



Dakota County

Community Services Committee of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

1:00 PM

Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Slavik, Commissioner Atkins, Chairperson 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; Marti Fischbach, Community Services Division Director; and Colleen Collette, Administrative Coordinator.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the Chair, Commissioner Laurie Halverson.

The audio of this meeting is available upon request.

2. Audience

Chair, Commissioner Laurie Halverson, 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: Liz Workman

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

Ayes: 7

4. Consent Agenda

Motion: Liz Workman

Second: Mike Slavik

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

4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on April 15, 2025

Motion: Liz Workman

Second: Mike Slavik

5. Regular Agenda

5.1 Proclamation Of May As Mental Health Month

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Joe Atkins

The following staff from Public Health presented on this item and stood for questions: Alex Groten, Supervisor; Kassy Podvin, Health Promotions Specialist; Natalie Visilj, Program Coordinator.

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 2024, 1 in 5 employees in the U.S. reported experiencing burnout, with mental health problems being one of the key contributors. (nami.org)
- 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 2025 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 5/20/2025.

Ayes: 7

5.2 Update On Medical Assistance And MnCHOICES

Tiffinie Miller-Sammons, Employment and Economic Assistance Deputy Director and Katherine Kreager-Pieper, Social Services Deputy Director, presented on this item and stood for questions.

Information only; no action requested.

6. Community Services Director's Report

Marti Fischbach, Community Services Division Director, referred the Committee to the written report that was provided. Director Fischbach also gave a brief update on lease negotiations for Emergency Shelter.

7. Future Agenda Items

The Commissioners requested a discussion at the next General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole meeting to develop a response to a letter they received from Providers of Assisted Living and Nursing Facility Services.

8. Adjournment

8.1 Adjournment

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

On a motion by Commissioner Joe Atkins, seconded by Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Collette, Administrative Coordinator
Community Services Division