



Agenda for MN Community and Family Resource Network Fall Gathering 2026

Sourcewell, 202 12th St NE, Staples, MN 56479

Track designations



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Funding



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Leadership



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Operations



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Opportunity



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Data and evaluation

Tuesday September 29

12:30 - 1pm	Registration	Entrance Reception Area
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(lunch on your own)

1 - 1:15 pm	Welcome and Opening	Rooms 1 & 2
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Craig Sweet, Program Manager, and Sarah Laulunen & Janet Goligowski, Fall Gathering Chairs

1:15 - 2:45 pm	Keynote	Rooms 1 & 2
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Be the Difference
Gaelin Elmore

2:45 - 3 pm Break

3 - 4:30 pm Breakout Session 1



Collaborating with Community: Working with your Business and Community Leaders

Rooms 1 & 2

Brian Myres and Jim Steve, Greater St. Cloud Safety Foundation



Beyond the Gut: Why Data Beats Perception Every Time

Rooms 3 & 4

Sarah Laulunen and Lisa Perkovich, Consulting Perks



The Story of Family Advisory Boards in St. Louis County

Rooms 5 & 6

Erik Mattson and Ruthie Grimmer-Tejador, St. Louis County/LSS FRCs

4:30 - 6 pm Free time for hotel registration and networking

6 - 7:30 pm Awards Banquet

Rooms 1 & 2

Wednesday September 30

8 - 8:30 am Continental Breakfast

Rooms 1 & 2

8:15 - 8:30 am Opening Remarks

Rooms 1 & 2

8:30 - 9:45 am Keynote

Rooms 1 & 2

Navigating with Purpose: Letting Standards of Quality Guide the Way

Connie Dunlap, Thriving Wisconsin; Marla Butler, FRC St. Croix Valley

9:45 - 10 am Break

10 - 11 am

Breakout Session 2



Being Community Driven: Moving Beyond Service Delivery to Community Partnership

Rooms 1 & 2

Connie Dunlap, Thriving Wisconsin; Marla Butler, FRC St. Croix Valley



Transition from County to Non-profit

Rooms 3 & 4

Jodi Heurung-Dick, Sherburne County Human Services; Julie Schultz, Main Street Family Services; Maureen Hams, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.



Supporting Kinship Caregivers: Specialized Navigation Within Family Resource Centers

Rooms 5 & 6

Nichole Taylor, DCYF; Kelli DeCook, Family Service Rochester

11 - 11:15 am

Break

11:15 - 12:15 pm Breakout Session 3



Statewide Resources

Rooms 1 & 2

Bridge to Benefits, Help Me Connect, Second Harvest, KFCMN



Navigating the Data River: Current Data Collection Opportunities and Future Horizons

Rooms 3 & 4

Monica Idzelis Rothe and Bunchung Ly, Wilder Research



Building Resilience: Sustaining Hope, Capacity, and Well-Being in Family-Centered Work

Rooms 5 & 6

Dana Butler, Embrace Mental Health

12:15 - 1:15 pm

Lunch

1:15 - 2:30 pm

Breakout Session 4



FRC Mobile Units: Strategies to Make Your Work Accessible

Rooms 1 & 2

Erik Mattson and Kelly Bright, LSS FRC; Beth Ueker, Wright County Community Action; Steph Schenk, Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership



Sustainability: Options and Examples of Braiding Funding to Sustain the Magic of FRC's

Rooms 3 & 4

Angie Thies, AMC; Commissioner Kurt Mortenson, Otter Tail County; Liz Kuoppola, MAHABE-OTWA; Sarah Barth, DCYF



Mapping Your Community: Exploring Local Data Trends with MN Compass

Rooms 5 & 6

Allison Liuzzi, MN Compass, Wilder Foundation

2:30 - 2:45 pm Break

2:45 - 4 pm Large Group Activity

Rooms 1 & 2

River Rapids Team Challenge

Michelle Selinger, Carver County Human Services; Brenda Mahoney, Wilder Research/AMC

4 - 4:30 pm Wrap-up Session

Rooms 1 & 2

Our sponsors



2026 Post-Gathering Evaluation Form



Thank you for attending the MNCFRN Annual Gathering! Your feedback is essential in helping us plan meaningful and effective events in the future. Please help fill out this survey by scanning this QR code. It should only take 5 minutes or less to complete.