

# GET TO KNOW THE PANEL



Tara Beiter-Fluhr is mayor of Sheridan, Colorado, and chair of the Tri-Cities Homelessness Policy Group since 2022. She is also a member of the Metro Mayors Caucus Housing, Hunger, and Homelessness (“H3”) Committee and the South Metro Community Foundation Advisory Council. During the workday, she is a tax systems manager at an agricultural bank.



Ammon Franklin holds master’s degrees in education and sociology. He has lived around the world and speaks French, Spanish and Arabic. He also experienced homelessness for five years. During his experience living in a small camper truck around Centennial, Colorado, he found greater compassion for the unhoused and became passionate about housing. After several years in his truck, Ammon started working cleanouts for a real estate investor. Soon, he was given a mentor and learned about real estate. While living in his truck for two years behind the company office, Ammon gained firsthand knowledge of housing markets, systems and infrastructure.

Ammon’s journey from homelessness to housing professional — and his passion for finding out-of-the-box solutions — give him a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities in tackling housing insecurity. His core value is that each individual needs to be seen as a person of value and deserving of respect, which is the foundation to creating safe, realistic and meaningful pathways to stable housing.



Gretchen Rydin represents House District 38 in the Colorado Legislature. A former Littleton City Council member, she is also a therapist and social worker dedicated to supporting trauma and addiction recovery. Rydin is an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, refugees and equitable access to housing. She has championed increased funding for the arts and education and played a key role in regional efforts to address substance use. As chair of the Regional Opioid Council, she directed more than \$49 million in funding toward prevention, treatment, harm reduction, recovery and criminal justice initiatives in Arapahoe County. Rydin also served on the Tri-Cities Homelessness Initiative and was instrumental in advancing affordable, inclusive housing policies for new developments.



## EVENT FACILITATOR

Angela Engel, M.A., is a facilitator, writer and educator. She is a force for positive change with more than three decades of experience engaging communities, catalyzing action and empowering voices. Her books and articles shed light on critical social issues and offer practical solutions.

Engel teaches graduate studies for the at-risk and alternative education program at Marian University preparing future educators to make a difference in the lives of underserved students. As the director of an education nonprofit, Angela has led numerous successful initiatives improving the lives of countless individuals and communities locally and nationally. Through Colorado State University’s Family Leadership Training Institute, Angela has empowered over 1,500 people with the skills and knowledge to advocate effectively for their communities.

Whether working with small groups or large gatherings, Engel creates inclusive and inspiring spaces where everyone feels heard and valued. Her expertise in conflict resolution and consensus building helps diverse stakeholders collaborate effectively to achieve shared goals. She brings an authentic voice to the decision-making table, transforms lives through education and advocacy, and leaves a lasting positive impact on the communities she serves.