



## Adult Mental Health Local Advisory Committee

### 2026 Report to the Board of Commissioners

#### Updates

The Dakota County Adult Local Advisory Committee (LAC) continues to meet monthly at the Guild Community Support Program. The LAC consists of those with lived experience, family members, Dakota County Social Services, Dakota County Public Health, Community Providers and advocacy agencies. This year the committee has created a work plan. The plan focuses on key areas: Review of Adult Mental Health Initiatives (AMHI) and budgets, increasing membership through website and social media presences, communication about a wide range of resources available to residents, and input on a variety of mental health projects and programs.

#### What is working

- Crisis and Recovery Center—continues to be a value add to the community to have trauma informed care in the community that is accessible.
- Mental health continuum as a whole—this includes everything from embedded social workers in the police departments and the availability of emergency psychiatry appointments. Dakota County has services and supports for the vast mental health needs across the county.
- The two Community Support Programs provide a safe and supportive environment for those with a serious mental health diagnosis.
- Implementation of the new Medical Health Record for Crisis and the Jail Treatment Program.

#### Gaps and Barriers

- Looking forward to the new website design that includes easy to navigate mental health supports and services.
- There is still long waitlist for psychiatry providers and inpatient bed shortages across the state.
- Continued barriers for safe affordable housing options for those on a fixed income.
- Culturally specific mental health providers, specifically, Spanish speaking case managers.
- Regular mental health resources in the County Newsletter.