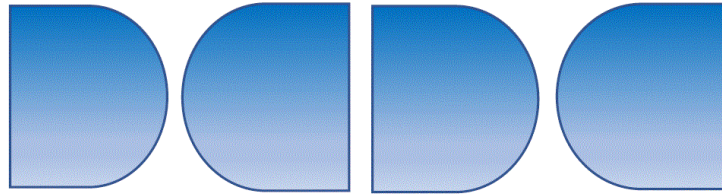




DUBUQUE COUNTY DISABILITIES COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes

Meeting: July 11, 2023 4:00 pm

Location: Goodwill Industries: 2121 Holliday Drive, Dubuque, IA, 52002

Attendance: Samantha Berglin, Kathy Weber, Matt Kennedy, Margee Woywood, Penny Ehlinger, Debbie DeVenuta, Tom Derr.

Absent: Lori Anderson

Guests: Jason Rubel, Jacinda Hecker

Meeting called to order at 4:02pm.

The group did introductions to introduce the newest member Tom Derr to all the members and vice versa.



Public Comments – Jason Rubel and Margee Woywood discussed a grant for employment training contract with NICC and IVRS called Flourish Program- an education program to lengthen the certificate programs to accommodate individuals with disabilities to have supports needed to gain certificates for better employment outcomes. The recent pilot had 5 students start with 4 that completed/graduates; 3 passed state exams and are licensed CNAs with future work lined up-overall 75% success rate. They start the 2nd course in January 2024 and will work to add other modified courses based on need/desires. Apply through NICC and Goodwill/IVRS. School district, IVRS and Goodwill gave referrals. Any disability type/barrier.

Samantha pointed out that we have lost a large number of members but that group has a new member and there are opportunities to continue to recruit others and that we are still a strong group.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes 6/13/23

Minutes approved by Margee and seconded by Kathy.



2. **Discussion**

New Member- Introductions—see above



Possible Opportunities

(Conservation - Grant funding – Book Read- ADA)



It was discussed that the Conservation Group is working on some ideas for making Heritage Trails more accessible and there may be an opportunity for the council to work with the group on ideas/needs; Samantha will be in touch with them and bring back more information to the group. Jason did mention that IVRS has also been working with Great Plains ASA on an assessment tool and has a local trained person at IVRS that may be of assistance as well.

Discussed possible Grant opportunity to host a Town Hall, reviewed information briefly and Samantha will give more informatin on the deadlines and needs of the grant. The council is interested in possibly hosting a Town Hall in October regarding National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Matt updated that he has interacted with the ADA Complian Officer for the City of Dubuque-Shane. He will be able to join us in August to possibly talk to the group and when/how/why. Jason Rubel also gave an update on the River Museum ADA results; he will find the full updates and share with the group via email. Discussed taking the findings and helping carry it forward, talk to leaders and others to help businesses around Dubuque County be more aware and more compliant with accessiblity. Matt also updated that he researched Proudly Accessible Dubuque-a no longer existing group; they went to local businesses and suggested changes and efforts they could make to be more accessible. Penny noted some places did not make the change suggested. Discussed that we could do something similar and noted possible tax rebates, incentives, etc offered by city/county per task they tackle and see if it sparks some changes. Help modernize the though process of businesses. Also discussed a database would be great for information on accessiblity for people with disabilities, possible resouces like Resources Unite could help with how they have done similiar in the past.

Book Read Discussed as part of the National Disability Employment Awareness Month, suggested and greed upon by the group to read “No Greatness Without Goodness”. Samantha noted that she was abel to interact with a County Librarian and they may be a resource to get copies to check out/use.

New membership ideas



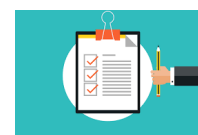
Matt suggested that we could reach out to Veterans Orgnaizations to see if they might have any ideas on a disabled veteran that would be a great advocate/council member. It was suggested to reach out to Jim Wagner of Veterans center and Jim Gassman Vet. Rep. at NICC for possibly discussions on membership.

Kathy questioned again whether or not a council member needs to be a Dubuque County resident or if they can work here or possibly live here for college and be a member; Samantha did update that there have been conflicting answers but that she will contineu to research “best practice”.

Strategic plan



Reviewed Strategic Plan priorities and information shared at previous meeting. other comments were made or suggestions made. Samantha will create a handout with the information previously shared and the group may be able to formal action at the next meeting.



No
take

3. Next Meeting Plans

Penny motioned to adjourn meeting and Kathy seconded at 5:04pm.