



Community Update: EKDC Transition Update
6/19/2026

As we approach the next chapter in the history of the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families (EKDC), we are pleased to share several important updates regarding the transition of operational leadership to Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI).

Transition Planning Continues

Over the past several months, leadership teams from DMACC and LSI have worked closely together to prepare for a seamless transition. We are pleased to share the Operating Agreement between DMACC and LSI is complete. The agreement outlines the respective roles, responsibilities, and commitments of each organization, providing a strong foundation for the future of the Center and ensuring continuity of services for the community.

Retaining the Team That Serves Our Community

One of the highest priorities throughout this transition has been retaining the talented team members who serve EKDC participants every day. We are grateful that staff have overwhelmingly chosen to continue serving the community under LSI's leadership, helping preserve the relationships, trust, and expertise that are central to the Center's success and ensuring continuity for participants, partners, and families.

Recognizing Renee Hardman

We would also like to recognize and thank Renee Hardman for her leadership and partnership throughout this transition process. Renee has chosen to step down from her role as President and CEO of Lutheran Services in Iowa as she balances expanding responsibilities as an Iowa Senator and a growing commitment to her family.

Throughout her career, Renee has been a dedicated advocate for strengthening families, supporting communities, and expanding opportunities for all Iowans. Her commitment to service and her passion for helping others have made a meaningful impact in our neighborhoods and across our state. We are grateful for her support of the Evelyn K. Davis Center and know she will continue to be a champion for its mission and the individuals and families it serves in the years ahead.

Temporary Closure July 1–6

To support final transition activities, the Center will be closed July 1 through July 6. The Center will reopen on Tuesday, July 7, with services resuming under LSI's operational leadership.

Join Us for the Ribbon Cutting

We invite community members, partners, supporters, and friends to join us on July 9th at 11:00 am as we celebrate this exciting new chapter with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Additional event details will be shared soon.

LSI and the Road Ahead

As LSI assumes operational leadership, our immediate focus is not on making significant changes. Instead, we are committed to taking the time to listen, learn, and understand what makes the Center successful. We want to get to know the staff, programs, partners, employers, and community members who have helped build the strong foundation that exists today.

Throughout the transition process, DMACC and LSI have worked diligently to prepare for a smooth handoff. Even with careful planning, we recognize that there may be occasional challenges or adjustments along the way. When those moments occur, we will address them thoughtfully, learn from them, and continue to advance the Center's mission.

Over time, some aspects of the Center may evolve as we identify opportunities to strengthen services and deepen community impact. Any future changes will be guided by collaboration, thoughtful consideration, and a commitment to preserving the relationships, programs, and partnerships that are already serving the community well.

What will not change is our commitment to the community. The Center will continue to be a welcoming place where individuals and families can connect with resources, pursue education and employment opportunities, and build brighter futures.

The future of EKDC is bright, and we look forward to learning, growing, and building on the strong foundation the Center has established in the years ahead.

A Note of Appreciation from DMACC

Since its founding, the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families has represented the power of partnership, vision, and community investment. DMACC has been proud to serve as the Center's home and steward, working alongside countless partners and supporters to help connect people with education, workforce opportunities, and pathways to economic mobility.

As the Center enters its next chapter, we pause to reflect on how far it has come and the many individuals, organizations, staff members, donors, and community leaders who helped make that progress possible. While operational leadership is changing, the mission that inspired the creation of the Center remains as important today as ever.

We are grateful for the opportunity to have helped guide the Center to this point and look forward to seeing its impact continue to grow in the years ahead.

Future news, announcements, and updates about the Evelyn K. Davis Center will be available on the website:
www.evelynkdaviscenter.org.