



Disability Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2025, 3 P.M. – 5 P.M.

Location: Dakota County Western Service Center, Room 106, 14955 Galaxy Avenue, Apple Valley, MN, 55124

Attendance

Council Member	Representing	Attended
Linda Bailey	Lived experience	x
Aiden Kilgannon	Lived experience	x
Amy Hunting	Lived experience	x
Sumukha Terakanambi	Lived experience	x
Michael Cashman	Lived experience	x
Lucianna Wolfstone	Lived experience	
David Shaw	Lived experience	
Eva Johnson	Family member	x
Stephanie Thomas	Family member	x
Alison Niemi	Family member	x
Susan Pagnac	Service provider	
Ann Bailey	Service provider	x
Jodi Yanda	Service provider	x
Mike Welsh	Service provider	x
Toby Hearn	Service provider	x
Michael Dahl	Service provider	
Bilan Arab	Faith community	
Sheila Hawthorne	Housing	x

Dakota County Staff in Attendance

Sky Jarvi, Dakota County Inclusion Diversity Equity Access (IDEA) Manager

Jessica Johnson, Dakota County Administrative Coordinator to the County Manager

Kailee Heinen, Dakota County Administrative Service Assistant to the County Manager

Jessie Carlson, Dakota County Central Operations Division Deputy Director

Megan Zeilinger, Program Coordinator, Dakota County Social Services

DeAnn Prouty, Program Coordinator, Dakota County Social Services

Others in Attendance

Georg Fischer, Physical Development Director

Tony Wotzka, Parks and Greenways Manager

Kevin Krech, Engineer Design

Jake Chapek, Assistant County Engineer

Mike Lexvold, Facilities Director

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve was Steph Thomas
- Ann Bailey 2nd to approve minutes

IV. Council Business

I. Update on Annual Presentation to the County Board

- Sumukha, Ann, and Jessica attended a meeting in early January with all of the commissioners. They were there to present what the DAC did last year and the accomplishments of being a newer council. The county values the council's perspective on all the work the DAC is doing, as stated by Sumukha. Commissioners were impressed with what the workplans portrays for the 2026 year and it was approved. Ann stated what barriers would be for the council and how they can keep the county accountable. Jessica said the commissioners were very impressed with the work and were supportive of future work from the DAC. This same presentation will be held each January to give an update on the previous year.

II. Election of Chair & Vice Chair

- Appointed for 2-year terms in June. Rotating members every two years. Officers are elected each year and can only be one-year terms. Officers are elected at the beginning of the year, and this happens at the first meeting of that year.
- Sumukha T. Chair and Ann B. Vice Chair approved for 2026--
 - Jodi made the motion to approve, and Ali seconded the motion.

III. Approval of Revised Council Bylaws:

- Jess- 25 members is a lot to hold each year, with an 18-member occurrence. The DAC has 18 members now, but will be going down to 17 members. Minimum will be 15 and max will be 25 for memberships if approved by the council.
- A discussion about the percentage of memberships and who qualifies for each of the membership categories. Looking for individuals between 50%-70% of memberships should be the majority of the council with having a disability themselves. A recommendation was that the County Board previously discussed separating the two membership categories. A final decision will be made by the County Board about the membership. The council could be operating outside of the bylaws, like it is now, because of the shortage of membership requirements stated in the bylaws.
- Meeting a minimum of 6 times a year, every other month. Meetings can easily be added, and harder to cancel meetings. Quorum should be 50% plus 1. Approved of the revised bylaws. For future needs, we need to finalize the language used, and the attorney will help with this.

V. Presentations

I. Dakota County Legislative Priorities:

- Approved by the Board in November 2025.
- Went through some of the examples in the packet to help advocate for the coming year. Some examples: Trying to support people more, staff to support direct work, working directly with disabled individuals for technology support, and 3 years of assistance.
- Making sure people have access to the appropriate support with fraud protection. Concerns with cost shifts at the federal level and state level which the county will continue to monitor. A bill tracker for the state is helpful to keep track of spending.

II. Dakota County Transportation Department:

- Georg introduced the presentation. Mike Lexvold- the library in Burnsville is being renovated, trying to accommodate the recommendations the DAC group suggested. Sumukha said the parking lot was easier to navigate following the recent renovations and was appreciated. Tony stated that some of the county parks are being improved. New constructions in Eagan and Inver Grove Heights parks will begin the new phase of the construction project. A greenway is a trail that extends to a park or other space, trying to

activate the space. Exploring the new technologies in the parks and trails is always being looked into by the Transportation Department.

- The county oversees a lot of miles and follows a plan to ensure the safety of people. Project designs take 18-36 months and include a public engagement plan. CO RD 42 will be resurfaced this spring. Other cleanup with the roads/traffic lights may take a longer time, with the intersections being re-done. These projects are beginning in late May and up to July. Road surfacing will start in the second half of the summer. Each city is the one to maintain the center of the roundabouts, working with an architect to design what is in the center. The city is in charge of the maintenance of the center of the roundabouts.
- Discussion of the Presentation:
 - Michael asked a question: Roundabouts do not have signage for pedestrians, and drivers ignore pedestrians, which makes it hard to travel across them. Are there any visual accessibility features for roundabouts to make it safer for pedestrians? Jake's response was to look at making sure the crossings should be treated correctly for safety. Michael mentioned there is an underpass for pedestrians to use under the roundabout, and thought that was a great design for their safety.
 - Compliance vs not, document is available on the Dakota County Transportation page.
 - Jessica will get the links for the plan and construction and send them out.
 - Sheila commented about trails and roads to watch out for bikers. Jake responded: to see if we could clear the sightlines in that area, which she was suggesting improvements on.

VI. County Updates (Dakota County Staff)

- Bylaws will be brought to the board for approval.
- Great work plan for the year for this council.
- Survey for feedback on the past year, so look out for that.

VII. Council Member Announcements/Updates

- Recruitment for the Disability Advisory Council:
 - Tell people about the DAC to get the percentage up for memberships. A few membership requirements are to have people who live or work in Dakota County.

VIII. Adjourn

- Linda made a motion to adjourn.
- Michael 2nd that motion.

Decisions Made

- Decision: Approval of Agenda

- Decision: Approval of December 10, 2025, meeting minutes.
- Decision: Adjourn
- Decision:

Action Items

- Action: Jessica is sending out the links from the presentation.
- Action: Bring the revised bylaws to the board when the verbiage is correct.

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Dakota County Western Service Center, Apple Valley, MN

Minutes Prepared by: Kailee Heinen

Date: 02/11/2026