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### RCLLG October Newsletter

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# RCLLG November Members' Meeting NAMI Advocacy Training



### Zoom Meeting | R.S.V.P to RCLLG@fusionLP.org

**Meeting Description:** For our November members' meeting, NAMI board members will be holding an advocacy training for members. This training will address how a collective group can most effectively select an issue or issues and advocate for those. As a goal of the RCLLG collective action workgroup is to identify an issue for RCLLG to advocate for during next year's legislative session, this training will benefit the workgroup and any who want to better advocate for their cities, schools, and organizations. More details to come.

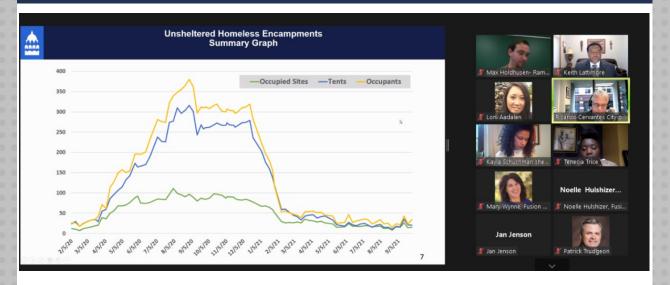
All RCLLG Members are invited - free to attend! Monthly Members Meetings are open to all elected and appointed officials and administrative/staff leadership of RCLLG organizations.

Registration is not required and there is no cost to attend.

\*R.S.V.P. is required to receive the link. Links will be sent out the week of the meeting.

Please R.S.V.P by emailing RCLLG@fusionLP.org (or simply respond to this email)

## October 8 Meeting Recap "Homelessness in Ramsey County"



Last Friday, October 8, a presentation on homelessness in Ramsey County was presented by Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul. This meeting helped paint a picture and fill gaps on the issue of the homelessness crisis in Ramsey County. Thank you to our guests.

- **Keith Lattimore**, Director, Housing Stability Department, Ramsey County
- Ricardo Cervantes, Director of Safety and Inspections, City of St. Paul
- **Tenecia Johnson-Trice**, Coordinated Entry Supervisor with Ramsey County Housing Stability
- **Max Holdhusen**, Planning Manager with Ramsey County Community and Economic Development Department
- Kayla Schuchman, Housing Director, City of Saint Paul
- Loni Aadalen, Ramsey County COC Coordinator

**Read the Notes** 

Watch the Recording

### **Meeting Summary**

For roll call, one representative from each organization, city, or school shared their top concern about affordable housing and/or homelessness. Concerns included identifying the needs of those experiencing homelessness and creating long-term solutions for safe, affordable housing. This includes how to address encampments and doing this with compassion, as well as partnering with others e.g., receiving help from the private sector in creating jobs.

Keith Lattimore began the presentation explaining how Ramsey County is "building a plane while we are already flying." The department is taking a holistic approach to supplying resources. A running theme throughout the presentation is that while Ramsey County has been experiencing a housing crisis for over a decade, COVID brought many issues to light. A positive aspect is that the Pandemic gave Ramsey County opportunities to collaborate, deploy staff, and gather resources.

Ricardo Cervantes explained how their team began collecting data in 2019. In late fall of 2020, there were over 350 homeless occupants, COVID impacting these numbers. The Saint Paul team has surveyed, regularly visited, and provided wellness checks to these individuals. Partnerships between the City and County, as well as outside organizations, have been made and outreach has been done.

Tenecia Johnson-Trice talked on how the Housing Stability staff ensures families have resources they need. They work with school districts 621 through 625, as well as 282, which have liasons that work between schools, families, and shelter systems to ensure students experience no learning disruptions.

Max Holdhusen said that expanding the supply of deeply affordable housing is a goal and can remediate the homelessness crisis. He touched on the different funding sources that can be used. Kayla Schuchman discussed how St. Paul created a housing trust fund in 2019. They've launched a Family First pilot, which is a partnership with St. Paul Schools. Mayor Carter also announced 40% of ARP funds to go towards housing funding, and St. Paul is proposing to match the County's \$37 million investment of ARP resources.

### What RCLLG Members Can Do

- 1. A **Shelter capacity workgroup** is being created, led by Chris Michels of Catholic Charities. Contact Loni Aadalen if you want to attend that meeting and/or join the workgroup.
- 2. Brainstorm/collaborate on **deeply affordable housing**. Contact Max Holdhusen.
- 3. Learn about fund matching and other **local resources**. Contact Kayla Schuchman.
- 4. Check out the Funding Opportunities slide (slide 36) and Resources slide (39) from the **PowerPoint deck**.
- 5. Find ways to contribute to this work. Allocate staffing resources. Shelter

space. Finances.

- 6. Adopt **uniform protocols** for clearing encampments.
- 7. Participate in **cold weather protocol** planning.
- 8. Reach out with questions
  - Keith.Lattimore@co.ramsey.mn.us
  - ricardo.cervantes@ci.stpaul.mn.us
  - Tenecia.Johnson-Trice@co.ramsey.mn.us
  - max.holdhusen@co.ramsey.mn.us
  - <u>Kayla.Schuchman@ci.stpaul.mn.us</u>
  - loni.aadalen@co.ramsey.mn.us

### Ramsey County and City of St. Paul: Encampments & our Community

### **Ramsey County**

- Keith Lattimore Director, Housing Stability
- · Kimberly Cleminson Deputy Director, Housing Stability
- · Max Holdhusen Planning Manager, Community & Economic Development
- · Tenecia Johnson-Trice Supervisor, Coordinated Entry
- · Loni Aadalen Planner & Continuum of Care Coordinator

#### City of St. Paul

- · Ricardo Cervantes Director, Department of Safety and Inspections
- · Kayla Schuchman Housing Director, Planning and Economic Development





Thank you to those who attended the meeting!

**Read the Notes** 

**Watch the Recording** 

### Save the Date!



### **RCLLG Annual Meeting**

Thurs, December 9th | 5:00 - 8:00 PM

In-Person, Venue TBD
Includes Dinner and a Speaker

Mark your calendars for this special evening – more details coming soon!

Thanks for reading

Follow RCLLG on Twitter!

If you have any questions about RCLLG, your membership, or news listed above, please email <u>RCLLG@fusionLP.org</u>.



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Ramsey County League of Local Governments | https://fusionlp.org/rcllg/