



Dakota County

General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

9:30 AM

**Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings**

(or following County Board)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Workman at 9:43 a.m.

Present

Commissioner Mike Slavik
Commissioner Joe Atkins
Commissioner Laurie Halverson
Commissioner William Droste
Commissioner Liz Workman
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland

Also in attendance were Heidi Welsch, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

The audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.

2. Audience

Chair Workman noted that all public comments can be sent to
CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us

No comments were received for this agenda.

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

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mike Slavik

Ayes: 7

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioner Halverson, seconded by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, the Consent agenda was approved as follows:

4. County Administration - Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on June 24, 2025

Motion: Laurie Halverson

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

Ayes: 7

5. Central Operations

5.1 Resolution No: 25-347 Review And Approval Of Disability Advisory Council Priorities

Motion: Laurie Halverson

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 24-038 (January 23, 2024), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorized the formation of the Dakota County Disability Advisory Council (Council); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Council is:

- Providing technical expertise on issues that affect people with disabilities.
- Acting as an independent sounding board for issues, ideas, and policy matters impacting disabled individuals.
- Seeking advice from members and the public in the county decision-making processes.
- Reflect the diverse interests of county clientele and residents.
- Meet requirements of state law.
- Providing annual recommendations to the County Board of Commissioners

; and

WHEREAS, the Council convened for the first time in September 2024, and over the past several months, members have worked collaboratively to identify key focus areas to guide their efforts in advocating for people with disabilities in the county; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2025, the Council formally adopted the following four priorities, listed in order of importance as determined by the group:

- **Priority 1: Improve Access to Disability Support Services**
 - Identify challenges navigating services and other essential benefits available to residents with disabilities and disabled residents.
 - Examples: benefits programs, affordable housing, employment opportunities, public health and safety, etc.
 - Advocate to ensure these services are accessible, adequately funded, and effectively communicated to those in need.
- **Priority 2: Improve Transportation Accessibility and Safety for Individuals with Disabilities and Disabled Individuals**
 - Identify barriers to accessible public and private transportation options
 - Advocate for expanded transportation options that are affordable, reliable, and meet the diverse and intersecting needs of individuals

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- with disabilities and disabled individuals.
 - Promote inclusive design standards for streets, sidewalks, crosswalks, roundabouts, and transit stops to enhance mobility and safety.
 - Collaborate with county departments to identify and eliminate obstacles.
 - Encourage community input to ensure that the voices of individuals with disabilities and disabled individuals are considered in transportation planning and decision-making.
 - Include individuals with disabilities and disabled individuals in follow-up evaluations of projects to ensure accessibility.
 - **Priority 3: Support Public Outreach and Awareness of County Disability Initiatives**
 - Provide recommendations on effective outreach methods to inform residents about disability-related services and initiatives.
 - Advocate for the use of diverse communications channels to reach all segments of the community and recommend strategies to engage diverse and underrepresented disability communities.
 - Promote awareness of county disability programs: Act as ambassadors by sharing information with community organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders.
 - Assist in identifying community stories and testimonials that show the impact of county programs and services.
 - Recommend improvements based on public feedback to enhance the effectiveness of county outreach efforts.
 - **Priority 4: Promote Inclusive and Equitable County Services and Facilities**
 - Support the enhancement of county services and facilities to improve accessibility across physical, auditory, sensory, cognitive, technological, and communication needs, including support for service animals and interpretation services.
 - Identify barriers and recommend solutions to promote access to all disabled individuals and individuals with disabilities, apparent and non-apparent, allowing every person to contribute, productively engage, and have positive experiences in all facets of the community.
- ; and

WHEREAS, the Council will utilize these priorities to develop its work plan, which will be presented to the Dakota County Board later in 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board approves the Disability Advisory Council priorities.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 7/29/2025.

Ayes: 7

REGULAR AGENDA

6. County Board/County Administration

6.1 Legislative Update

A federal update from received by Downs Government Affairs LLC, including a broad overview of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act recently signed into law. The committee also discussed the status of potential state funding for the Recycling Zone Plus project and whether state funding could be used toward a river landing use area at Spring Lake Park Reserve. The committee also discussed state transportation funding.

Information only; no action requested.

7. County Manager/Deputy/Director's Report

County Manager Heidi Welsch gave a brief update on ongoing work for the 2026 budget. Heidi also mentioned that the National Association of Counties Annual Conference will be held next week and Communications and Public Affairs Assistant Director Scott Wente will be available as needed for any assistance.

8. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed.

9. Adjournment

9.1 Adjournment

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

On a motion by Commissioner Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Ayes: 7

Respectfully submitted,
Jeni Reynolds
Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board