Arrowhead Regional Quality Council

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, August 27th, 2020

Meeting Location: Virtual (Zoom)

1. **Introductions and greetings (10 minutes)**

Welcome Gene Martinez and Ellie Chicos!

2. **Capitol Connector Teams – Gene Martinez (20 minutes)**

The purpose of the Capitol Connecter is to inform, encourage, and educate relating to advocacy and keeping contact with elected officials.

The **structure** will include teams of three or more individuals that work to assist in organizing outreach to elected officials in Minnesota. Aide from federal government is funding state and local government, so outreach to them is crucial.

Next steps reaching out for assistance in recruiting and then get ready to communicate to those who can help individuals make a change.

Selection Process: to pick the leads and co leads, it must be someone who is supportive of The Arc's and willing to talk to community elected officials, comfortably.

Late September or early October more information will come, if there are questions Gene can be contacted**. 612-208-5328**

3. **Three Quality Improvement Projects (20 minutes)**

An overview of three project action plans were provided. We have clear and defined action steps for the following projects:

- Connections in Rural Communities (*Summary: The ICI data analysis provides us with an understanding of the gaps in services and barriers for individuals receiving services who reside in communities that are more rural. A goal of the ARQC is to connect and engage with rural communities, by sharing resources and best practices to improve services. Our amendment allows us to issue grants to community organizations and/or individuals to support quality improvement training or projects that will assist in improving the lives of individuals with disabilities.)* Objectives include: presentations and outreach, hosting listening sessions, and sharing results/recommendations and utilizing grant funds, if available, to meet needs in the community.
- Promoting Person-Centered Strategies (*Summary: Individuals who receive services play the most important role in helping to lead the change for more positive outcomes related to their services and their quality of life. Self-advocates should be at the forefront of our work. Individuals will work with the ARQC to share their story/experiences, promoting best practices, and explain why person-centered planning was an important part of the process for them to reach their goals and live their best life.)*

We would like more thought put into the ways we can support people with making connections due to the restrictions of Covid19. Jeff Mortimore shared his Community Conversation project overview with an update of where things are currently.

4. **Work Group Descriptions (20 minutes)**

Work groups will be meet every other month opposite of full Council meeting. Meeting invites and agenda coming soon. Lori will send the descriptions with the meeting invite for September to the Data Work Group.

The Collaborative Safety Data Action Work Group meetings are undecided at the moment, and more to come out on that. They will meet every 6 months - 8 hours a year. Likely to start in November or December.

5. **Review of Liberty Plan (40 minutes)**

Review of Ombudsman and the Regional Resource Specialists support for the region and how the ARQC can provide natural supports for one another.

The Communication Plan will be sent for review and approval – Due to DHS October 1. Power-point for ARQC outreach was sent via e-mail. Send recommendations for changes to Lori.

September 24th meeting with Collaborative Safety 2pm – 3pm.

6. **Closing (10 minutes)**

We were thrilled to be able to provide 26 laptop computers to those in need of help making virtual connections ☺

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- **Attendance**

Name	Member Representation	Present Y/N
Emily Mack	Arc Northland	N
Laurie Berner	Arc Northland	Y
Lori Moench	Arc Northland	Y
Ruth Rowenhorst	Carlton County	N
Kristie Buchman	Choice Unlimited	Y
Olivia Bonander	Cook County	N
Jen Anderson	At Home Living	N
Michelle McDonald	Lake County DAC	N
Michael Manning	Self-Advocate	Y
Kate Wallin	Self-Advocate	Y
Sara Romagnoli	DHS	Y
Beth Swanson	Lake County	N
Michael Woods	Ombudsmen	Y
Meghan Terella	Access North	Y
Patty Johnson	RSI	N
Amy Patenaude	St. Louis County	Y
Becky Jakubek	Trillium Services	Y
Josh Howie	Trillium Services	N
Ann Dahl	Udac	N
October Allen	SLC Homeless Provider/Grace Place	N
Others Present:		
Gene Martinez	The Arc MN	Y
Ellie Chicos	Arc Northland, Intern	Y
Jeff Mortimore	RSI, Community Connector	Y