



Dakota County

Community Services Committee of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

1:00 PM

Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Slavik, Commissioner Atkins, Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman and Commissioner Holberg

Absent: Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Also in attendance were Heidi Welsch, County Manager; Lucie O'Neill, Assistant County Attorney; Gil Acevedo, Assistant County Manager, Community Services; Marti Fischbach, Assistant County Manager, Community Services; and Colleen Collette, Administrative Coordinator.

2. Audience

Chair, Commissioner Mike Slavik, asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address the Community Services Committee on an item not on the agenda or an item on the consent agenda. No one came forward and no comments were submitted to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us.

3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Laurie Halverson

On a motion by Commissioner Atkins, seconded by Commissioner Halverson, the agenda was unanimously approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Ayes: 6

4. Consent Agenda

Motion: Liz Workman

Second: William Droste

On a motion by Commissioner Workman, seconded by Commissioner Droste, the consent agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on April 14, 2026

5. Regular Agenda

5.1 Receive Reports From Dakota County's Local Advisory Councils For Mental Health

Suzanne Tuttle, Deputy Director, Social Services - Children and Family Services along with Chris Thole, Children's Local Advisory Council Chair and Bella

Carls-Rehovsky, Local Advisory Council Youth Member, presented on this item and stood for questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only; no staff direction was given.

Information only; no action requested.

5.2 Update On Mental Health Promotion And Proclamation Of May As Mental Health Month

Motion: Laurie Halverson

Second: Joe Atkins

Alex Groten, Public Health Supervisor, and Natalie Vasilj, Public Health Program Coordinator, presented on this item and stood for questions.

WHEREAS, May is National Mental Health Month; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Center for Disease Control:

- One in five United States (U.S.) adults experience mental illness
- One in twenty U.S. adults experience serious mental illness
- 50 percent of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75 percent by age 24
- In 2025, 1 in 5 employees in the U.S. reported experiencing burnout, with mental health problems being one of the key contributors
- 1 in 5 children aged 3-17 in the U.S. have a mental health condition, with ADHD, anxiety, and depression being the most common diagnoses

; and

WHEREAS, mental health is an important determinant of overall health and well-being for individuals; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic, along with compounding community trauma, continues to have a significant impact on adult and child mental health, particularly for people with pre-existing mental illness and Substance Use Disorder (SUD), and for communities of color; and

WHEREAS, many residents are struggling with the long-term impacts of illness, loss of loved ones, social isolation, job loss, changes in routines, racism or other forms of discrimination, and community trauma, resulting in many who are experiencing unprecedented levels of fear, anxiety, and stress; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County has maintained a focus on connecting people to community mental health and SUD services, promoting mental health messaging and initiatives, addressing service needs and gaps through community partnerships, training, and engaging the perspective and voice of people with lived experience; and

WHEREAS, this includes providing community members with practical tools they can use to improve their mental health and increase resiliency; and

WHEREAS, prevention is an effective strategy to reduce the impact of mental health conditions and, with effective treatment, those individuals with mental health conditions can recover and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County has a network of mental health services and initiatives that provide mental health support and promote mental health awareness and education; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County staff, in partnership with other organizations, are committed to building public awareness and addressing stigma as important steps in supporting people to access treatment and support; and

WHEREAS, promoting mental health and awareness of resources and support is especially important given the impacts of the pandemic and community trauma on mental health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends that the Dakota County Board of Commissioners proclaim May as Mental Health Month in Dakota County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims May 2026 as Mental Health Month in Dakota County and supports efforts to promote mental health awareness, training, education, and access to information, services, and supports to serve the mental health needs of the citizens of Dakota County.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 5/19/2026.

Ayes: 6

6. Assistant County Managers' Report

Marti Fischbach, Assistant County Manager, Community Services, referred the Committee to the written report that was provided. She made note of three items: the article on Modernization, the article that Employment & Economic Assistance will undergo compliance monitoring, and the Public Health Annual Report.

7. Future Agenda Items

Chair, Commissioner Mike Slavik, asked the Committee if anyone had a topic they would like to hear more about at an upcoming Community Services Committee of the Whole meeting. No topics were brought forth.

8. Adjournment

8.1 Adjournment

Motion: Liz Workman

Second: William Droste

On a motion by Commissioner Liz Workman, seconded by Commissioner William Droste, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Collette, Administrative Coordinator
Community Services Division

DRAFT