



Dakota County

Community Services Committee of the Whole

Agenda

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

1:00 PM

Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings

If you wish to speak to an agenda item or an item not on the agenda, please notify the Clerk to the Board via email at CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us
Commissioners may participate in the meeting by interactive technology.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Note: Any action taken by this Committee of the Whole constitutes a recommendation to the County Board.

2. Audience

Anyone in the audience wishing to address the Committee on an item not on the Agenda or an item on the Consent Agenda may send comments to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us and instructions will be given to participate during the meeting. Verbal comments are limited to five minutes.

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

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

4. Consent Agenda

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

5. Regular Agenda

5.1 *Social Services-Adult Services* - Receive Reports From Dakota County's Local Advisory Councils For Mental Health

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

6. Assistant County Managers' Report

7. Future Agenda Items

8. Adjournment

8.1 Adjournment

For more information please call 651-554-5742.

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Public Comment can be sent to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us**



Community Services Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5606

Agenda #: 3.1

Meeting Date: 5/12/2026

Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)



Community Services Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5607

Agenda #: 4.1

Meeting Date: 5/12/2026

Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on April 14, 2026



Dakota County

Community Services Committee of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 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, Commissioner Holberg and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by the Chair, Commissioner Mike Slavik.

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: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Laurie Halverson

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

Ayes: 7

4. Consent Agenda

Motion: Laurie Halverson

Second: Joe Atkins

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

4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on March 10, 2026

5. Regular Agenda

5.1 Update On Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program And Medicaid

Dana DeMaster, Employment and Economic Assistance Director, presented on this item and stood for questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only. No staff direction was given by the Committee.

Information only; no action requested.

5.2 Update On Community Health And Access

Gina Pistulka, Public Health Director, and Erin Carder, Public Health Deputy Director, presented on this item and stood for questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only. No staff direction was given by the Committee.

Information only; no action requested.

5.3 Emergency Preparedness Update

Lla Roberts, Public Health Supervisor, presented on this item and stood for questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only. No staff direction was given by the Committee.

Information only; no action requested.

6. Assistant County Managers' Report

Gil Acevedo, Assistant County Manager, Community Services, referred the Committee to the written report that was provided. He made note of The Open Door article which states how much food has been distributed the past three months at the monthly pop-up food pantry at the Northern Service Center. And, he mentioned the PowerPoint document at the end of the report, which outlines the impacts of the budget cuts for 2026.

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: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Joe Atkins

On a motion by Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner Joe Atkins, the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Collette, Administrative Coordinator
Community Services Division



Community Services Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5548

Agenda #: 5.1

Meeting Date: 5/12/2026

DEPARTMENT: Social Services-Children & Family Services

FILE TYPE: Regular Information

TITLE

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

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Receive reports from Dakota County’s Local Advisory Councils (LACs) for mental health.

SUMMARY

Mental health is an important determinant of overall health and well-being for individuals. Dakota County has a focus on connecting people to community mental health services, promoting mental health messaging and initiatives, addressing service needs and gaps through community partnerships, and engaging the perspective and voice of people with lived experience.

Under Minnesota Stats. § 245.466 and 245.4875, county boards are responsible to coordinate and develop a system of locally available mental health services. Dakota County’s Adult and Child LACs meet the county’s responsibility under Minnesota Stat. § 245.466, Subd. 5. and Minnesota Stat. § 245.4875, Subd. 5. to have an adult and children’s mental health advisory council made up of members who represent a broad range of perspectives. LACs meet to review, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding the local mental health system. Annually, the LACs provide the county board with a report of mental health system needs and gaps, with the Child LAC presenting on even years and the Adult LAC presenting on odd years.

Members of Dakota County’s Children’s LAC will share their annual report in person. The Dakota County Adult LAC has a one-page attachment as an update (Attachment: 2026 AMH LAC Update).

RECOMMENDATION

Information only; no action requested.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

- None
- Current budget
- Other
- Amendment Requested
- New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

Information only; no action requested.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: 2026 AMH LAC Update

Attachment: Presentation Slides

BOARD GOALS

- Thriving People
- A Healthy Environment with Quality Natural Resources
- A Successful Place for Business and Jobs
- Excellence in Public Service

CONTACTS

Department Head: Nikki Conway

Author: Suzanne Tuttle



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.



Children Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC) May 12, 2026

Suzanne Tuttle, Deputy Director, Children & Family Services
Chris Thole, Children's LAC Chair
Bella Carls-Rehovsky, LAC Youth Member

Agenda



**STATUTORY
REQUIREMENTS**



MEMBERSHIP



**SYSTEM
STRENGTHS**



**UNMET NEEDS &
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Minn. Stat. 245.4875, Subd. 5. (a) and (c)

- *“...the county board...shall establish a local children’s mental health advisory council...”*
- *“The county board shall consider the advice of its local children's mental health advisory council...in carrying out its authorities and responsibilities.”*

Current membership:

- Parents
- Dakota County Children's Mental Health Supervisors
- Prior Consumers of Children's Mental Health Services
- School Professionals
- Mental Health Professionals
- Youth Members
- Dakota County Public Health & Juvenile Corrections
- Representatives from Family Community Support Services

System Strengths



Addition of three in-home therapists to Children and Family Services staff



County website updates improved accessibility



Children's Mental Health brochures now available in Somali and Spanish



Unmet Need

Youth voice in determining service needs and delivery



Recommendation

Prioritize youth perspective in developing systems and services (e.g., Youth Advisory Committee)



Unmet Need

Increased system capacity for trauma care in response to public events



Recommendation

Provide immediate mental health support for children, youth and caregivers that acknowledges the impact of current events



Unmet Need

Culturally-based services that utilize cultural providers and approaches



Recommendation

Identify and enlist cultural providers to provide support to Dakota County's diverse communities

Thank you!



Thank you!



Community Services Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5547

Agenda #: 5.2

Meeting Date: 5/12/2026

DEPARTMENT: Public Health

FILE TYPE: Regular Action

TITLE

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

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Receive an update on mental health promotion and proclaim May as Mental Health Month in Dakota County.

SUMMARY

May is National Mental Health Month. 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 in their lifetime
- One in twenty U.S. adults experience serious mental illness in their lifetime
- 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

Mental health is an important determinant of overall health and well-being for individuals. 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. 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 related to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). As a result, many are experiencing unprecedented levels of fear, anxiety, and stress.

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. This includes providing community members with practical tools they can use to improve their mental health and increase resiliency. 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.

Dakota County has a network of mental health services and initiatives that provide mental health

support and promote mental health awareness and education. 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. 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.

Staff will provide an update on mental health services, resources, and initiatives, including initiatives focused on awareness, education, prevention, and early intervention.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Dakota County Board of Commissioners proclaim May as Mental Health Month in Dakota County and support efforts to promote mental health awareness, trauma-informed training, education, and access to services and supports to serve the mental health needs of the residents of Dakota County.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

None.

RESOLUTION

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.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Presentation Slides

BOARD GOALS

- Thriving People A Healthy Environment with Quality Natural Resources
- A Successful Place for Business and Jobs Excellence in Public Service

CONTACTS

Department Head: Gina Pistulka

Author: Alex Groten



Mental Health Awareness Month Public Health Report May 2026

Natalie Vasilj, Public Health Program Coordinator
Alex Groten, Public Health Supervisor

Current Data related to Mental Health

Public Health's Response

Project Spotlights

- Youth Wellbeing Network
- Access to Care Crisis Continuum Workgroup
- CredibleMind

Request to adopt the Mental Health Proclamation

Dakota County Mental Health Data

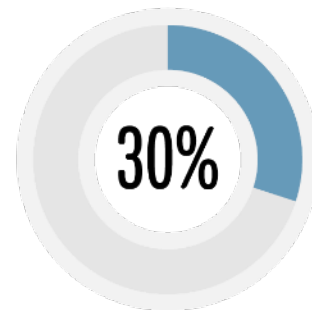


60 Suicides in
Dakota County
residents (2024)

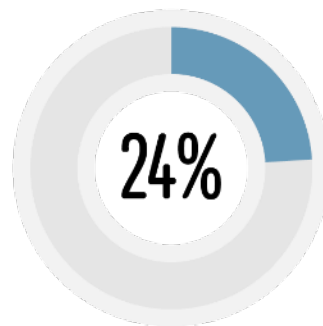
The suicide rate is higher
for males than females.

↑ The rate increased
from 2020 to 2024.

The Dakota County
rate was lower than
the state for 2024. ↓

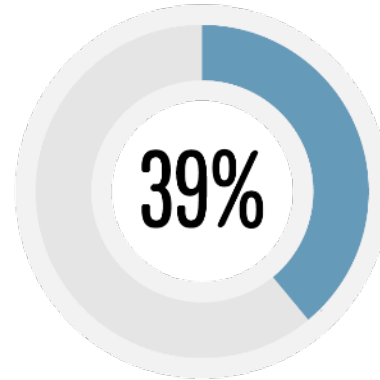


▶ Dakota County adults
(25 and older) reported
having ever been told
they have anxiety (2023)
An increase from 19 percent
in 2014.

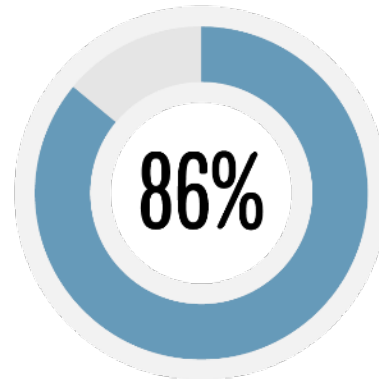


▶ Dakota County adults
(25 and older) reported
having ever been told they
have depression (2023)
An increase from 20 percent
in 2014

Mental Health Data Continued



▶ **Dakota County 5th graders agreed that they worry a lot**
Similar to the state (2025)



▶ **Dakota County students reported that they can talk to their parent or guardian about the problems they are having** (2025)

Population Focused Efforts:

- Statewide Health Improvement Partnership grant
- Opioid Settlement Response
- Youth Wellbeing Network
- Cannabis and Substance Use Prevention grant
- Health Promotion Team initiatives

Client-Facing Services:

- Providing resources and support
- Mothers and Babies program
- Screenings/Referrals
- Family Home Visiting, Women, Infants and Children, and Community Health Workers

Community Health Improvement Plan: Mental Health & Substance Use Pathway



GOAL: Strengthen prevention, early intervention, crisis response, and recovery supports for mental health substance misuse.

Strategies:

- Advance prevention efforts through mental health literacy, substance use education, stigma reduction campaigns, and youth protective factor strategies.
- Enhance the Access to Care Crisis Continuum through coordinated cross-sector partnerships that improve patient outcomes and provider well-being.
- Use data and learning efforts to support evidence-informed action across the Mental Health and Substance Use Pathway.
- Build trauma-informed systems and organizations to improve access, build trust, and reduce disparities in mental health and substance use care.

Project Spotlights



Listening Sessions

- Sept. 9, 2025, Diamondhead Ed. Ctr.
 - *Young Adults*
- Sept. 17, 2025, Diamondhead Ed. Ctr.
 - *Parents/Caregivers of Youth*
- Nov. 6, 2025, Inver Hills C.C.
 - *Young Adults*

Wilder “Data Party”

- Feb. 11, 2026, Robert Trail Library





Mental Health



What the Data Show

- Schools are the #1 place youth access mental health care
- Young people seem less able to tolerate stress
- Girls are more likely than boys to feel anxious or depressed
- Many 11th graders are not getting enough sleep
- More youth are willing to ask for help than ever before



Recommendations

- Expand school-based mental health services
- Deliver Mental Health First Aid training for adults
- Educate youth on the importance of sleep
- Implement the Make It OK Ambassador program
- Share info via bathroom stall posters in schools & colleges



Individual Factors



What the Data Show

- Young adults are stressed about money and transitioning to adult life
- Social media is a major challenge
- Protective factors are improving overall
- Emerging concerns: AI use, ICE enforcement, and safety-related stressors



Recommendations

- Address root causes of financial stress for young adults
- Provide education on digital well-being and screen time
- Teach youth to identify trusted sources of information
- Increase access to mental health services
- Launch 'peer champion' programs for youth support
- Help schools use survey data to drive programming

Family, Peer, School, and Community Factors



Family Factors



What the Data Show

- Immigrant and refugee families have unique needs not fully captured in surveys
- Maintaining strong family relationships is a key protective factor
- Many 8th graders lack strong teacher connections
- Youth feel safer in their neighborhoods than at school



Recommendations

- Build early support for first-generation and refugee families
- Support families alongside students — not students alone
- Professional development for school staff on building caring relationships
- Empower youth how to support and refer friends to resources, have hard conversations and connection points
- Conduct listening sessions with cultural communities

Access to Care: Crisis Continuum Workgroup

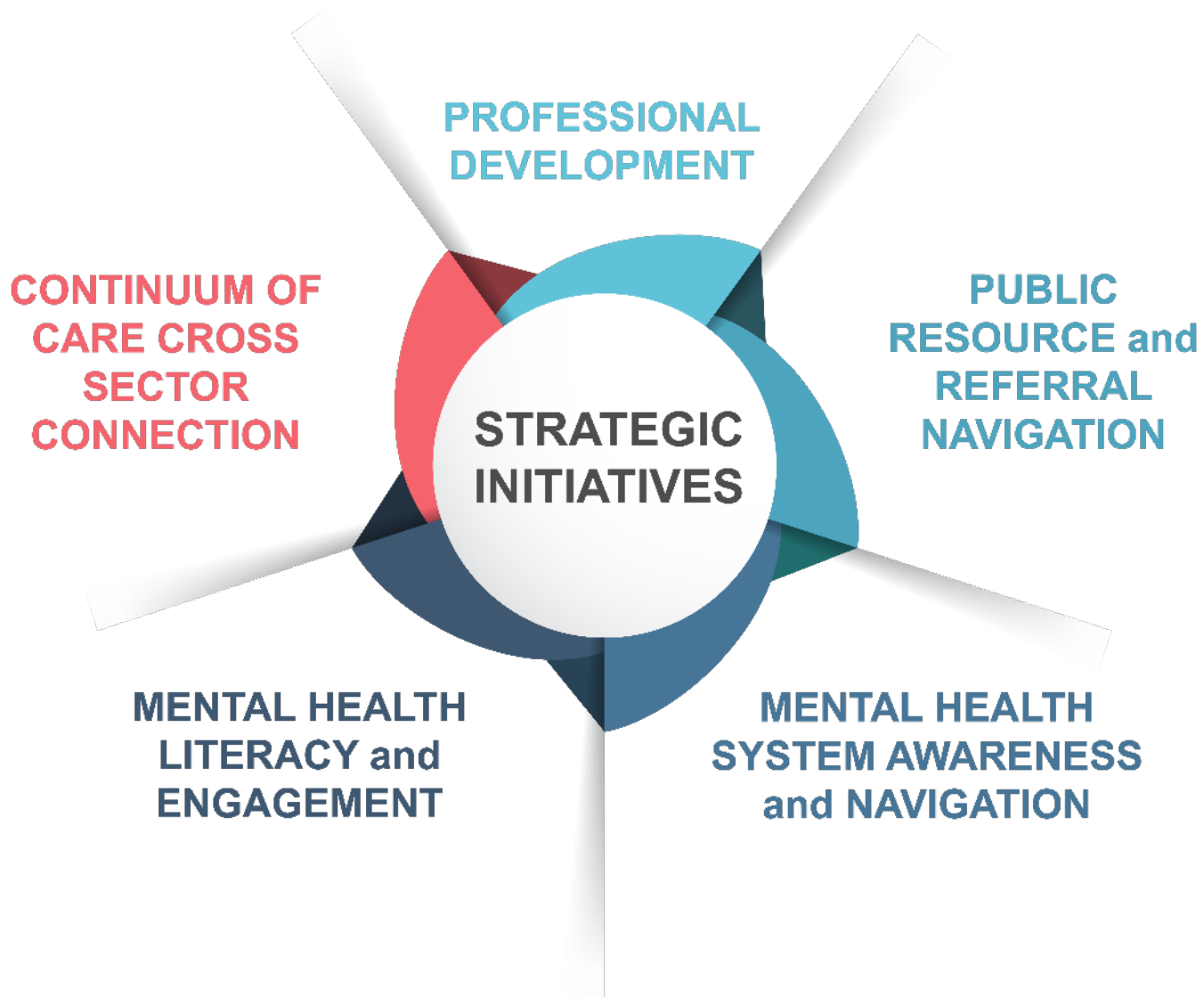


Multi-sector collaborative workgroup working to explore how can we better utilize our spheres of influence to improve staff experience and patient care within the current crisis-continuum and mental health service landscape

One year of exploration and action planning, with implementation to follow

- Five 90-minute meetings
- Prioritized attendees to keep within scope and ensure community experiences are represented

Strategy Recommendations



One-stop shop for personalized mental wellbeing resources

- Scientifically validated assessments on topics like anxiety, depression, meditation, burnout, and substance use
- Expert-reviewed apps, podcasts and books, articles and videos across mental health topics
- Tools that help you focus on building skills to thrive mentally and emotionally



1st Year of CredibleMind



- 1,726 unique users
 - 2,436 sessions
 - Yard Sign campaign
 - Ability to respond quickly: Annunciation shooting in Sept.
 - Exploring grant opportunities to extend the contract
- ✓ *Digital communication campaigns, bookmarks, yard signs, sharing with community partners and with referrals for promotion*

Staff recommends that the Dakota County Board of Commissioners proclaims May as Mental Health Month in Dakota County and continues to support efforts to promote mental health awareness, trauma-informed training, education, and access to services and supports to serve the mental health needs of the residents of Dakota County.

Thank you!



Community Services Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5608

Agenda #: 8.1

Meeting Date: 5/12/2026

Adjournment