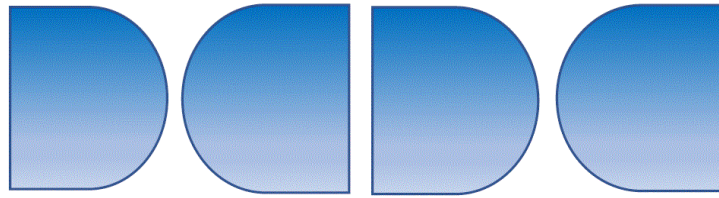




DUBUQUE COUNTY DISABILITIES COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes

Mission: To represent the perspectives of People with Disabilities to the Dubuque County Board of Supervisors and to actively seek change in policies and practices that create more opportunities and dismantle barriers for People with Disabilities in Dubuque County.

Meeting: January 9, 2024

Location: Zoom Due to Inclement Weather

Attendance: Samantha Berglin, Kathy Weber, Matt Kennedy, Lori Anderson, Suellen Flynn, Debbie DeVenuta, Penny Ehlinger, Margee Woywood, Tom Derr, Dr. Giovanni Demezier, Dr. Heleana Theixos, Tim Bedtka.



Guests: NA

Meeting called to order at 4:00 by Matt.

New Members: Welcome to DCDC new members Tim Bedtka, Dr. Giovanni Demezier, Dr. Heleana Theixos.

Public Comments – No comments

Approval of Minutes – Minutes of November were reviewed and approved. Motioned by Lori and seconded by Kathy.

Discussion --

- **Book Study: "No Greatness Without Goodness"**
Sam spoke with Dubuque County library, and they are purchasing a few copies. They will have audio option at Carnegie Stout library, the county library is going to try to get a copy as well. These can also be purchased through Amazon and Heleana shared that a pdf of the book is available on archive.doc for free. If you need a copy, please email Sam, she will have a few copies by end of the week to give out. The goal is to read the book and our committee will have a discussion at February's meeting. Sam will email the group towards the end of January to make sure the majority of the group will be ready to discuss. We will then also discuss our next step with the study such as developing a Question & Answer document that would be available to the public. Discussed possibility in the future of hosting a book read for community and purchasing copies to donate to library for community member access.
- **Annual Events/Days/important awareness-**our group can highlight on social media or plan future events around. Can always email any to Sam or Matt as you think of them. Some

mentioned were: March 21st Down Syndrome Day, May Brain/Mental Health Month, October: NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month)...

- Townhall Discussion: Committee will meet again to continue planning. Summarized the plans for an activity in April in/around the Peosta area focused on Recreation/Activities and Dubuque County organizations/groups working on accessibility for all.
- Strategic Plan Review: New year time to get back to thinking about our vision. Reviewed the Strategic plan point by point.

Active Listening-discussed posting the monthly agenda on Facebook and the link to the county page for other content as well. Develop relationships with other components of the County. Discussed reviewing meeting minutes/agendas from other meetings throughout the county (Chamber, Greater Dubuque, City meetings, public health, etc.) and discuss quarterly as a group.

Seek Information-discussed talking to people who know or encounter to just see what information, thoughts, input they have and again share back with the group as a whole each quarter. Discussed having council member attend BOS meeting, not just Sam, and give them some updates. Discussed using the survey already completed to create a 1-3 page write up of the results we can share with others in the community/meeting etc.

Community Outreach-continue to utilize resources and brainstorm ideas on how to Advertise the council and engage community members, providers, and businesses throughout the county.

Educate-Continue to educate and find new ways to educate others and inspire conversations and action; noted that Dubuque Conversation, River Museum, Polling places, and other areas of the county are hearing about us and asking for input. County Librarian thought it would be great to have us look at accommodation needs and updates that would make them more accessible as well. Discussed reaching out to Kevin Dragotto again to see if any additional support is needed for upcoming election.

BOS Focused-Sam will continue to give update but again suggested that maybe we can get other council members to also attend on occasion.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2024 4:00 at Keystone AEA 2310 Chaney Road, Dubuque, IA 52001.

Will plan to meet at the school district as in the past, however with weather cancellations, if Dubuque Community School District (DCSD) has early release or a school closing on our meeting date, Sam will send out zoom link and notify everyone the same as we did this meeting.