METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL Minutes

Friday, January 09, 2026, from 9-11am

The Regional Quality Councils shall:

1. Support efforts and initiatives that drive overall systems and social change to promote inclusion of people who have disabilities in the state of Minnesota

2. Improve person-centered outcomes in disability services; and

3. Identify or enhance quality of life indicators for people who have disabilities.

Meeting Attendance

Attendees: Ben, Cassie, Rod (9-10), Christina, Wu Yue (9-10), Becky Rother, Dr Mohamed, Lynn, Judi Marie, Robin, Amelia D,

Staff Attendees: JoAnn, Sophie, Kerri, Cortney

Meeting Overview

1. Guest Presenter

- Amanda Crosby from Arc Northland presented on "Be MinneSnowta Nice", an organization which helps clear streets and sidewalks from snow and ice so people can travel safely.
- https://beminnesnowtanice.com/

Summary

"Be Minnesnowta Nice" or BMN started around 2017. Amanda served on the Duluth Commission on Disability. In Duluth, residents are responsible for removing snow off their property and could be fined if they don't. But for people with disabilities, seniors and others, removing snow can be challenging. One of BMN goals is to help those who have a hard time removing snow, so they don't get fined. A pilot program "Sidewalk Snow Removal Assistance Program" was launched and actualized but eventual staff

changes put a stop to it. It got rebranded in 2024 as Be Minnesnowta Nice and is made up of reps from various local groups. The City of Duluth got a new commissioner who seems to understand the importance of having clear streets. They recruit volunteers, high school students and college students (https://saintlycitysnowangels.com/) to help with snow removal. BMN also raises money to give to people who don't have the ability or funds to remove the snow themselves.

- **How did you pose the idea?**
  BMN had support from the city of Duluth and the Human Rights office. It separated itself from the city and became its own independent organization.
- **What can the MRQC do to help implement something similar in the Metro?**
  - Perhaps use the Innovation Grant to fund something like this
  - Take advantage of already existing services like "Next Door" https://nextdoor.com/ app.
    Some people enjoy helping others and tapping into resources like your next-door neighbors is a great way of getting things done for free and building community.

2. Moment of Unity at 10am (a moment of silence)

In light of recent events, we want to show solidarity with our fellow Minnesotans that we want to continue to live in safe and diverse communities where all are welcome.

3. Workgroups Updates

- **Culture of Safety Workgroup**
  This workgroup meets separately outside of monthly council meetings. They meet on the second Thursday of each month from 1-3pm.
  The next meeting is Thursday, February 12th from 1-3pm.
  Join the meeting now
  Meeting ID: 295 169 440 389 99
  Passcode: c8Xq93Zj
- **Staffing Shortage Workgroup (Big Group)**
  This workgroup meets separately outside of monthly council meetings. They meet on the fourth Thursday of each month from 11am-12:30pm.
  The next meeting is Thursday, January 22nd from 11am-12:30pm.
  Join Zoom Meeting
  https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/87154192462?pwd=aDE2YnBUcVR1S2dvc0NzOUpFWCt5dz09

Meeting ID: 871 5419 2462
Passcode: 266371

- **Staffing (DSPs & PCAs) Shortage Workgroup (Small Group)**
  This workgroup meets separately outside of monthly council meetings. They meet a couple times a month to make progress on short videos aimed at helping DSPs advocate for their needs. The videos will cover topics such as: What does advocacy mean? How to connect with your legislators? How to tell your story? etc. They meet every other week. If you wish to join, contact an MRQC staff member.
  The next meeting is Wednesday, January 14th from 1-2pm
  Join the meeting now
  Meeting ID: 273 369 405 272 38
  Passcode: 9C6XA79B

Employment Workgroup

Human Resources Project

Goal: Collaborating with faculty from colleges and universities to create learning opportunities for their students and staff so they can become more educated about people with disabilities and their potential as future employees ultimately expanding employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

- **Updates**
  Waiting for further information from Inver Hills Community College and Metro State University. If you are interested in taking part, please let an MRQC staff know.

Employment Services Survey Project

Goal: Survey employment services providers and employees to find out what barriers they face when providing services to people with disabilities.

- **Updates**
  - The surveys closed on December 31st, 2025
  - Sophie will share the results of the surveys with the DSP workgroup
- Suggestions for improvement
  - Streamline services- make it easier to access documents
  - Solve technology issues
  - Enable each person to create and access their own account with a log-in and password, the accounts would include all their documents, paperwork, etc.,
  - Support workers could upload docs into the accounts

- There is a legislative initiative to create a "Person Portal" which is part of the Waiver Reimagined Project
  Read more about it by going to https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/long-term-services-and-supports/waiver-reimagine/wrtf.jsp
  There are meetings people can attend to find out more about waiver reimagined and what is being prioritized. However, new resources and programs will probably not be added

Transportation Workgroup

1. **Transportation Resources Flyers**
   - Transportation Resources is now its own resource category within the RQC Resources Library menu option
   - Create QR for transportation resources site and add it to flyer
   - Connect with TCAPS to update transportation flyers
   - Share our flyers and guides with disability advocacy and disability service groups.
   - Also share collab with Claire from TCAP Hennepin on the flyers.
2. **Collab with ICI and their "Ready to Ride" project**
   The MRQC maintains communication with Brian Abery from ICI about how the MRQC can help ICI with their project.
   How can the MRQC help?
   - MRQC can help recruit riders and program participants
   - MRQC can help make recommendations about what topics to train about
   - The project will highlight the importance of community involvement and the potential for policy changes to support public transportation for people with disabilities.
     Updates:
   - Created spreadsheet to record and track recommendations
     Shared spreadsheet with Brian Abery and others who wanted access
3. **Making sidewalks and streets safer to travel in winter for pwds?**
   - Be Minnesnowta Nice helps remove snow from sidewalks so people can travel safely. To find out more, visit: www.beminnesnowtanice.com
   - Reach out to fellow The Arc MN co-worker Sarah Johnson who is passionate about making public transport and sidewalks easier to navigate and to become less reliant on cars

- Also, advocacy group Our Streets has snow removal initiatives. A representative from Our Streets will present on current and potential snow removal initiatives and legislation at our next meeting.
- **Background on current snow removal policy in Minneapolis**
  Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, Title 17, Chapter 445
  https://library.municode.com/mn/minneapolis/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=MICOOR_TIT17STSI_CH445SNICRE
  - Snow and ice removal is done through a combined effort with the city and many private organizations, property owners, and local communities
  - Property owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks that are adjacent to the properties they own
  - People can contact 311 to report areas which haven't been cleared yet

Here are the "311" numbers to call depending on where you live

Jurisdiction	Phone Number
Minneapolis (general city services/police non-emergency)	**311** or **612-673-3000**
St. Paul (police non-emergency dispatch)	**651-291-1111**
St. Anthony Village	**612-782-3350**
Hennepin County Sheriff	**952-258-5321**
Ramsey County Dispatch	**651-767-0640** (for cities like North St. Paul)
Dakota County Dispatch	**651-322-2323**
Metro Transit Police	**612-349-7200**
Airport Police Department (MSP Airport)	**612-726-5115**

- **Potential City-led sidewalk snow and ice removal future initiative**
  - This would be a city-led sidewalk snow and ice removal program in Minneapolis that would provide for the same level of service currently required of city property owners under Minneapolis Code of Ordinances
  - There was a legislative directive for a high-level analysis of potential City-led sidewalk snow and ice removal programs What would it entail? Read more at https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2023-00494