Arrowhead Regional Quality Council

Meeting Minutes

DATE

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Meeting Location: Virtual (Zoom) 2:00pm to 3:30 pm

Greetings and Introductions

- We welcomed everyone and all ARQC (Arrowhead Regional Quality Council) members introduced themself.
- Becky welcomed our guest speaker Ray McCoy from DEED.

Bite Size Learning

- Link to Employment Videos
- We watched a short video clip on myths around supported employment.

Presentation from Ray McCoy from DEED on the Reasonable Accommodations Fund

- Ray McCoy from DEED presented on the Employer Reasonable Accommodations Fund; a 2-year pilot program that allows small/medium businesses in Minnesota to apply for reimbursement costs up to $30,000.00 a year for reasonable accommodations needed to better support employees with disabilities in the workplace.
- A great program that provides consultations to employers on reasonable accommodations for employees, including what can be covered, and how to apply, with step-by-step help through the entire process. Employers pay for the reasonable accommodation needed for an employee and then save all receipts and turn those receipts in with the application to DEED and within 30 days, if all requirements are met, the business will receive the reimbursement funds. Ray pointed out, DEED has made the application as simple as possible, offers help through the entire process, and has money to give out to employers but the word needs to get to those who need it.
- Ray shared a PowerPoint that is being sent to Council Members.
- Please reach out to Ray if you would like him to speak at your agency.

Discussion of ARQC Goal#5 and Review of the 2024 Updated Work Plan

Becky and Beth went over ARQC goal 5 and then discussed the updated 2024 work plan and the vision for the new year. We shared with the group what changes have been added and our excitement about writing in the changes that reflect our strengths.

Workgroup Updates

- Beth explained workgroup updates can be shared as needed or at the request of council members. Reach out if you would like to know more about a specific workgroup.

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- Beth gave brief updates on each workgroup and where they stand as the year ends.

Agency, Provider, and Self Advocate Updates

- Ann D. shared her agency has been CARF accredited. Her agency has worked hard to meet the criteria and has now been recognized. Congrats!
- Kristie B. shared Choice, unlimited is celebrating 30 Years of amazing service to the community. Congrats!
- Kristie B. shared that BOLD-choice Theatre is putting on a production called Sundown on the Casper County Jewel, a musical that premieres on Jan 6 at NorShore Theatre.

Next ARQC Meeting: January 9, 2024 at 2:00 pm to 3:30 PM

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Attendance

Name	Member Representation	Present Y/N
Becky Lambert	Arc Northland	Y
Beth Johnson	Arc Northland	Y
Amy Patenaude	St. Louis County	Y
Laura Nelson	Cook County	N
Kerwin Mckay	DHS Representative	Y
Michelle McDonald	Lake County DAC	Y
Connie Kotonias	Family Member	Y
Jenae Hackensmith	Self-Advocate	y
Shawn Stanich	Self-Advocate	Y
Meredith Kujala	Little Not Less/Self-Advocate	Y
Amanda Crosby	Arc Northland	Y
Mary Martin	Family Member	Y
Kristie Buchman	Choice, unlimited	Y
Nicole Lind	RSI	Y
Ann Dahl	Udac	Y
Josh Howie	Trillium Works	Y
Sherri Cook	Lighthouse Center for V L	Y
Others Present:		
Ray McCoy	DEED's	Y