West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

November 19th 2024, 1:30 pm-Hybrid

The Regional Quality Council will:

1. Support efforts and initiatives that drive overall systems and social change to promote inclusion of people who have disabilities in Minnesota
2. Improve person-centered outcomes in disability services
3. Identify or enhance quality of life for people who have disabilities

West Central Regional Quality Council Notes

Hybrid meeting-We will be meeting online and in the Spud Room on 5th floor of the Family Service Center

1) **Welcome/Introductions.** (5 minutes)

   Favorite Thanksgiving food item

2) **Council of Safety Data Action Group (DAG)**

   a) **Canceled due to death in the family**

3) **Regional Capacity Building (5 min)**

   a) Members

   b) Friday, November 22nd is the West Central Meeting 12-1

4) **Council membership** (5 minutes)

   a) Always recruiting and of course if anyone ever has agenda items let me know

5) **Policy Discussion (10 min)**

   a) Public Policy Committee update-We started shifting agenda items around. Agenda isn't final yet.
      - Inclusive Playgrounds-funding for inclusive playgrounds
      - IEP Parent Accessibility Bill
      - Eliminate subminimum wage and eliminate MA-EPD Premiums
      - Changes to CDCS-Fix 30% budget disparity between self-directed and regular options

   b) Rob Kupec meeting and IEP/504 violations

      - Opportunity to meet with Rob Kupec and a group of parents concerned about IEP violations and that districts can just keep getting them with little to no ramifications. Proposals for legislation:

(1) Some sort of penalty for violations. Right now MDE tells them to fix the error and then usually says they have to offer compensatory services and teachers/admin need professional development hours.
    (a) Any ideas? Funding decrease but that's counterproductive as generally funding is the reason to begin with.
(2) MDE needs to send a resolution letter notice to ALL listed in the complaint. Right now if there is a single student in the complaint, the parent will get a letter but if there are a number of students-"on behalf of…" then nobody gets one. Even if it's a generic "your student was listed in a complaint where the district was found in violation of student IEPs" Right now many parents don't even know that their student was listed in a complaint. I think if it came from MDE parents might actually read it vs the district.
(3) MDE website needs to have a number of complaint resolution letters that have been sent to superintendents. Not number of violations-this is many in 1 letter, but number of letters. This is because if parents are looking for a district, they should be able to see if the district has a history of violations against IEPs/504s. Right now you can see a few of the letters but if there are any identifying areas in the letter, it won't be posted, which is most.

- Michele added that MDE houses public records of violations and decisions and suggested a focus on course correction rather than punishment.
    - Difficulty navigating the MDE website and the need for more transparency in complaint resolutions.
- Discussion of roles and responsibilities of school board members and their committees.
    - Do the committees address the needs of unique learners?
    - School board members should have a deeper understanding of these needs to hold superintendents accountable.
    - Districts should provide more information about their school board members and their committee assignments for greater transparency, so parents know who to reach out to regarding certain topics.
- Discussion of staff training in special education.
    - Time constraints and varying levels of skills and abilities
    - Special education courses should be a requirement for licensure

6) **Workgroups -** Full council brainstorm

a) **Employment** (35 minutes)

- Hollie Wanner talk about employment grant

(1) "Employment First Capacity Building" Grant was awarded to Clay County and will be used to increase opportunities for individuals with disabilities to work in competitive, integrated employment settings.

(2) The county will develop an action plan for over the next two years. The grant also includes the option for further funding in years three through five, contingent on the success of the action plan.

- Business questionnaire-Kassi
  (1) A form is being made for businesses and organizations to fill out in hopes of making potential improvements to the hiring process to increase inclusivity.
  (2) Some areas of improvement that the questions focus on are: The need for more support and resources, ongoing education programs, awareness materials, and training for HR professionals.
  (3) Next steps: Kassi will revise and narrow down the employment questionnaire based on feedback received.

b) Transition to Adulthood (35 minutes)

- MSUM/Transition/Hope inc event. 75ish people. All sorts of students, parents and school staff. Everyone had a blast and the MSUM students are starting to come up with fun ways to include everyone-inviting the transition students to eat at the lunch service, Dape professor wants to introduce the group to the recreation center and show them the adaptive equipment they have-also would like them to have access to it. I think this did what I had hoped and intended-just more awareness on campus. Bill Grommesh had a great presentation on just being inviting and including people.

- Meeting with Sarah Robinson about transition webinar. Sarah talked about a lot of hopes. She knows it'll take time. A few things we talked about.
  (1) Parents not knowing there is a difference between Program vs Services-and if someone doesn't fit the program…they can still get services.

(2) Transition coordinator in each district. TX is a great system-they have a "Transition and Employment Designee" to help families navigate transition. I have asked for something similar for Moorhead but a parent Liaison for the district. I think all schools could benefit from a transition facilitator-not just at the 18-22 but all transitions.

- Mental health session with Susan
  (1) Susan Cuny is a mental health specialist working towards her doctorate. She is looking for a project for it. She is very interested in students with disabilities and mental health-noting depression and anxiety seem to be high in the transition age.
- Hub webinar on their transition tools and how to use them?

7) **Recap of possible projects:**
   a) **Mental Health webinar-working with Sarah on this**
   b) **Parent Education around the 12th grade transition meeting**
      - **Possibly a series? Including A Hub webinar, Healthcare, Housing?**

8) **Next Meetings and Events**
   - **November 22nd West Central Regional Capacity Building**
   - **November's Statewide Workforce Shortage Meeting Canceled (Thanksgiving)**
   - **November 25th Arc Dance 7-8 at Hopkins**
   - **December 6th 1:30-3 Unlocking autonomous transportation potential-key insights from the GoMarti Shuttle Pilot**

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- https://mntransportationresearch.org/2024/11/12/cts-webinar-unlocking-autonomous-transportation-potential-key-insights-from-the-gomarti-shuttle-pilot/

- **December 9th 1-3. Culture of Safety Data Action Group**
- **December 17th 1:30 - 3:15 WCRQC Hybrid Meeting @Family Service Center**

Other meetings/workshops

Pacer Workshops

Disability Hub Calendar

Upcoming AuSm Workshops

Minutes from past meetings.