



Disability Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2025, 3 P.M. – 5 P.M.

Location: Dakota County Western Service Center, Room 106
14955 Galaxy Avenue, Apple Valley, MN, 55124

Attendance

Council Member	Representing	Attended
Linda Bailey	Lived experience	x
Aiden Kilgannon	Lived experience	x
Amy Hunting	Lived experience	x
Sumukha Terakanambi	Lived experience	x
Michael Cashman	Lived experience	
David Shaw	Lived experience	x
Eva Johnson	Family member	x
Stephanie Thomas	Family member	x
Alison Niemi	Family member	x
Susan Pagnac	Service provider	
Ann Bailey	Service provider	
Jodi Yanda	Service provider	
Mike Welsh	Service provider	x
Toby Hearn	Service provider	x
Michael Dahl	Service provider	
Bilan Arab	Faith community	
Sheila Hawthorne	Housing	x

Dakota County Staff in Attendance

Sky Jarvi, Dakota County Inclusion Diversity Equity Access (IDEA) Manager

Jessica Johnson, Dakota County Administrative Coordinator to the County Manager

Kailee Heinen, Dakota County Administrative Services Assistant to the County Manager

Jessie Carlson, Dakota County Central Operations Division Deputy Director

Megan Zeilinger, Program Coordinator, Dakota County Social Services

DeAnn Prouty, Program Coordinator, Dakota County Social Services

Madaline Kastler, Social Services Deputy Director

Mary Woodard, Deputy Director Social Services

Others in Attendance

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Agenda

- Amy motioned and Toby 2nd

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Linda motioned and Sheila 2nd

IV. Council Business

- Group Guides
 - Group guides are in the packet for today's meeting as a reminder for maintaining civil discussions during the meetings.
- Final Bylaws
 - The County Board have approved them and have been finalized. The new bylaws have been updated to the approved bylaws.

V. Presentations

- Communities for All Update: Presentation by DeAnn Prouty
 - The Communities For All work will end in June. Dakota County initiative for Disability Inclusion. Trying to remove barriers with accessibility. Communities For All follow these strategies- Change Attitudes, Inclusive Programming, and Accessible. Wanting to empower people with disabilities to fully engage in the community life is important in what they want to accomplish with their work.
 - Started to recruit, develop, and implement the training, education, and outreach programs. Wanting to build interest in the work they were doing. They wanted to

make sure strategies aligned with each of the partners. There are 20 different partners throughout the program- the list will be sent out of each partner and what they did. MSS outreach to hiring practices with disabilities. NAMI provided free education and resources. Overall, each of the educational partners helped reach the community. Some of the partners were both cities (Eagan- added changing stations, Farmington, South St. Paul- provided rides for community members) and schools (STEM school called Oak Ridge Elementary- allows kids to go to field trips).

- Find Love Safely is a way to meet folks safely and be a part of the community. Inclusive programs are focusing on mental health projects with spaces and buses that are accessible. There will be a book release by the Cow Tipping Press at the Dakota County Fair so stay tuned for that in August!
 - There now are mobile sensory units at the parks and libraries. These are at events and rolled out last fall in 2025. Case managers are taking the sensory units and getting good feedback from the community. People have been really utilizing these sensory units during events.
 - The Mobile Disability Inclusion Museum has 17 banners that tells a unique story. Dakota County has a copy set of this story from the Governor's Council. This banner is free of charge for any event – not just for the Dakota County community.
 - Some other highlights being made are the dentist outreach program which are trying to be more inclusive.
 - Some progress would be new and innovative ideas, positive response, embedding disability. Some barriers are, having a short timeline of only 2 years to make an impact, engaging businesses, budget constraints (working with what they had), and current climate/impact of state and local events with the events happening in today's world.
 - Discussion time: Letter of interest is sent out to people who know about inclusion. The Workforce Shortage Grant was used for the funding of this program. Dakota County was the only one in the state that got this grant to make a change in the community. Each project has their own outcomes. This work that was done over the past two years is limited because the project was time limited because of funding. Some of the cities are continuing the work on their own expense.
 - You can reach the links from the slideshow on the Dakota County website and Communities For All has a section on the site.
- Homelessness and Housing Instability in Dakota County: Presentation by Madeline Kastler
 - The presentation was opened up with a discussion on perception about homelessness, who is impacted, and factors leading to instability. People have expressed of how important it is and how it is getting harder for people to survive with the high bills, and higher costs of living.
 - The Wilder Group does a survey every few years that shows how many people have a sever or chronic disability which was 80% and Dakota County's number is 86%.

- The population of Dakota County is 453,000. Race is a factor in homelessness. A quarter of Dakota County Cost Burden is 30% of their income paying for their housing costs. Rental costs have gone way up since 2015.
- West St. Paul is the highest of households that hold a burdened by housing costs. The eviction filing is highest in Burnsville. Eagan and Burnsville have the same number of rental units and Burnsville is always double the number of evictions.
- The household median income has gone up. Salary needed for a median priced home is \$88,410 a few years ago. Whereas a salary of \$53,160 is needed for a 2-bedroom apartment a few years ago.
- The impacts are evictions, disruptions to jobs and schooling, and trading sex for places to stay. The unsheltered number spiked in 2023 because of the eviction moratorium. People with health conditions have been affected by homelessness.
- Dakota County housing work is three buckets, re-housing, homelessness prevention, and emergency shelter. Some preventions services and navigation staffing to prevent evictions and homelessness which are emergency rental assistance, housing clinics, on-site apartment services. There has been a lot of disruptive income during operation surge which affected the homelessness in Dakota County. Rental assistance has gone up from 2025 to 2026.
- Shelter services provide emergency shelter to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. In 2025, Dakota County shelters had served 272 people and 58% exited to housing.
- A video was showed that had actual community members that experienced homelessness which showcased their gratitude toward the county's help.
- Discussion: There are links in the slideshow that are resources to be used. There is family shelter, hoteling for families, two additional hoteling programing 18-24 years old and single adult's hotel program. Overall, Dakota County has about 40 shelters/rooms/spaces, there are no wait lists. There were a lot of services who used the funds properly. 32 individuals are impacted from the fraud check. Housing units are limited in buildings of rent. There are some accessible units within the community that homeless shelters offer. If there is not an open accessible room available at one hotel then the county can look at other options that are available.

VI. County Updates (Dakota County Staff)

- Social Meida campaign to recruit more members on the social media accounts.
- Lake Byllesby Regional park will have an adult changing station and installing a birding structure and are ensuring accessibility to all.
- The June meeting is in the room across the normal meeting spot.

VII. Council Member Announcements/Updates

VIII. Adjourn

- Toby motion and Amy 2nd

Decisions Made

- Decision: Approval of Agenda
- Decision: Approval of February 11, 2026, meeting minutes.
- Decision: Adjourn
- Decision:

Action Items

- Action:
- Action:
- Action:
- Action:
- Action:

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Location: Dakota County Western Service Center, Apple Valley, MN

Minutes Prepared by: Kailee Heinen

Date: 4/8/2026