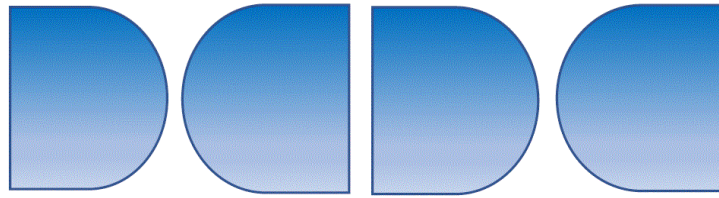




## DUBUQUE COUNTY DISABILITIES COUNCIL



### 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:** February 13, 2024

**Location:** Keystone AEA

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



**Guests:** Field Experience students with Goodwill: Paige Willer UNI and Izzy Buchanan Loras

Meeting called to order at 4:08 by Matt. Zoom link was not functioning.

**Public Comments** – No comments

**Approval of Minutes** – Minutes of January were reviewed and approved. Kathy motioned and Dr. Demezier seconded.

Discussion Items:

1. Dubuque County Library Project: ADA Training Opportunities: Library contacted Sam for the council to assist them in meeting their mission for accessibility. Sam is coordinating a meeting with Averil Nugent-IVRS to establish accommodations within the local libraries. The libraries would like the council to review their sites to complete the accommodation list. Libraries: Peosta, Asbury, Epworth, Farley, Holy Cross. This will be a similar process to the polling places and River Museum tasks in the past.
2. In working with Averil we learned that IVRS has a curriculum on 12 Windmills: Changing the Perception of Ability. An Employment Disability Inclusion Program (leadership, mindfulness of working with all levels). The council can review the some or all of the 12 Windmills, so we are familiar with the learning opportunities and share with the community that this is a free service to all.
3. Book Study: "No Greatness without Goodness"  
Margee shared how Goodwill had Randy Lewis here and the city also brought him in 2 summers ago.

The discussions amongst the council were around the employer screening processes, what are the essential skills needed, money/support to meet ADA standards and build the necessary technology, teamwork and natural supports, simple accommodations (picture cues), total inclusivity (all levels of disabilities).

Take aways: ask the person how/what do you need for accommodation, true inclusion, look at the principals for hiring people with disabilities, it's a balancing act. All revolves around better outcomes for individuals with disabilities and living happy, healthy, lives.

Additional update: Sam updated the council regarding a realignment of the behavioral health system, HHS has dropped a bill regarding ending MH/DS Regions and creating Behavioral Health Districts. The bill is not as informative as we had hoped but the idea of equitable and easy access of continuum of care for those in need is great. There will be an RFP process, should drop in November 2024 with selection taking place April 2025. Districts/ASOs are hoping to assist in covering some of the AEA services/supports. All information has been emailed to the distribution list but anyone can request additional information as needed.

**Next meeting:** March 12, 2024 4:00 at Keystone AEA 2310 Chaney Road.

**Reminder:** 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.