

**RAP Statewide Call**  
Thurs July 18, 2018

**On the call:**

Paul, Bellingham

Mallory, Seattle, Formerly with Housing Alliance

Nicholas, Seattle, Catholic Community Services of Western WA, SPAN, Solid Ground

Kristen, Yakima, Next Step Housing

Jennifer, Spokane/Spokane Valley, veteran and community advocate

Lisa, Seattle, RealChange

Teresa, Seattle, Housing Alliance

**1. Local Updates**

- Bellingham:
  - RAP organizers Nick & Divya and advocates from Skagit County were up in Bellingham today to meet with community members.
  - Brien Thane new director of Bellingham Housing Authority – he’s a supporter of RAP and could help support resident organizing in Bellingham.
- Vancouver:
  - We held a listening session and a RAP meeting in Vancouver last week, and there’s energy there among community members and nonprofit partners to get involved in RAP.

**2. Lawmaker meetings**

- The legislative interim (right now) is a great time to build relationships with lawmakers and talk about housing issues while they’re home in the district. RAP members are organizing meetings with lawmakers over the next month, and Housing Alliance staff are ready to support.
- Meeting captains:
  - Paul in Bellingham (LD 40/42)
  - Ren from Vancouver (LD ?)
  - Jennifer and Mindy in Edmonds (LD 32)
  - Jennifer in Spokane/Spokane Valley (3/4)
  - Lisa in Centralia (LD 20)
  - Nicholas in Seattle (LD 43)
  - Mallory in Seattle (LD 46)
- Housing Alliance staff had a meeting last week to lay out key issues we need to discuss with different lawmakers, and prioritize some districts for extra support (where the dynamics with the lawmaker may be trickier). Michele is going to prioritize coming to some of these meetings with RAP delegations to provide support. In some districts we may also combine meetings with other housing justice advocates, including people who serve on local nonprofit boards. Divya and Nick will follow up with you all soon with logistics and support.
- Questions?
  - Can we get a report back on meetings with housing champions? Yes. Meeting captains, make sure someone takes notes during your meeting and let’s organize a report out.
  - During the interim, do lawmakers share their schedules so we know where they’ll be? A few ways to find this info: sign up for lawmakers’ email newsletters; try calling their legislative assistants (you can try the Olympia office and the district office); or check the Housing Alliance’s spreadsheet of upcoming candidate forums:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1h9liL4DxilwICO9RfUiwDIDO-pQMLT8fIOs5exC8ztw/>

### 3. Trainings

- Find slides and recordings from our recent trainings including Messages That Work and Strategies for a Successful Lawmaker Meeting at <https://residentactionproject.org/resources/rap-trainings-and-statewide-calls/>.
- We're having a "How to Build a RAP Community Group" training this Friday from noon to 1pm. We're using a new platform that requires registration. Please register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4656262810977063170>
- Personal Storytelling training planned for August 3 from noon-1pm, led by Housing Alliance Communications Director Reiny Cohen. Registration link coming soon.
- Farther down the road, planning a training on electoral organizing and canvassing.
- Requests/ideas for other trainings you'd like to see RAP provide?
  - Nicholas: what to expect in the 2019 session and getting feedback from RAP members;
  - Paul & Lisa: testifying in front of a committee in Olympia.

### 4. Nonprofit partnerships

- We need support from nonprofit partners in order to build and sustain our base of resident power. We're working to formalize partnerships between RAP and nonprofits that provide housing or services who can support our organizing by helping get the word out about RAP to their residents, providing meeting spaces, helping with rides to RAP events, etc.
- We're especially trying to establish these partnerships in places where we're building our member base right now like Vancouver, Spokane, Yakima, and Bellingham. If you have ideas for organizations we should reach out to, please let us know.

### 5. Statewide RAP Summit: **Sept 22. Please save the date!**

- Last fall we held our first annual Statewide RAP Summit. Lisa shared a little about the summit – we brought people together from around the state, learned what to expect in next year's legislative session, and discussed issue priorities and what we wanted to take action on.
- We're going to hold another summit this year with many of the same goals, and it's looking most likely that it will happen Sat Sept 22 in Yakima. Like last year, we can provide child care and meals for the day, and can help with transportation as well. If you have a car and are willing to be a carpool driver, let us know.
- If there are Yakima folks who have a suggestion on a place we could hold a gathering for 50-100 people for the day, let us know.
- Steering committee and staff of the Housing Alliance and the Center for Community Change will be working to plan out the day. There will be opportunities to help, especially if you live in Yakima, so let us know if you'd like to be part of the planning.

### 6. Announcements

- Nicholas: Secretary of DSHS Cheryl Strange has launched a listening tour across the state. She wants to meet with communities to learn about what is and isn't working at DSHS from a client perspective. She will be at Seattle Central College 1pm tomorrow; Bellingham on July 25, 1pm at Whatcom Middle School; Everett July 26; various other places around the state.
- Candidate endorsements are up on [housingactionfund.org](https://housingactionfund.org) – check out who the housing champions are running for office in your community. Email [teresac@housingactionfund.org](mailto:teresac@housingactionfund.org) if you'd like to volunteer to help get housing champions elected to office!

- Calendar of RAP calls, trainings and events now online at <https://residentactionproject.org/upcoming-events/>