lake Plaza.

Ms. Davis continued with the presentation, stating that SHA is exploring Permanent Supporting Housing (PSH) and working with an outside consultant to understand more

about practices and funding options around this. The goal is to align what the team does with the role and mission of the agency.

Commissioner Howard thanked Ms. Davis and Ms. Chow for the informative presentation and their work; she asked how staff defines the role of the agency with regard to aging in place. Mr. Brandon replied that SHA is a low-income housing provider, and our mission is to focus on those individuals who are low-income and who are independent to live in our housing. We also recognize there is a continuum; there are some folks who are highly independent as well as those who aren't as independent or continue to change throughout their lives. As a result, we continue to explore options that won't diffuse our focus but also recognize the need that various individuals have. Commissioner Howard emphasized that people do not fit neatly into a box, and providing people with services in an independent setting is potentially not meeting all of their needs and SHA will not ask them to get their needs met elsewhere. Additionally, people as they age may not be able to make good decisions for themselves about what level of care they may require; she worries that SHA is ignoring that aging is not only a physical process but can be a mental one, too. There is a point at which people may not be able to make good decisions for themselves or take advantage of the services SHA offers due to their complexity. Mr. Brandon recognizes all these points, which is why SHA is bringing external parties in to help who specialize in the continuum of care and why SHA is exploring what else is out there.

Commissioner Clark expressed her appreciation of discussion of permanent supportive housing (PSH) because that term in our region and time has most recently had a particular meaning of dedicated housing for formerly homeless individuals who require wraparound services in the building in which they have established residence. Commissioner Purcell reaffirmed the need for partners in the PSH continuum that Ms. Steward mentioned, rather than SHA fully taking on these things. Commissioner Howard wants to hear more about what SHA's responsibility is versus our partners' responsibility.

Meeting Close

The Board Meeting will occur on Monday, May 19 at Upton Flats. Hearing no further comments, Commissioner Crutchfield called for an adjournment. The May 12, 2025, Regular Board Briefing was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer