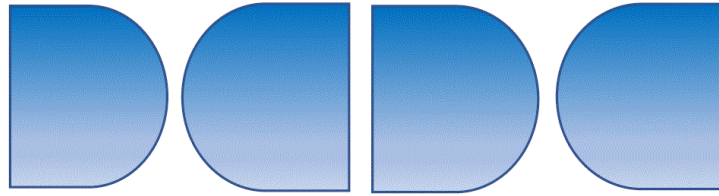




DUBUQUE COUNTY DISABILITIES COUNCIL



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: 5/13/25

Location: West Campus Dubuque County Office

Attendance: Samantha Berglin, Matt Kennedy, Lori Anderson, Tom Derr, Shannon Russell, Tom Kuhle, Margaret Riddell, Penny Ehlinger, Lisa Nicks, Kathy Weber, Margee Woywood, Sue Wilgenbusch, and Heleana Theixos.

Guests: Caroline Nelson: Sat in on the meeting to learn more about DCDC and share that she is the owner of Sharon's Furniture and they assist individuals with disabilities to find the appropriate furniture to meet their needs and how to assist with furniture accommodations. Caroline also had questions related to food allergies. Sam will share information for how to be on the Council and connect with other members. Sam shared Public Health and Food and Wellness councils for Carolines specific questions.

New Member: Welcome Robin Hammell, Mental Health Counselor at Southwest Tech College and lives in Dubuque.

Meeting called to order at 4:00 by Matt Kennedy

Public Comments: Matt attended the Farmers Market and gave input to Dubuque Parks Dept regarding our DCDC. There are many new members with the Parks Dept., DCDC may need to reach out.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of April minutes by Kathy Weber and seconded by Tom Derr.

AGENDA:

1. Spend down final decision: \$378.31
Sam is ordering a banner for event tables. Getting a tote for storage of event items. Sam will get some swags such as bookmarks or magnets. Sam will send in an email the costs and amounts of bookmarks and magnets so she can place the appropriate order. Margee shared inclusion coloring pages. She will make copies and have available for events to hand out. Below is also addressed the purchase of binders for new member materials.
2. Storage of DCDC items: Sam will purchase a tote and will take it to Goodwill for storage. Sam will put hard copies of DCDC items on a hard drive so the board chairs have them. Sam will create a rolling document for each fiscal year. As new people come on board, they can have these items shared with them easily. Sam will also purchase a few new binders (10 as part of the spend down funds) if new members want the binder, we can set them up with a: cover

sheet, mission statement, strategic plan and bylaws. Reminder that anytime plans are updated the binders will need to be updated.

3. Short-term planning: Plans for 3-6 months, reminder to always review the Strategic Plan.
 - A). Members of our group attend other agencies or committees' council or board meetings to represent the DCDC. For our next meeting, bring ideas for these types of opportunities and a running list will be developed. Then we can determine who will reach out to investigate opportunities.
 - B). Develop an event list to have DCDC represented. Bring ideas to the next meeting. One discussed was the Early Childhood Kids Expo Oct. 4th 10-2 Grand River Center convention center.
 - C). Webpage: brief conversation on promoting other agencies' events or opportunities. Who would be responsible for this?
4. Update from Sam: Not staying with Disability Access Point. She will be in Dubuque but in a new position but staying with the Region until sunset on June 30th. Sam will be the new Director at Mt. Pleasant home taking over for Keith; will start in middle July.

No decisions made about what rep to be on this Council from county yet. DAP District 7 Service Navigation team is being formed and not a lot of direction from the state. The Behavior health plan was released - see Sam's May Update. District 7 East Central Region leadership was announced: CCO is Julie Davidson out of Buchanan County, CFO is current finance coordinator Deb Seymour-Guard, and Jody Bridgewater and Lucia Herman will be Service Program Managers splitting the District North/South. Sam may join the DCDC later as a community member. Sam will be on medical leave next Friday 5/16/25 and will be back June 2nd.
5. Sam went to Philadelphia for the Well Being Conference. There was a whole track for community outreach and providers, not as much for individuals with disabilities, the location was accessible. Many sessions on new trends in medicine and mental health, very good conference.
6. Invite Harvey Pothoff, Wayne and Ann to come to a June or July meeting to update us. Sam will send an email to see who would like to attend and to be a point person for DCDC.
7. Many individuals' terms are coming due. You should receive an email asking to complete a new application for DCDC if choosing to remain on the committee. Typically, the terms run every 3 years. Sam will double check to ensure everyone has received the appropriate notifications. If you want to be part of the group, please complete the application. Email from Amy Johnson, appointments made on June 16th.

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

Next Meeting: June 10, 2025 4:00-5:00 at West Campus Dubuque County Office BRING A TREAT TO HONOR SAM FOR HER LAST DAY WITH DCDC AND CELEBRATE HER NEW ADVENTURES!