



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Youth Commission

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

5:30 PM

Hybrid meeting: Attend in person
in Room 354 of the City County
Building or virtually via Zoom.

Interpreters must be requested in advance; please see the bottom of the agenda for more information.

Los intérpretes deben solicitarse con anticipación; consulte el final de la agenda para obtener más información.

Yuav tsuam tau thov txog cov neeg txhais lus hau ntej; thov saib hauv qab kawg ntawm qhov txheej txheem rau cov ntaub ntawv ntiv.

يجب التقدم بطلب بخدمات الترجمة مقدماً. يرجى الاطلاع على أسفل جدول الأعمال للمزيد من المعلومات

The August 20, 2025 Youth Commission meeting will be conducted in hybrid fashion. Members of the public can either attend in person or virtually via Zoom.

The public can attend in person in Room 354 of the City County Building.

The public can access the meeting virtually with the Zoom application or by telephone.

To join the meeting in Zoom, click the following link (after you fill out the form, the meeting link and access information will be emailed to you):

https://countyofdane.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_INbcf-_ZRLWU8upz8SOk-A

This link will be active until the end of the meeting.

To join the meeting by phone, dial-in using one of the following three toll-free phone numbers:

1-833-548-0276

1-833-548-0282

1-888-788-0099

When prompted, enter the following Webinar ID: 981 8398 5459

PROCESS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:

IN PERSON: Any members of the public wishing to register to speak on/support/oppose an agenda item can register in person at the meeting using paper registration forms. **IT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER VIA THE ZOOM LINK ABOVE EVEN IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING IN PERSON.**

In person registrations to provide public comment will be accepted throughout the meeting.

VIRTUAL: Any members of the public wishing to register to speak on/support/oppose an agenda item **MUST REGISTER USING THE LINK ABOVE** (even if you plan to attend using your phone). Virtual registrations to provide public comment will be accepted until 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting.

In order to testify (provide public comment) virtually, you must be in attendance at the meeting via Zoom or phone, you will then either be unmuted or promoted to a panelist and provided time to speak to the body.

If you want to submit a written comment for this meeting, or send handouts for board members, please send them to: erickson.bonnie@danecounty.gov

A. Call To Order

Staff present: Bonnie Erickson

Chair Kata called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Present 9 - MEGHAN BENSON, Vice Chair ASHLEY PLETZER, CHELSEY TUBBS, EMILY MASCIOPINTO, CHRISTINE BENEDICT, Supervisor HENRY FRIES, Chair VISHNU KATA, Supervisor DAVID PETERSON, and KORBY WHITE

Absent 1 - ISABEL CHIRIBOGA-PINEDA

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-241](#)

MINUTES FROM JUNE 18, 2025

Attachments: [2025 0618 Youth Commission Minutes](#)

A motion was made by FRIES, seconded by BENSON, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 8-0. PETERSON abstained.

C. Action Items**1, Election of Vice Chair**

Kata called for nominations for Vice Chair. Masciopinto was nominated by Fries.

Kata called two more times for nominations and there was no response.

A motion was made by WHITE, seconded by FRIES, that Masciopinto be elected Vice Chair. The motion carried by a voice vote 9-0.

D. Discussion Items

[2025](#)
[DISC-014](#)

DCYA 2024 GUN ACCESS PRESENTATION

Attachments: [DCYA 2024 Gun Access Presentation](#)

1. Review DCYA Data Across Demographic Groups Related to Guns and School Safety

Benson presented on DCYA data related to guns and school safety. She provided background on DCYA, and detailed information around the primary survey question of focus: Do you have access to a gun?

Reviewed and discussed data by demographics with the main takeaway: White male students are 2.1 times more likely to have access to a gun than all other students combined.

Reviewed and discussed data around gun access and school connectedness, gun access and mental health, gun access and suicide ideation.

Additional topics raised for research and discussion:

- * Need for qualitative data around gun access/ownership
- * Depression & anxiety and the connection to access to guns.
- * Gun access and access to other substances/drug or alcohol access.
- * Socio-economically disadvantaged students and access to guns
- * Urban vs. rural communities and gun access

Benson will follow up with Dane County Department of Human Services Program Analyst Jenna Ramaker about additional questions raised.

2. Discuss Full DCYA Survey Related to Guns and School Safety

Discussion of what topics are included in the overview report that is published and if those can be updated or changed.

3. Discuss Partnerships with Organizations Working in Violence Prevention

Kata sent out a Google doc with organizations listed and asked that each commission member sign up for an organization to reach out to regarding violence prevention work in the community, presenting to the Youth Commission, and access to DCYA data related to access to guns and school safety.

4. Discuss Dissemination of DCYA Data in the Community

Discussion of data dissemination via data dashboard or ai platform.

Masciopinto suggested organizing listening sessions and/or small focus groups to collect qualitative data related to gun access and safety in schools.

5. Discuss Moving Meeting Time to First Wednesday of Month

Meetings are being moved to the first Wednesday of the month starting on October 5.

6. Who Will Attend and What Will Be Presented during HHN Meeting on November 13

Kata and Benson will present at the HHN Meeting on November 13th at 5:30 p.m. They will present on the current focus area of gun violence & school safety, with Benson sharing data from the DCYA and Kata presenting on the work of the commission, including the outreach to community organizations working in Violence Prevention/

Discussed funding for another summit and suggestion to remind HHN about the 2019 Voice of our Youth summit and state that we would like to do that again.

Erickson and Benson will follow up on the budget for the 2019 event and where that money came from.

Suggestion to plan an event for fall 2027 when new DCYA data is available.

Attendance Update

Tubbs and White departed the meeting.

Present 7 - MEGHAN BENSON, Vice Chair ASHLEY PLETZER, EMILY MASCIOPINTO, CHRISTINE BENEDICT, Supervisor HENRY FRIES, Chair VISHNU KATA, and Supervisor DAVID PETERSON

Absent 3 - CHELSEY TUBBS, ISABEL CHIRIBOGA-PINEDA, and KORBY WHITE

E. Reports to Committee

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None.

I. Adjournment

A motion was made by PETERSON, seconded by BENEDICT, that the Meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a 7-0 vote and the Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Bonnie Erickson pending Commission approval.