



Anoka County Children and Family Council and Executive Committee Combined Meeting Meeting Notes

September 11, 2025

Blaine Human Service Center – Room #2402/2403

DRAFT

These DRAFT minutes were emailed to Kelsey on 9-29-2025.

They will go before the ACCFC for final approval on November 13, 2025. pm

ACCFC and Executive Committee Present:

- Rick Sells, Co-Chair, Anoka County Corrections
- Rachel Perez, Spring Lake Park School District #16
- Lori Schmidt, Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP)
- Connie Moore, Alexandra House
- Mike McFadden, Anoka County Economic Assistance
- Heidi Geiss, Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11 Homeless Liaison
- Carrie Wood, Anoka County Sheriff’s Office
- Osmara Gomez, The Enitan Story
- Steve Knutson, Neighborhood HealthSource
- Chris Lindquist, St. Francis Schools, District #15
- Rory Moran —YMCA Youth and Family Services
- Denise Byers, Lee Carlson Center
- Sonali Gore, Anoka County Social Services and Behavioral Health
- Nicole Spitzer, Anoka County Public Health

Community Partners, Collaborative, County Staff, and Others:

- Holly Haney, Anoka County Public Health
- Tina Bronson, Alexandra House
- Tom Shaw, Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11
- Jill Brown, Jill Brown PR
- David Kent, Anoka County Finance
- Gayle Alexander, Anoka County Social Services and Behavioral Health
- Peggy McNabb, Anoka County Human Services Administration
- Kelsey Fuglsby, ACCFC Coordinator
- Karina Kelton, Raices Latinas
- Karrie Ruedy, Change, Inc.

Discussion Items:	Notes:
<u>Welcome</u>	<p>ACCFC Co-Chair Rick Sells:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed everyone to the September 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. • Happy to welcome new representatives to the ACCFC – Denise Byers, Lee Carlson Center; and Rochelle Cox, Fridley School District #14. • Welcome also to Nicole Spitzer, Anoka County Public Health, serving as ACCFC county vice chair. Thank you, Nicole, for taking on that role.

<p><u>Program Moment</u></p>	<p>Raíces Latinas / Karina Kelton, Founder and Director ... and acknowledged by Rick today as a former RFP partner and community connector.</p> <p>Karina presented an overview of Raíces Latinas, which is a community-based organization that connects Spanish-speaking families to public and community resources through geographically centered WhatsApp groups and in-person programs. Our approach bridges barriers of language, digital literacy, immigration, and transportation by meeting families where they are, on a platform they know and trust. Every resource we share is vetted, and our bilingual team provides warm, personalized support. We curate weekly messages and resources for our WhatsApp groups – divided by city, school district, or other designated commonality – and timed and tailored to families’ realities and concept of time—to maximize follow-through and access. Groups are moderated by resource experts. Primarily serving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mothers/caretakers responsible for a family’s well-being • Low-resources families • Immigration barriers • New to navigating the landscape -- newly arrived families and families who have been here for years • Spanish is their primary language • Limited digital literacy skills and/or access to technology <p>Raíces Latinas is currently serving as Public Health Trusted Messengers for Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties, as well.</p> <p>Seeing a clear increase in Anoka County families engaging with Raíces Latinas (especially through our work in Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Forest Lake), Karina is seeking partnership and funding to bring Spanish programs to Anoka County communities. Everything we share is free and open to the public. We’re here to help. Referrals are 100% word of mouth. Please feel free to reach out.</p> <p>Heidi Geiss spoke of Karina’s work within Anoka-Hennepin schools. Partnering with Karina was fabulous, seamless, and valuable. She came to our district, met with our families, connected families with kids in the same grades, made all feel welcomed, and fostered many conversations in a relaxed setting. Those families are now forming their own groups and benefitting. “Best partnership I have had,” said Heidi.</p> <p>Kelsey thanked Karina for the work being done to create resilient communities, which is a focus of the ACCFC. <i>I am excited to connect more.</i></p> <p>https://www.raiceslatinasmc.org/who-we-are</p>
<p><u>General Business*</u></p>	<p>Minutes Approval*</p> <p>Motion by Connie Moore and second by Steve Knutson approving the April 10, 2025, minutes of the Anoka County Children and Family Council meeting. Motion carried.</p>
<p><u>General Business*</u></p>	<p>2026 Meeting Calendars -- ACCFC and ACCFC Management Committee*</p> <p>Rick highlighted revisions to the 2026 ACCFC meeting calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting has been added on the third Thursday of June, which may be easier, more doable for school representatives, as well as an opportunity to connect before the summer break. Virtual attendance will be an option for this June meeting, as well. • The ACCFC will begin meeting at the Anoka County Government Center, Room 400. While there is a fee to park in the Government Center parking ramp, there is free three-hour parking at the city ramp across the street. Free one and two-hour street parking (with caution). <p>Motion by Carrie Wood and second by Connie Moore approving the 2026 meeting calendars of the Anoka County Children and Family Council and the Anoka County Children and Family Council Management Committee. Motion carried.</p>

<p><u>General Business*</u></p>	<p>2026-2027 RFP Application and Process*</p> <p>Rick acknowledged pages 18 through 35 of the agenda being the 2026-2027 RFP application, schedule, evaluation form, and attachments, noting that there are no content changes this year, only edits that will hopefully ease the process. The application process will open at the November meeting and will be posted on the ACCFC website.</p> <p>Motion by Steve Knutson and second by Connie Moore approving the Anoka County Children and Family Council 2026-2027 RFP application and process. Motion carried.</p>
<p><u>General Business*</u></p>	<p>2026 Budget*</p> <p>David Kent, Anoka County Finance, provided an overview of the 2025 / 2026 ACCFC budget information on pages 36 through 39 of the agenda, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal revenue through Quarter 3 is at \$571,000 with another roughly \$159,000 projected to come in for Quarter 4, bringing this year’s revenue to about \$700,000. The proposed \$675,000 is conservative, given multiple factors that can impact our earned revenue. • Administrative expenditures are on track at \$71,000. • Stipends and sponsorships have been quiet. • 2024 – 2025 RFP grants will be disbursed later this month once final evaluations come in. • 2025 -2026 RFP grants were disbursed at the end of August. • School site funds have been distributed. • The projected 2026 cash balance at \$1.85 million represents roughly three years of continued operations / spending at current pace should our funding change or be discontinued. • Four-year required spend down is on track to be met, with \$48,000 needing to be spent by year-end. We traditionally spend over \$600,00 each year. • Bar graph provides a visual of LCTS revenue earnings by calendar quarters from 2020 into 2025. Rick raised a brief discussion, and Dave will report back in November with details, on the 2025 Quarter 2 drop in revenue. • Overall, the ACCFC budget continues to be very healthy. <p>Motion by Connie Moore and second by Carrie Wood approving the Anoka County Children and Family Council 2026 operating budget. Motion carried.</p>
<p><u>General Business*</u></p>	<p>Jill Brown Contract*</p> <p>Rick reported that every two years the ACCFC Council reviews contracts for Jill Brown, in support of her work with the ACES/Community Resiliency Efforts, administrative support, and public relations. We are grateful for Jill’s constant support, willingness to assist, connections, and the historical big picture Jill provides.</p> <p>The total contracted amounts for 2026 remain at \$11,319 for administrative work and \$25,000 for ACES. While the contract details are still being finalized by the Anoka County Attorney’s Office, we are seeking approval from the ACCFC today for the Management Committee to act on behalf of the ACCFC in finalizing Jill’s contract renewal.</p> <p>Motion by Carrie Wood and second by Steve Knutson approving Management Committee review and approval of a 2026 contract renewal with Jill Brown. Motion carried.</p> <p>Congratulations to Jill and thank you for your work and dedication to the ACCFC and its ACES/community resilience efforts.</p>
<p><u>Informational</u></p>	<p>Management Committee Report</p> <p>Rick reported the Management committee continues to discuss council needs between ACCFC meetings and approve items as needed. At the last meeting, the council approved a \$5,000 sponsorship application to Alexandra House’s Hope Fest, coming up on September 27th. We look forward to hearing about its success. With the sponsorship, Alexandra House has offered the ACCFC</p>

20 free tickets to the event. Please connect with Kelsey with your interest in free tickets – either for yourself or others to whom you’d like to offer free tickets.

Informational

Coordinator Update, Kelsey Fuglsby

- Kelsey reported on her thoughts that school staff turnover may be creating / contributing to the fluctuation that is occurring in LCTS participation. She and Dave are working on a plan to make LCTS participation as easy as possible for each school.
- Kelsey and Jill’s top priority right now is working to ensure the November 13th meeting / executive luncheon will be engaging and impactful with much conversation and group decision making. Please ensure your attendance.
- In preparation for the November meeting, Kelsey has prepared packets of ACCFC background information, i.e., bylaws, 2018 strategic plan, basic council structure, available for voting members to take with them when leaving today. Will be helpful to review prior to the November meeting.

Informational

Community Asset Funds (CAF)

Mental Health Community Asset Fund (CAF) / Sonali Gore

Early Childhood Mental Health Committee (ECMH):

- On Saturday, April 26, ECMH partnered with the Child Abuse and Prevention Council to host our annual Spring Family Wellness event at the Coon Rapids YMCA, featuring the Teddy Bear Band, Anoka Kindness Rock Garden, and a family yoga session.
- Two additional events hosted:
 - *Overcoming School Avoidance: A presentation addressing anxiety and school refusal/avoidance.*
 - A resource fair attended by 34 families with 55 total children in attendance.
- We are planning a virtual training for November 6th from noon to 1:30. Marissa Marx from Conscious Healing will present ***Can You Break the Parenting Cycle Without Breaking Yourself? Raising Emotionally Healthy Kids Without Losing It.***

Gaps in Services and training (GIST) Committee:

- GIST coordinated a County Services 101 Virtual training in March. LTSS, Corrections, Adult Mental Health, Children’s Mental Health, and Housing presented information about their service offerings.
- Hosting our annual Appreciation Breakfast for social workers, other helping professionals, and support staff from various school districts in Anoka County including Anoka-Hennepin Schools. Event will include breakfast, a resource fair, and a presentation on ***Sustainable Wellness: Practical Tools for Helping Professionals*** by Dr. Jennifer Londgren, LMFT, NCC, BC-TMH. The venue will be Anoka Ramsey Community College - Legacy Room, Coon Rapids.

Immigrant and Refugee Community Asset Fund (CAF) / Holly Haney

- Since last meeting we have had three major events or partnerships.
- We partnered with Faith Lutheran Church for our June Resource Fair, held at the church here in Blaine, with 25 vendors participating. The church space is lovely, and the staff are so kind. Kids were fitted for and given bike helmets.
- Replicated in August for our Back-to-School Resource Fair, providing backpacks and school supplies. Same 25 vendors. Gave out 100 backpacks and school supplies. The remaining 100 backpacks were given to partner school districts, as we had purchased 200.
- We hosted an ice cream social with the City of Hilltop in June, presented information, provided school supplies, and gave fitted bike helmets to the kids.
- Partnered with Anoka-Hennepin on hosting a multilingual night. Provided education. Fitted kids with bike helmets at this event as well.
- Currently, and in partnership with Metro North Adult Basic Education, working on a New American Academy, which is a series of classes that provide a basic cultural orientation for individuals and families new to the United States, i.e., the English language, the law is on your side, how to stay safe and prevent fires, and more. Scheduled to begin this fall.

Community Resilience Planning

Kelsey reported she and Jill will be creating a dashboard that will collect data to help the ACCFC identify needs for building resiliency. Data collection will also help us stay in touch with what is happening in the community. We are just beginning and will be meeting next week with Wilder Research for more aligned measuring and research on this initiative. We are excited.

- **Sharing and Updates**

- **Closing**

A **Save-the-Date** reminder from Rick for our ...

Next Meeting

Anoka County Children and Family Council

Combined Executive Luncheon

Thursday, November 13, 2025 / 11:45 a.m.

Curler's Lounge, Fogerty Arena, Blaine

