



SAINT PAUL – RAMSEY COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE SAINT PAUL CITY COUNCIL AND THE RAMSEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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**MINUTES**  
**COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**January 6, 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Nancy Appleton  
Pat Carlson  
Hanna Cooper  
Kathy Croghan  
Coral Garner  
Thomas Kottke  
Chris Mullin  
Paula Robinson  
Jack Rossbach  
Esther Tatley  
Milo Thompson

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Marissa Hendrickson  
Regina Rippel  
Kerri-Elizabeth Sawyer

**STAFF**

Rob Fulton  
Richard Ragan

**Tobacco-free Campuses in Ramsey County** by Dennis Hills of the Association for Non-smokers (ANSR)-  
Minnesota [www.ansrmn.org](http://www.ansrmn.org)

ANSR is a non-profit organization founded in 1973 and is the oldest organization in Minnesota working exclusively to reduce the harm caused by tobacco.

Students deserve tobacco-free learning environments. Educators should send a clear message about the harmful effects of tobacco. A tobacco-free policy contributes to establishing a new social norm about the use of tobacco.

The current tobacco-free campuses within Ramsey County are the following: Bethel University, Bethel Seminary and Northwestern College. A soon to be tobacco-free campus is St. Catherine University.

All campuses have policies eliminating the use of tobacco indoors and the William Mitchell College of Law designates outdoor smoking areas.

Tobacco Company Advertising

The 5 largest cigarette companies in the US spent \$12.49 billion on cigarette advertising in 2006. Companies continue to develop smokeless tobacco products for young adults.

Check out [www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/ship/](http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/ship/)

**Smoke-Free Multi-housing** by Brittany McFadden of the Association for Non-smokers (ANSR)- Minnesota  
[www.ansrminn.org](http://www.ansrminn.org)

Renters contact ANSR with complaints about tobacco smoke entering their rental unit. Renters are asking for smoke-free apartments. Multi-housing and casinos are the two remaining indoor public environments in Minnesota where secondhand smoke is not regulated.

Landlords adopt smoke-free policies for the following reasons: renters prefer smoke-free apartments, cleaning costs are lower, less risk of fire damage, smoke-free policies are legal, fewer complaints about second-hand smoke, healthier and happier renters.

The key themes from the 2009 Metro Tenant Survey are #1 secondhand smoke exposure in apartment building is occurring and is a problem and #2 renters want to live in smoke-free apartment buildings.

How does a landlord adopt a smoke-free building policy? Determine who set the policies for the building – usually the owner. Decide if the “phase-in” or “quit-date” method would work the best. Renew existing leases with a smoke-free lease addendum. Post signs on the property to remind everyone of the new policy. Advertise that the building is a smoke-free building.

Ramsey County has 2,260 buildings and approximately 70,000 units and there are currently 104 smoke-free buildings by Skally Management, Steven Scott, Mint Properties and Lowertown Lofts. Mint Properties has 42 buildings in Saint Paul and all are smoke-free as of October 2009.

The Saint Paul Housing authority has stated that it is not interested in going smoke-free.

An intern named Brian from ANSR then gave a presentation entitled “The New Face of Tobacco” about how tobacco companies target youth with their products. Tobacco companies spend \$12.4 billion a year/\$34 million a day advertising tobacco. The Minnesota Department of Health spends \$21 million a year on prevention activities.

#### **Chair’s Report** – Hanna Cooper

The annual meeting regarding Blue Zones and SHIP was a big success. Ramsey staff will meet with staff from Minneapolis and Hennepin County to coordinate SHIP projects throughout the year.

#### **Director’s Report** – Rob Fulton

Tobacco Prevention-The Department has applied for an \$8 million CDC grant to counteract tobacco advertising with ANSR.

H1N1-The Department continues to respond to the epidemic with planned vaccination clinics. The Department is also distributing vaccine to medical providers within Ramsey County.

Electronic Health Records-The electronic health record project is well underway with the selection process of a consultant to help the department perform a readiness assessment and analyze our current business environment in preparation for an electronic health record solution. In December, we received 11 very good proposals in response to the RFP. These two vendors will be interviewed by the Governance Team in January.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.