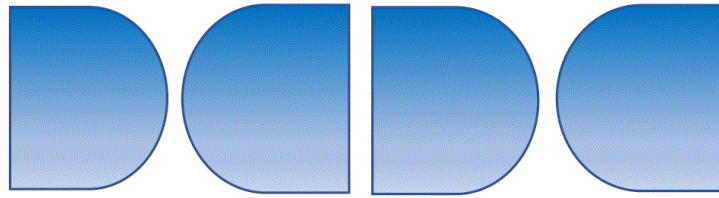




DUBUQUE COUNTY DISABILITIES COUNCIL



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: 1/14/25

Location: West Campus Dubuque County Office

Attendance: Samantha Berglin, Matt Kennedy, Lori Anderson, Debbie DeVenuta, Penny Ehlinger, Samantha Bragg, Shannon Russell, Margaret Riddell, Lisa Nicks, Sue Wilgenbusch, Jim Vansteenburgh, Tom Derr, Kathy Weber.



New Member: Welcome Shannon Russell from Area Residential Care (ARC)!

Guest: Sarah Smith-Dubuque County Library

Meeting called to order at 4:05 by Matt.

Public Comments: Blood Drive Wednesday, January 22nd 11:00-2:00 Innovation Lab 210 Jones St.

NAMI opened a new office in Anamosa and a grassroots effort in Epworth.

Approval of Minutes 11/12/24: Additional members were at the meeting but accidentally left off the meeting minutes: Tom Derr, Dr. Heleana Theixos, Margee Woywood. Approval of November amended minutes accepted by Jim and seconded by Samantha Bragg.

AGENDA:

1. Election of Chair: Matt motioned to continue to be co-chair, Peggy seconded. Sue motioned Kathy Weber to be co-chair, Lisa seconded. Sue motioned Lori Anderson to continue to be secretary and Kathy seconded. All positions are for one year. Sam informed the committee that these positions will need to be reviewed and voted on again in November but must be completed by the first meeting of the new year; if you wait until the 1st meeting of the year the election has to be the first order of business.
2. Bylaws: Committee agreed areas look good with the few changes recommend by Sam regarding removal of MHDS staff verbiage. Motion to accept Bylaws by Lori and seconded by Margaret. Sam will finalize and send out.
3. Strategic Plan: Areas in Seek Information were changed so it's left broad so it's not so formal and moved to annually. Strategic Plan should be reviewed quarterly to ensure goals are being

met. Motion to accept the Strategic Plan by Lisa, seconded by Kathy. Sam will finalize and send out.

4. Sarah Smith presentation: Dubuque County Reads 2025 initiative- public and college (3rd year of program) will host county wide book discussions on “What My Bones Know” by Stephanie Foo. River lights will have books for purchase and also available on Amazon. Dates and times for upcoming book read discussions already planned:
 - April 10th (6:00 or 7:00 p.m. time finalized soon) at Loras College. Author will be present for book signing.
 - April 1st 1:00 Divine Word
 - April 2nd 4:00 Loras College
 - April 7th 6:00 Carnegie Stout Public Library
 - Black Box Theater March 27th there will be a panel discussion related to topics in the book itself; brain health and supports. MHDS Region will have staff available for the panel. If others want to attend and assist that would be great, let Sam know.

Discussion of DCDC advertising this but we want to be careful not to “tunnel” ourselves that PTSD/Brain Health is our main focus. Discussion of our meeting time could be a book discussion as a partner and invite the public and we could host virtually as well. Suggested April 8th DCDC meeting at 4:00. Typically, the book discussions run for maximum 1 hour. There is a help guide for facilitators. They will also offer a person or train the group to facilitate it.

5. Health and Human Services (HHS) Update: Sam Berglin shared that on Dec. 13th the state announced that it selected 1 provider -Iowa Primary Care Association (Iowa PCA) to serve the state for the new Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization (BH-ASO) and there will still be 7 districts but they will all be managed by Iowa PCA out of Des Moines. June 30th the mental health regions will sunset. The DCDC will continue to function moving forward, the group expressed that they hope to have Sam continue with us in some capacity. Her support and knowledge have been a blessing to this committee. Sam shared out information on zoom sessions coming up to learn more.

Sam also shared that the East Central Region has applied for the Disability Access Point (DAP) proposal through HHS and that they plan is to have a central office and run all 7 districts similar to the structure of the new ASO, the state will announce the provider of choice on or before 2/21/25.

The DCDC will need to review the HHS updates on their site and share with the group.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 4:55 by Jim and seconded by Sue.