

RAMSEY COUNTY CAC

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Our Purpose:

From a community perspective, we provide Ramsey County Commissioners and Ramsey County staff with advice, information, observations and ideas about services provided by Ramsey County Human Services.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

In recent years, our council has been working to understand how families from cultural communities perceive Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Services. We have been advocating for trainings for providers as well as informational discussions with parents about the resources available.

Currently, we are working closely with the parents and families on the Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative to hear their perspective on what is and is not working in children's mental health care. We are looking at the array of services available to families with children with mental health needs in Ramsey County; more specifically, capacity of programs, wait lists, cultural fit/adaptations, evidence based practices, and the barriers families are facing in utilizing services to improve the health and well-being of their households.

We strive to create and present an annual report of the state of mental health services to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners.

SOUND INTERESTING?

Share with us about your community's view of mental, emotional, behavioral well-being and/or experience with Ramsey County Human Services at one or more of our meetings.

We look forward to hearing from you and answering any questions you may have about our focus.



MEETING SCHEDULE

3rd Thursday of each month | 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation | Room 2520
451 Lexington Parkway N. St. Paul Minnesota
Dinner provided

Please contact us if you are interested in more information, attending, joining, or sharing a community perspective aligned with our focus.

FAQS ABOUT THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)

In 1979 the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners created the Ramsey County Community Human Services Citizens Advisory Council (CAC). Currently there are seven advisory committees that each represents a specific service population:

- The **Adult Services Committee** addresses the needs and issues impacting 1) older adults (60+) who have difficulty living independently and are at risk of abuse, neglect and material exploitation, and 2) persons between 19 and 60 who have a major physical or neurological disability.
- The **Chemical Health Committee** represents low income adolescents and adults who have serious alcohol or drug abuse problems, people of color who need culturally specific services to ensure access to drug or alcohol treatment resources, and family or significant others who have been affected by the problems of chemical dependency.
- The **Children's Mental Health Advisory Council** represents families with a child who fit the legal description of Emotionally Disturbed or Severely Emotionally Disturbed, an organic disorder of the brain or a clinically significant disorder to thought, mood, perception, orientation, memory, or behavior and which seriously limits a child's capacity to function in primary aspects of daily living, such as personal relations, living arrangements, work, school, and recreation.
- The **Children's Services Review Panel (CSRP)** is comprised of volunteers who are representative of the community in which they live or serve and who are charged with examining policies and procedures of the Human Services Child Protection System. The CSRP evaluates the extent to which Ramsey County Human Services and the Minnesota Department of Human Services are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities. The CSRP annually reports their findings and recommendations to the County and Agency. The CSRP also serves an additional role as one of Minnesota's Citizen Review Panel under Federal Law.
- The **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Committee** represents individuals with mental retardation or related conditions who are limited in their ability to function in at least three major life activities, such as self care, toileting, household and money management, community living, and leisure including people with an IQ of less than 70 and/or cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or autism.
- The **Low Income Committee** represents individuals and families who need help meeting their basic needs for food, shelter, and clothing, including persons who qualify for public assistance because their income or assets fall below Federal or State poverty guidelines.
- The **Mental Health Advisory Council** represents adults with mental illness, an organic disorder of the brain or a clinically significant disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation, memory, or behavior that seriously limits their capacity to function in primary aspects of daily living such as personal relations, living arrangements, work, and recreation.

Advisory committee members are appointed by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners for two-year terms and represent diverse backgrounds and communities. Each committee strives for a balanced representation and varied perspectives, including consumers of service, family members of the target population, professionals in the field, interested citizens, service providers, and representatives from community organizations. Both urban and suburban views are represented as well.

The CAC is a valuable resource for the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and the Community Human Services Department by providing meaningful and thoughtful input from a citizen perspective. The CAC gives citizens a voice in public policy by providing valuable knowledge, insight and experience in the decision-making process. The CAC serves as a bridge between the community and county government. Citizen involvement is even more important today, with the challenge of limited funding and a dramatic increase in the need for services.

All committees have an opportunity to present to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners annually to share insights, observations, recommendations, and ideas about important issues.