



Disability Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 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	
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	
Susan Pagnac	Service provider	
Ann Bailey	Service provider	x
Jodi Yanda	Service provider	x
Mike Welsh	Service provider	
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

Lil Leatham, Principal Planner

Teresa Mitchell, Public Services & Revenue Deputy Director

Darren Tobolt, External Relations Coordinator

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Agenda

- Amy Hunting motioned and David Shaw 2nd

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Toby Hearn motioned and Eva Johnson 2nd

IV. Council Business

- Membership and new appointments
 - Renewal of appointments will be presented on the June 23rd Board meeting for approval.
 - We have 5-6 applications for potential new members. We are still looking for members. Lived experience is primarily what we are looking for, for new memberships.

V. Presentations

- Public Art Blueprint Project Presentation by: Lil Leatham (Principal Planner) and Teresa Mitchell (Deputy Director PS&R)
 - Public art is permanent or temporary elements of a public place, designed by an artist or artist team. This project started in fall of 2025 and will wrap up this coming fall 2026. Public art and portable works are representing a range of work from sculptures, murals, mosaics, and reliefs. Most of the art themes represent the county's history or nature. The main themes are vibrant memorable designs and

nature-connected art. People should see the art in their everyday lives and not just in a museum. The vision and mission of the guiding principles are based off of what the impact of public art have in Dakota County. Dakota County wants to support local artists and have functional elements and furnishings that county members can enjoy.

- To name a few current projects that are happening are the Wentworth Library and Unity Trail Mosaic Art Bench Project. There is a student art contest that happens each year that is a huge hit. There are 5 parks that have the opportunity for improvements. There are parks and greenways that are partnering with the zoo. The library has art renovations as well. These improvements are for the county buildings to make them more inviting to the public. Functional elements of art are important as well. Such as habitats and bird window treatments.
- Discussion Time:
 - Art can be enjoyed with more than one sense, like doing a sensory piece. Fresh Eye Arts work with disabled artists. People with mobility disabilities would like to still engage in the art just like a person who does not have mobility issues. People want to see art where you least expect it. Using all senses- not just visual. Transportation center could use some art and maybe Dakota County could partner with them in the future. Make benches interactive for all. Using technology to bring in the younger people could be a unique experience. The musical instruments in Hastings by the park is great and all ages like it. Incorporating brail in art pieces. Interactivity of featuring SMS or highlighting an artist who has disability. Minnesota of Autism, Down Syndrome Association, Fresh Eye Arts, Alzheimer's association, and ARC are all great organizations to reach out to. Helping the artists and getting their voices heard in a variety of ways.
 - Later this summer the art plan will be out for the public to look at.
- Legislative Update Presentation by: Darren Tobolt (External Relations Coordinator)
 - Successful work at the capital that created a deeper look at what is needed.
 - Modernization was a big priority for the county. The system has been outdated for a few years now. There will be a committee with county representations on direction and future recommendations- integration layer between MN Benefits and MAXIS (eligibility for MA), overlays to replace the green screens, and AI assistant to policy manuals. They are trying to improve the work people are doing like upgrading the outdated systems. Artificial Intelligence should not have important private information.
 - SNAP- Got through the session but needed to come back to it because if the budget impacts. Got some money to help with the cost shifts. SNAP cuts are going to happen. The state gave some money to the counties for SNAP but not nearly as much as the past. Multiple studies will be done to assess the roles and responsibilities in administering the human services programs and recommend

improvements. These studies will have an outside vendor to look at this. More studies will happen about for the waiver case management advisory working group, HCBS waiver case management rate study, integrated community supports reform study, and MnCHOICES redesign working group.

- Discussion- SNAP was cut in MN but we are trying to push through. Capturing personal experience is what we need to tell during legislative time. The DHS innovation grants were cut, and the county has used them for many years to help the county members. Members talked about how important these funds are to them to help them with their daily life with the providers they are using. This cut, because of fraud, is making it hard for people with disabilities.
- Disability Services Presentation by: Katherine Kreager-Pieper and Mary Woodard (Social Services Deputy Directors)
 - People are seeking their programs they go through an intake with MnCHOICES initially. They have an internal and contracted case management and lastly a reassessment team. They all work together to help the members of the county.
 - Their goal in the program is integrity for the county because of the fraud. They need to partake in this program to ensure that the services and funding will keep coming from the government. Optum has an analytical program to go through each claim to avoid fraud which needs to happen within 90 days. The county receives reports of accounts being on hold and how to move forward. Providers are getting stressed because they are not getting their normal funds for the service they are providing. Their claims have slowed down. The state is doing the investigations of fraud. 21 providers and 120 individuals were all impacted in Dakota County. The investigations are overall lengthy. The state disenrolled providers. About 5,600 providers had to do this within 5 months for the revalidation process. There were additional paperwork and requirements to get through this process. There were about 5,800 providers. 2,100 providers made it through the validation process. 3,400 disenrolled. Providers can apply for an appeal process that is required. DHS will directly send notices like a list of providers and people who need a new provider, but they are late with this. A case manager will reach out to you if you are working with a provider. Overall, the process has been very long and hard for providers. The whole process was given only 5 months for Minnesota, and other states were giving 2 years. There has been a lot of backlogs which has been leading to major issues. Backlogs lead to people waiting and not getting services. Dakota County has lost some agencies and has gained some in case management. There is a plan to move forward with this. A full day event is happening on September 29th 2026, and they would love to have a participant of this group join that day. More details to come for that event.

VI. County Updates (Dakota County Staff)

VII. Council Member Announcements/Updates

VIII. Adjourn

Decisions Made

- Decision: Approval of Agenda
- Decision: Approval of April 10, 2026, meeting minutes.
- Decision: Adjourn

Action Items

- Action: Jessica Johnson will send out a link and slides to the Disability Services presentation

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Dakota County Western Service Center, Apple Valley, MN

Minutes Prepared by: Kailee Heinen

Date: 6/10/2026