



**Anoka County Children and Family Council
and Executive Committee Combined Meeting
Meeting Notes
April 10, 2025
Blaine Human Service Center – Room #2402/2403**

DRAFT

These DRAFT minutes were emailed to Kelsey on 4-15-2025.

They will go before the ACCFC for final approval on September 11, 2025. pm

ACCFC and Executive Committee Present:

Rick Sells, Co-Chair, Anoka County Corrections
Abbey Pierce, Co-Chair, Spring Lake Park School District #16
Kathy Zwonitzer, Centennial School District #12
Lori Schmidt, Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP)
Sydney Lindenfelser, Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP)
Connie Moore, Alexandra House
Brittany Hirsh, Forest Lake School District #831
Heidi Geiss, Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11 Homeless Liaison
Carrie Wood, Anoka County Sheriff's Office

Community Partners, Collaborative, County Staff, and Others:

Jill Brown, Jill Brown PR
Craig Malm, Jill Brown PR
Aaron Rusnak, Redeemer Church, Fridley
Gayle Alexander, Anoka County Social Services and Behavioral Health
Peggy McNabb, Anoka County Human Services Administration
Patti Constant, Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services
Tessa Trepp Wetjen, Ready, Set, Smile – Dentistry and Education
Sonali Gore, Anoka County Social Services and Behavioral Health
Diana Hoffman, Anoka County Social Services and Behavioral Health
Kelsey Fuglsby, ACCFC Coordinator
Nancy Norman, Anoka County Attorney's Office

Discussion Items:	Notes:
<u>Welcome</u>	ACCFC Co-Chairs Rick Sells and Abbey Pierce: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcomed everyone to this meeting of Anoka County Children and Family Council.• Read the ACCFC Mission Statement: <i>Nurture collaborative efforts by building bridges and networks between people and agencies who share a vision of a healthier community for children and families.</i>• Noted the 2025 meeting calendars for both the ACCFC and its Management Committee on pages two and three of the agenda. Kelsey will continue to send Outlook calendar meeting invitations for each meeting.• Noted pages four through six of the agenda as contact information for those on the ACCFC. Please contact Kelsey with any needed updates. Kelsey will reach out to Lee Carlson Center for an update to their representative.• A reminder that only one eligible representative from each council or executive partner should vote on listed action items.• Rick noted today marks the last meeting with Abbey Pierce as our co-chair. Abbey has served this council with her creativity, engagement, and support for two years, but has also been a consistent member of committees and this council for years. We are thankful for

Abbey's guidance, energy, and support, and look forward to continuing our work together. As noted at a past meeting, Kathy Zwonitzer has generously accepted the role of co-chair.

Program Moment

Anoka County Opioid Solutions Initiative (ACOSI) / Patti Constant

Patti Constant, provided an overview of her role as Senior Program Manager, Opioid Prevention, Anoka County Public Health, which is to distribute Anoka County's opioid settlement funding back out into the community for opioid prevention initiatives. Prevention ranging from initiation to opioids to overdose deaths. ACOSI infrastructure:

- An Opioid Advisory Council (external) with about 30 members representing community agencies, treatment services, health care organizations, law enforcement, public safety, persons with lived experiences, and more.
- An Opioid Executive Committee (internal) with county (leadership) staff members.
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Workgroup (subsidiary) – front-facing county staff.

Focus to date has been on:

- Prevention Efforts
 - We are currently developing funding contracts for prevention and education initiatives as part of our first RFP process. Details will be made public once contracts are executed.
- Access to Naloxone
 - We have been successful in increasing the number of Naloxone Access Points (NAPs) across the county, including the installation of naloxone dispensing boxes at Anoka County Library sites.

Patti's main goal is to work with and partner with all people in the community, including schools. Looking at how we could partner with schools on providing effective and impactful services and resources for our youth/students. Also working to be present at events to provide education and naloxone. We want to be responsive to meeting community needs – doing all that we can. Looking at an educational and awareness media campaign in the future as well.

Education in Schools:

- Carrie Wood reported first-time drug usage is currently at ages ten to twelve.
- Patti noted Joe Amerman, Senior Program Planner, Opioids, Anoka County Public Health, is working on the Anoka County Cannabis ordinance and will be supporting schools with mandatory cannabis education in the schools.

Patti noted overdose deaths in Anoka County Overdose Deaths have slowly decreased over the past year, with the 2024 count at 39 to 41 (still unofficial; waiting on toxicology).

Patti reported on a community event last November titled Spotlight on Opioids and Overdose that was very successful with over 200 people attending, 34 vendors, and much engagement. Hoping to host another event this year in that same Columbia Heights/Fridley area.

Jill Brown and Patti spoke briefly on the need and Patti's intent to embrace the faith community in this initiative.

Patti welcomes people's thoughts and ideas:

Patti Constant, Senior Program Manager, Opioid Prevention

763-324-4334 / patti.constant@anokacountymn.gov

Website: <https://www.anokacountymn.gov/4417/Opioid-Response>

<p><u>Program Moment</u></p>	<p>Ready, Set, Smile – Dentistry and Education / Tessa Trepp Wetjen, Executive Director</p> <p>Tessa Trepp Wetjen presented on the work of Ready, Set, Smile, Dentistry and Education, providing education and preventative dental treatment on-site in schools. We currently partner with 52 schools. Our Anoka County presence is currently Columbia Heights. We would like to expand that.</p> <p>We go into schools in the fall and again in the spring each year, providing toothbrush cleanings and scaling, sealants, fluoride varnish application, oral hygiene instruction, silver diamine fluoride application, interim therapeutic restorations, and referrals for higher level dental needs. Each winter we do an education session for third graders.</p> <p>We have seen up to 76 kids in a day. A parental consent form is required. There is no expense to the schools or parents for our services. We do bill insurance for those who are insured. We are mainly funded by corporate, foundation, in-kind, and individual donations. For every \$1 invested in our services, we get \$4.90 in return. Prevention is what pays off.</p> <p>We would love to be in more schools. Ideally schools with about a 50% free and reduced lunch rate. Contact Tessa at tessatreppwetjen@readysetsmile.org.</p>
<p><u>General Business*</u></p>	<p>Minutes Approval*</p> <p>Motion by Connie Moore and second by Sydney Lindenfelser approving the January 9, 2025, minutes of the Anoka County Children and Family Council meeting. Motion carried.</p>
<p><u>General Business*</u></p>	<p>2025 – 2026 Partnership Grant Funding Recommendations*</p> <p>Abbey Pierce reported the Management Committee reviewed the grant applications in March, noting the many strong supports in the county. Initial letters have been sent to applicants. Official letters and awards will be sent out following today’s approval. Kelsey is contact for any questions.</p> <p>Motion by Connie Moore and second by Sydney Lindenfelser approving the 2025–2026 ACCFC Partnership Grant funding in amounts recommended by the Partnership Grant RFP Committee – agenda page 13:</p> <p>Agency / Project Name</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Lake Area / School Based Mental Health Partnership Project..... \$45,838 • Spring Lake Park / After School Spark..... \$50,000 • Fridley / Youth Sports Exploration for 5th and 6th Grades..... \$47,000 • St. Francis / Early ID Grant \$50,000 • ACCAP Fatherhood Program \$28,208 • Lee Carlson Center / Strengthening School Mental Health Services: Bridging Gaps through Tier 1 and Tier 2 Support..... \$45,838 • YMCA / Homeless Youth and Families Initiative \$33,114 • Neighborhood Health Source North Metro Clinic / Children – Fridley Families Thrive <u>\$50,000</u> <p>Total Awarded \$350,000</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
<p><u>General Business*</u></p>	<p>2025 – 2026 School District Site Funding*</p> <p>Rick Sells acknowledged pages 14 and 15 of the agenda as identifying the recommended 2025-2026 School District Site Funds, noting there has been an adjustment to the formula previously used to distribute funds. Because of inconsistencies in Free and Reduced Lunch data, the formula was updated to include the averages of the end of last year and current year Free and</p>

Reduced Lunch and enrollment numbers. This data represents the most accurate numbers, while being consistent across districts. We will investigate alternative ways to gather this information to apply in the 2026-2027 round. Kelsey noted the Annual Reporting Form and Instructions Sheet for School District Site Funds are included in today’s agenda packet, with clarified language on the gift card usage policy.

Motion by Connie Moore and second by Sydney Lindenfelser approving distribution of the 2025-2026 School District Site Funds as calculated and approved by the Management Committee:

- Anoka-Hennepin\$99,365
- Centennial\$13,900
- Columbia Heights\$14,176
- Fridley.....\$10,241
- Forest Lake\$12,246
- Spring Lake Park\$17,315
- St. Francis\$10,115
- Total Distribution\$177,358

Motion carried.

<p><u>Informational</u></p>	<p>Management Committee Report Abbey reported the Management committee has met twice since the January meeting. We spent time covering feedback from the January council meeting and discussed approaches to address some of the concerns. With many changes in funding, we’ve also been discussing how to better collaborate for both efficiency and connection. We will continue these conversations over the next few months and report back again in September.</p>
<p><u>Informational</u></p>	<p>Anoka County Children and Family Council Budget Update In Dave Kent’s absence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick Sells noted Dave’s routine budget reporting on pages 20 through 22 of the agenda for review. • Kelsey noted the budget reporting is much the same as presented in January / confirmation of year-end 2024. We have not yet received the first quarter LCTS payment. • Every school district has turned in their costing reporting. Good Job!
<p><u>Informational</u></p>	<p>Coordinator Update, Kelsey Fuglsby Kelsey noted this routine agenda heading has been revised from “LCTS” to “Coordinator” Update to be more inclusive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) Kelsey has met with roughly one-half of the schools on the random moments process, what is working, what is not, etc. Her goal is to personalize the process a bit more for maximizing impact and consistency. She has a good understanding of what will be helpful. Will continue to schedule with the schools and report back. Nice to see fewer missed random moments. • ACCFC Website Update Kelsey continually works on updating and improving the ACCFC website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An LCTS tab has been added with a refresher training, cost reporting information, and more. Hoping to increase information available for LCTS participants. ○ A Funding Opportunities tab provides application reporting information. ○ An Events and Resources tab. Most exciting. Will keep current and up to date. ○ An Excel spreadsheet with all due dates – will help council members with cost reports, etc.

- Kelsey will be connecting with the CAFs about redoing the ACCFC brochure with a focus on figuring out how to best work together in a practical way.
- As school demographics and Free and Reduced Lunch counts are very inconsistent, Kelsey will be working with Jill on developing a survey to get a temperature for that information. The survey will be emailed and on the ACCFC website for completion.

Informational

Grant Procurement Schedule

Kelsey noted the Grant Procurement Schedule is a routine agenda. She will start working on contracts and official letters.

**Informational
Community
Asset Funds
(CAF)**

Mental Health Community Asset Fund (CAF) / Diana Hoffman

Early Childhood Mental Health

- Spring Into Wellness! – a free family fun event on April 26th at Emma B Howe YMCA.

Mental Wellness Campaign for Anoka County

- Annual 5K Walk for Mental Wellness coming up on Saturday, May 17th.

GIST (Gaps in Services and Training) Committee

- Sponsored two virtual one-hour trainings on County Social Services featuring Adult Mental Health, Children’s Mental Health, Corrections, Long-Term Services and Supports, and Housing. Attendance was between 65 and 70 people.
- Additional virtual trainings in the works.
- Annual Social Worker Appreciation Breakfast for front-facing support staff coming up in October.

Immigrant and Refugee Community Asset Fund (CAF) / Lori Schmidt

- Since January we have worked with resource fair vendors filling bags with resources, including boots and snow pants, for Anoka-Hennepin Schools.
- A New American Academy this month here on the third floor -- Metro North.
- Hosting a May 22 Resource Fair at Christ Lutheran Church. Summer safety theme. Will give out bike helmets, sunscreen, summer-specific toys,
- Working with the Department of Health on a multi-cultural training for professionals in either June, July, or September on Resettlement. Will feature a panel discussion.

Community Resilience Committee (CRC) / Craig Malm

Craig reported on the \$5,000 microgrant administered through state. The grant project focus is trauma informed care education for faith and diverse communities. We offered a two-hour online session, followed by a three-hour in-person session titled **How Early Childhood Experiences Shape Our Lives** on April 3rd at Faith Lutheran Church, Coon Rapids. Thirty-eight attendees – a mix of faith community and in-home providers. Very high engagement with a lot of interaction. Boxed meals were provided. Thank you to Kelsey for arranging to have an interpreter present.

Craig shared outcomes from the 36 responses to a post-event SurveyMonkey. High percentage ratings with a lot of nice commentary about the experience.

Jill acknowledged the high turnout being due to Craig’s legwork. The more personal contact we make, the higher the turnout. The more we talk in-person with those communities, the stronger our relationships will be.

Aaron Rusnak, Redeemer Church, Fridley, whom Craig invited to the training event and today's meeting, noted the great presenters, high engagement, and interaction. I learned a lot.

Opportunity from Bukola Oriola

Kelsey shared a 4-10-2025 email from Bukola Oriola, The Enitan Story, to in turn share with the ACCFC:

I am working with DCYF to prepare for the New Labor Trafficking implementation laws. Starting July 1, 2025, labor trafficking will be a form of child maltreatment and mandated report.

On Thursday, we are hosting a survivor focus group with the agency to help prepare CPs and CW folks learn how to identify labor trafficking when mandated reporters call. The meeting is from 1-3pm.

Three opportunities that I would like to share are:

1. Opportunity for survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence living in the city of Minneapolis to participate in paid professional development for a labor trafficking identification project funded by the city of Minneapolis. Interested participants can contact us at info@enitan.org to learn more. It is only limited to 4 individuals. The project is for up to 4 hours at \$85/hour. Alexandra House may have some of their former clients who may be interested.
2. Paid focus group or interviews for survivors of labor trafficking in the State with the DCYF. It is from 1 to 3 hours at \$85/hour. Interested participants can also learn more by sending an email to lovebuky@gmail.com
3. Opportunity to become independent consultants as Subject Matter Experts (SME) with Lived Experience at The Enitan Story. For survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence. [link](#) to application if you are interested.

Thank you so much again.

Bukola

- **Sharing and Updates**

- **Closing**

Rick thanked everyone for attending today's meeting, and thank you again to Abbey.

- Abbey acknowledged "learning so much."
Thank you all for coming today.

- **Next Meeting**

Anoka County Children and Family Council
Thursday, September 11, 2025 / 2 p.m.
Blaine Human Service Center – TBD

