

**DAKOTA COUNTY  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**August 11, 2020  
Video Conference**

**Call To Order And Roll Call**

Commissioner Mike Slavik  
Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord  
Commissioner Thomas A. Egan  
Commissioner Joe Atkins  
Commissioner Liz Workman  
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg  
Commissioner Chris Gerlach

Also in attendance: Matt Smith, County Manager; Peggy Horsch, Assistant County Attorney; Marti Fischbach, Community Services Division Director; Colleen Collette, Administrative Coordinator.

Due to the local state of emergency and social distancing, Commissioners participated in this meeting via telephone, and the Community Services Committee of the Whole meeting was conducted under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by the Chair, Mary Liz Holberg.

The audio of this meeting is available upon request.

**Audience**

Chair Mary Liz Holberg noted that all public comments can be sent to [countyadmin@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:countyadmin@co.dakota.mn.us)

As of 8:00 a.m. on August 11, 2020, none were received.

**Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**

On a motion by Commissioner Chris Gerlach, seconded by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, the agenda was unanimously approved.

**Consent Agenda**

On a motion by Commissioner Mike Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, the consent agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

**4.1 Approval Of Minutes Of Meeting Held On July 7, 2020**

**4.2 Approval Of Amendments To Dakota County Ordinance No. 125 Regulating Licensing And Sale, Possession And Use Of Tobacco, Tobacco Products And Tobacco-Related Devices In Dakota County, And Scheduling Of Public Hearing To Receive Comments**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority vested in it by Minn. Stat. § 461.12 to license retail stores that sell tobacco and tobacco-related products within towns and unincorporated areas, and in cities that choose not to license and regulate retailers, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners enacted Ordinance No. 125 by Resolution No. 99-

191 (March 23, 1999), and it was amended by Resolution No. 18-807 (February 6, 2018); and

WHEREAS, the Federal law changed on December 20, 2019, to increase the legal age of sale from 18 to 21; and

WHEREAS, staff from the County Attorney's Office, Public Health and Public Services and Revenue reviewed Ordinance No. 125 and recommend amendments to align with the Federal law; and

WHEREAS, at the General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole on March 10, 2020, the Committee approved amendments to the ordinance to align with Federal law; and

WHEREAS, the State law was changed on May 16, 2020, to increase the legal age of sale from 18 to 21; and

WHEREAS, staff from the County Attorney's Office, Public Health and Public Services and Revenue reviewed Ordinance No. 125 and recommends additional amendments to align with State law; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing is required for the purpose of receiving comments and informing the public on amendments to Dakota County Ordinances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves such amendments pursuant to a public hearing to be scheduled; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the scheduling of a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed amendments to Dakota County Ordinance 125, regulating the licensing and sale, possession and use of tobacco, tobacco-related devices in Dakota County at 9:00 a.m. on September 1, 2020, in the Boardroom of the Dakota County Administration Center, 1590 Highway 55, Hastings, Minnesota, or via telephone or other electronic means if necessary due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, That Dakota County Public Services and Revenue is hereby directed to publish in the Official County newspaper notice of the public hearing and the County Board's intent to enact such amendments.

**4.3 Authorization To Apply For Minnesota Department Of Health Statewide Health Improvement Partnership Grant, Accept Grant Funds, Execute Grant Agreements And Amend 2020 Public Health Budget**

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 19-613 (July 23, 2019), the County Board authorized acceptance of Dakota County's Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP 4, Year 5) award and funding from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in the amount of \$782,859 for the period of November 1, 2019 through October 31, 2020, and an additional amount of \$10,000 for the period of June 1, 2019 through October 31, 2020, awarded for a special project; and

WHEREAS, MDH has requested applications, due August 31, 2020, for the next round of SHIP funding for the time period of November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021, for the first year of an anticipated five-year agreement; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2020, MDH notified the County of an award for \$782,859 for the time period of November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021, for the first year of an anticipated five-year agreement; and

WHEREAS, MDH also has extended the current five-year grant (scheduled to end October 31, 2020) through June 30, 2021, due to implementation delays caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the County Board authorizes staff to apply for funding for SHIP 2021 in the amount

of \$782,859 for the period of November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the County Board authorizes acceptance of the County's SHIP 2021 award and funding in the amount of \$782,859 for the period of November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the County Board authorizes execution of the five-year grant agreement for the period of November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the County Board authorizes execution of a no-cost grant amendment extending the current grant through June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends amending the 2020 Public Health budget to reflect the funding that begins November 1, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes staff to submit an application for funding for SHIP 2021 in the amount of \$782,859 for the period of November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to accept the award of \$782,859 for the period of November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to execute a five-year grant agreement and accept future funding for the period of November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to execute a no-cost grant amendment extending the current grant through June 30, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That unless the grant program requirements change, the Community Services Director is hereby authorized to amend the grant to alter the grant term, accept additional grant funds and continue grant-funded FTE's (if relevant), consistent with County contracting policies, and inclusion of grant funds in future yearly recommended and adopted budgets, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby amends the 2020 Public Health budget as follows: Revenue SHIP 2020 Grant \$32,000 Total Revenue \$32,000 Expense SHIP 2020 Grant \$32,000 Total Expense \$32,000

## **Regular Agenda**

### **5.1 Update On Child Protection And Child Welfare Services**

Suzanne Tuttle, Deputy Director in Social Services 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 members.

### **5.2 Authorization To Create And Implement A Flexible Benefit Set To Support Families, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Employment And Economic Assistance Budget**

Marti Fischbach, Division Director, presented on this item and stood for questions. No one moved the motion. Staff was asked to gather more information and return for consideration, if appropriate.

**5.3 Authorization To Implement A Youth Employment Services Program, Execute Contract With Tree Trust For Youth Employment Services, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Employment And Economic Assistance Budget**

Mark Jacobs, Deputy Director, Employment and Economic Assistance, presented on this item and stood for questions. No one moved the motion. Staff was asked to gather more information and return for consideration, if appropriate.

**5.4 Authorization To Provide Temporary Childcare Assistance, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Employment And Economic Assistance Budget**

Tiffinie Miller, Deputy Director in Employment and Economic Assistance, presented on this item and stood for questions.

On a motion by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, seconded by Commissioner Liz Workman, the following resolution was unanimously recommended to the County Board:

WHEREAS, the Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) program is a childcare assistance program for low-income families that has consistently been under-funded creating an ongoing waitlist; and

WHEREAS, prior to COVID-19, families reported they could not find or retain employment due to high expense of and lack of access to childcare assistance; and

WHEREAS, this is an even larger challenge currently due to COVID-19, and this proposed interim program would fill a needed gap, get families back to work sooner and provide seamless supports to employment and stability; and

WHEREAS, the Employment and Economic Assistance strategy is to fully utilize all childcare subsidy programs and the CARES Act funding to provide childcare assistance for families until they can be removed from the waitlist queue for the BSF program; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Temporary CARES Childcare Program is to provide assistance to eligible Dakota County families for childcare expenses; and

WHEREAS, CARES Act funding will be used to cover expenses in the following areas: families currently on the BSF waitlist that were impacted by COVID-19, and families that have past due childcare bills that impact their current ability to obtain or retain childcare; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends authorization to implement the Temporary Childcare Assistance Program for payment of child care expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the period of August 18, 2020 through December 1, 2020, amend the 2020 Non-Departmental budget and amend the 2020 Employment and Economic Assistance budget; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined that the Temporary Childcare Assistance Program costs are necessary and a reasonable response to the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore eligible for the use of CARES Act funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to implement the Temporary ChildCare Assistance Program in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the period of August 18, 2020 through December 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the 2020 Non-Departmental budget as follows:

<b>Expense</b>	
CARES Act Expense	<u>(\$1,000,000)</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>(\$1,000,000)</b>

<b>Revenue</b>	
CARES Act	<u>(\$1,000,000)</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(\$1,000,000)</b>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the 2020 Employment and Economic Assistance budget as follows:

<b>Expense</b>	
CARES Act Temporary Child Care Assistance	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

<b>Revenue</b>	
CARES Act	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this program will end immediately in the event that sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are no longer available to continue this program.

**5.5 Authorization To Purchase And Install Self-Service Scanning Stations, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Employment And Economic Assistance Budget**

Tiffinie Miller, Deputy Director in Employment and Economic Assistance, presented on this item and stood for questions.

On a motion by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, seconded by Commissioner Chris Gerlach, the following resolution was unanimously recommended to the County Board:

WHEREAS, Child Support and Public Assistance applications and ongoing program eligibility requires numerous verifications and documents be received by Employment and Economic Assistance (E&EA) timely; and

WHEREAS, this can be a challenge for customers and takes a great deal of administrative time on both the part of the customer and Dakota County; and

WHEREAS, in February 2020, E&EA installed two self-scan stations at the Northern Service Center (NSC) to reduce administrative time and provide support for customers; and

WHEREAS, from February 2020 through March 2020, 264 documents were received in via a self-scan station, and the volume was anticipated to increase each month before COVID-19 restrictions caused Dakota County to close NSC as a site; and

WHEREAS, E&EA staff is proposing purchasing and installing eight additional self-service scanning stations, aiding in the collection of Public Assistance applications and supporting materials needed from Dakota County customers; and

WHEREAS, these stations would be installed in publicly accessible county buildings and partnering organizations spread throughout Dakota County; and

WHEREAS, these stations do not require onsite staffing, and will allow for easy and secure documentation scanning, allowing caseworkers to process eligibility more efficiently; and

WHEREAS, the stations will help minimize face-to-face contact, thus minimizing the potential spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, installation and implementation will be modeled after the current set-up with minimal changes; and

WHEREAS, the scanned documents directly pertain to Child Support, Medical Assistance and other health care programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Support), cash programs for families and single adults, and Emergency Assistance benefits for housing or utilities; and

WHEREAS, E&EA staff believes these stations provide maximum accessibility for the clients they support; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends authorization to purchase and install eight self-service scanning stations at various Dakota County locations in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for the period of August 18, 2020 through December 1, 2020, amend the 2020 Non-Departmental budget and amend the 2020 Employment and Economic Assistance budget; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined that the purchase and installation costs of eight self-service scanning stations are necessary and reasonable response to the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore eligible for use of CARES Act funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to purchase and install eight self-service scanning stations at various Dakota County locations in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for the period of August 18, 2020 through December 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the 2020 Non-Departmental budget as follows:

<b>Expense</b>	
CARES Act Expenses	<u>(\$25,000)</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>(\$25,000)</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
CARES Act	<u>(\$25,000)</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(\$25,000)</b>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the 2020 Employment and Economic Assistance budget as follows:

**Expense**

CARES Act Self-Scanning Station Program	<u>\$25,000</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

**Revenue**

CARES Act	<u>\$25,000</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this program will end immediately in the event that sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are no longer available to continue this program.

**5.6 Authorization To Purchase And Install Virtual Intake Sites At Northern Service Center, Libraries And Community Partner Sites, Modification Of Existing Interview Rooms For Video Conference, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Employment And Economic Assistance Budget**

Tiffinie Miller, Deputy Director in Employment and Economic Assistance, presented on this item and stood for questions.

On a motion by Commissioner Mike Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Thomas A. Egan, the following resolution was unanimously recommended to the County Board:

WHEREAS, prior to COVID-19, administering Public Assistance programs required a high volume of in-person services at the Dakota County Northern Service Center (NSC) and at community partner sites, specifically, Hastings Family Service, Neighbors in South St. Paul, and 360 Communities in Burnsville and Rosemount; and

WHEREAS, in January 2020, there were 323 in-person intake appointments at the NSC and 67 in-person appointments at a community partner site; and

WHEREAS, in April 2020, in-person services completely stopped at the NSC and at community partner sites for the safety of customers and staff due to COVID-19 as well as due to State and Federal waivers enacted with the Peacetime Emergency; and

WHEREAS, we are proposing the ability to provide virtual Public Assistance Intake appointments at the NSC, current community partner sites and within some Dakota County Libraries in order to determine eligibility for Medical Assistance and/or other health care programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Support), cash programs for families and single adults, and Emergency Assistance benefits for housing or utilities; and

WHEREAS, by setting up computers at each location, we can virtually meet with clients, via Skype or Zoom, to complete Public Assistance interviews and answer questions from customers; and

WHEREAS, this requires additional equipment and layout modifications to allow for virtual intake; reconfiguring existing in-person, face to face rooms in favor of video conference interview rooms; and

WHEREAS, once sites are modified and equipment is in place, customers would have access to services closer to their home, and it will allow for a socially distant intake process especially for customers that would not otherwise have the means or technologies needed to participate in intake digitally, by phone or through the mail;

and

WHEREAS, virtual service is an acceptable way of conducting business under federal and state guidelines; and

WHEREAS, during this time, it provides a broader, safer access to Public Assistance programs, allowing staff and customers to do business more efficiently, safely and within their own community; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends authorization to purchase and install virtual intake and video conferencing equipment at the NSC and some of the Dakota County Libraries and community partner sites in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the period of August 18, 2020 through December 1, 2020, amend the 2020 Non-Departmental budget and amend the 2020 Employment and Economic Assistance budget; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined that Public Assistance virtual intake and video conference interview equipment costs are a necessary and reasonable response to the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore eligible for the use of CARES Act funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to proceed with the purchase and installation of virtual intake and video conferencing equipment at the Northern Service Center and some of the Dakota County Libraries and community partner sites in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the period of August 18, 2020 through December 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the 2020 Non-Departmental budget as follows:

<b>Expense</b>	
CARES Act Expense	<u>(\$50,000)</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>(\$50,000)</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
CARES Act	<u>(\$50,000)</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(\$50,000)</b>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the 2020 Employment and Economic Assistance budget as follows:

<b>Expense</b>	
CARES Act Conference Interview Equipment	<u>\$50,000</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
CARES Act	<u>\$50,000</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this initiative will end immediately in the event that sufficient funds from county, state or federal sources are no longer available to continue this initiative.

**5.7 Authorization To Expand Transportation Assistance, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Social Services Budget**



Robyn Bernardy, Transportation Coordinator in Social Services, presented on this item and stood for questions.

On a motion by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, seconded by Commissioner Liz Workman, the following resolution was recommended to the County Board:

WHEREAS, Dakota County Community Services is committed to creating transportation options for persons with disabilities, older adults and people who are served through the County’s programs; and

WHEREAS, this is evidenced through the GoDakota initiative which includes such projects as the rideshare pilot and DakotaLink; and

WHEREAS, between March 16, 2020 and July 6, 2020, more than 66,000 Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims were filed in Dakota County, representing 27.2 percent of Dakota County’s 2019 annual labor force and job layoffs and furloughs due to COVID-19 have created significant economic hardship for many individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, due to unemployment, underemployment and other financial instability impacts of COVID-19, many Dakota County residents who did not have transportation needs previously may be in a position today of requiring assistance; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County Community Services proposes a Transportation Assistance Program using an amount not to exceed \$245,000 in Dakota County CARES funds and the Transportation Assistance Program will include funds for a variety of transportation options, including: funds for rideshare rides through Lyft codes; funds for public transportation rides through Go-To cards; funds for rides with DARTS; and funds for food distribution through DARTS; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends authorization to implement a Transportation Assistance Program in an amount not to exceed \$245,000 for the period of August 18, 2020 through December 1, 2020, amend the 2020 Non-Departmental budget and amend the 2020 Social Services budget; and

WHEREAS, there is an immediate and serious need for these services that cannot be met with other procurement methods, and that the services that may be contracted for are limited to those necessary to meet the emergency facing individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined that the Transportation Assistance Program costs are necessary and a reasonable response to the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore eligible for use of CARES Act funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to implement the Transportation Assistance Program in an amount not to exceed \$245,000 for the period of August 18, 2020 through December 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the 2020 Non-Departmental budget as follows:

<b>Expense</b>	
CARES Act Expenses	<u>(\$245,000)</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>(\$245,000)</u></b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
CARES Act	<u>(\$245,000)</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>(\$245,000)</u></b>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment the 2020 Social Services budget as follows:

**Expense**

CARES Act Transportation Assistance	<u>\$245,000</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$245,000</b>

**Revenue**

CARES Act	<u>\$245,000</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$245,000</b>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this program will end immediately in the event that sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are no longer available to continue this program.

YAY: 6                      NAY: 1 (Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg)

**5.8 Authorization To Implement Non-Profit Financial Assistance Program, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Social Services Budget**

Evan Henspeter, Director of Social Services, presented on this item and stood for questions.

On a motion by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, seconded by Commissioner Liz Workman, the following resolution was unanimously recommended to the County Board:

WHEREAS, non-profit organizations throughout Dakota County have experienced significant financial challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent report produced by the Minnesota Council of Non-profits, 80 percent of non-profits surveyed reported COVID-19 had significantly disrupted the work of their organizations, and half said they expect financial recovery to be difficult; and

WHEREAS, social distancing requirements during the pandemic have required many non-profit organizations to invest in additional technology, personal protective equipment (PPE), and other unexpected business expenses to continue serving the public; and

WHEREAS, in many cases, Dakota County Community Services relies heavily on these same non-profits to provide critical services and support to county residents in the areas of food, housing, economic assistance, transportation and health; and

WHEREAS, distributing a portion of Dakota County’s CARES Act funding allocation to non-profit organizations will help to support the financial viability of these organizations which is critical to ensuring Dakota County remains a “Great Place to Live”; and

WHEREAS, the program would provide up to \$2,000,000 in direct assistance to Dakota County non-profits; and

WHEREAS, the program will require up to \$50,000 in costs for staff to administer the program; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends authorization to implement a non-profit financial assistance program in an amount

not to exceed \$2,050,000 for the period of August 18, 2020 through December 1, 2020, amend the 2020 Non-Departmental budget and amend the 2020 Social Services budget; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined that the non-profit financial assistance program costs are necessary and a reasonable response to the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore eligible for use of CARES Act funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to implement a non-profit financial assistance program in an amount not to exceed \$2,050,000 for the period of August 18, 2020 through December 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the 2020 Non-Departmental budget as follows:

<b>Expense</b>	
CARES Act	<u>(\$2,050,000)</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>(\$2,050,000)</b>

<b>Revenue</b>	
CARES Act	<u>(\$2,050,000)</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(\$2,050,000)</b>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the 2020 Social Services budget as follows:

<b>Expense</b>	
CARES Act Non-Profit Financial Assistance	<u>\$2,050,000</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$2,050,000</b>

<b>Revenue</b>	
CARES Act	<u>\$2,050,000</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,050,000</b>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this program will end immediately in the event that sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are no longer available to continue this program.

**5.9 Authorization To Implement Program To Provide Technology Access For Dakota County Residents, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Social Services Budget**

Evan Henspeter, Director of Social Services, presented on this item and stood for questions. No one moved the motion. Staff was asked to gather more information and return for consideration, if appropriate.

**5.10 Authorization To Implement Targeted Outreach And Engagement With Communities Of Color, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Social Services Budget**

Evan Henspeter, Director of Social Services, presented on this item and stood for questions. No one moved the motion. Staff was asked to gather more information and return for consideration, if appropriate.

**5.11 Authorization To Offer A Business Incentive To Dakota County Employers To Hire Or Re-Hire Individuals With Disabilities, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Social Services Budget**

Gil Acevedo, Director of Social Services, presented on this item and stood for questions.

On a motion by Commissioner Mike Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Thomas A. Egan, the following resolution was unanimously recommended to the County Board:

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dakota County has seen the unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities exceeding 90 percent; and

WHEREAS, 811 individuals with disabilities were employed by a Dakota County community business prior to COVID-19, and that number is now estimated to be approximately 80; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with disabilities who were previously employed prior to COVID-19 are not eligible for traditional unemployment benefits provided by the State; and

WHEREAS, staff estimates 50 individuals with disabilities would benefit from this Business Incentive program and would be hired or re-hired by a Dakota County business; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends authorization to offer a one-time \$3,000 business incentive to Dakota County employers who hire or re-hire an individual with disabilities in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the period of August 18, 2020 through December 31, 2020, amend the 2020 Non-Departmental budget and amend the 2020 Social Services budget; and

WHEREAS, this incentive would be available to Dakota County employers in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the period of August 18, 2020 through December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined Business Incentive costs to Dakota County employers to hire or re-hire individuals with disabilities are necessary and is a reasonable response to the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore eligible for use of CARES Act funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to offer a \$3,000 business incentive to Dakota County employers who hire or re-hire an individual with disabilities in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the period of August 18, 2020 through December 31, 2020, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the 2020 Non-Departmental budget as follows:

<b>Expense</b>	
CARES Act	<u>(\$150,000)</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>(\$150,000)</b>

<b>Revenue</b>	
CARES Act	<u>(\$150,000)</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(\$150,000)</b>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an

amendment to the 2020 Social Services budget as follows:

**Expense**

CARES Act Employment Incentive	<u>\$150,000</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

**Revenue**

CARES Act	<u>\$150,000</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this program will end immediately in the event that sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are no longer available at a level sufficient to continue this program.

**Community Services Directors Report**

Marti Fischbach, Division Director, invited Gil Acevedo, Deputy Director in Social Services, to provide an update on COVID-19 testing in Long-term Care and Congregate Care settings by Bluestone Physician Services. Ms. Fischbach informed the Board that the Immunization Clinic, which began on August 3, 2020, provided 19 immunizations to 11 people in the first week. Four of those individuals were uninsured or underinsured adults, three were private pay and four were covered by Minnesota Vaccines for Children. Last, Ms. Fischbach reported that The Open Door free food distribution on August 3, 2020, at the Northern Service Center was successful in distributing 20, 524 pounds of food to 392 households, which will meet the needs of 1,472 individuals.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Commissioner Mike Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Colleen Collette, Administrative Coordinator  
Community Services Division