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Good morning,

I wanted to thank you for your participation in the Special Committee on Homelessness yesterday. I am the Director of Programs at Cross-Lines Community Outreach in Wyandotte County, providing support for persons experiencing food insecurity, homelessness, and housing insecurity. I was there with several of my colleagues across the state and I heard the following as pillars I think we can all agree on:

- Living outside is dangerous
- Kansas needs more housing
- Wrap-around services are critical (especially mental health and substance use treatment)
- One size does not fit all
- Solving homelessness requires investment (public/private)

On October 14th of this year, we held the Wyandot County Housing Summit with a guest speaker Julia Orlando. Julia comes from Bergen County, New Jersey, which was the first community in the nation to reach functional zero for chronically homeless persons and then reached functional zero for veterans. Functional zero is a term used to indicate a community has measurably solved homelessness for that population. KDADS has been working with Julia to provide technical assistance throughout the state, sharing her expertise. You can find the recording of her presentation here: <https://youtu.be/JcbxExKrKSA>. It is worth the watch. I found it challenging and inspiring.

My agenda is simple: **Let's end homelessness** in my local community and in Kansas. To do that it will take a community of institutions, neighbors, businesses, faith-based groups, persons with lived experiences, and elected officials at the state and local levels to solve this very complex problem.

I would love the opportunity to connect with each of you to share more about what we are experiencing in the Kansas City region around homelessness, both challenges and successes. I plan to attend the public policy forum next week that UCS is hosting and some of you are participating in on November 14th from 9 -11 a.m. in Overland Park. Hope to see you

there.

Please remember: Homelessness is Solvable!

Peace,

Rob Santel, LMSW

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Cross-Lines provides people in the Kansas City area affected by poverty with services and opportunities that encourage self-confidence, meet the needs of today, and provide tools for future self-sufficiency.