METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

Friday, January 12th 2024

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: Frank, Mohamed, Robin, Joe, Cassie, Judi Marie, Chelsea, Lynn

Staff Attendees: JoAnn, Kerri, Sophie, Caption, Donna

Meeting Overview

1. Introductions and Updates (45 min) @ 9:05am

- Introductions (Everyone)
- Partnering with ICI on new project "Regional Quality Building"

  The 2024 contract has been signed with DHS. This means we can continue our council's activities.

  The ICI works on capacity building to develop and expand person centered practices and trainings to originations. The ICI have already established some of this with other RQCs but the MQRC is still in progress. The ICI will work with the RQC associates along with Cortney Kressin, an Arc staff member and the new Regional Capacity Building Manager to continue this work.

- Staffing Shortage Update (Kerri and Sophie)

  They met again after not meeting for a while. They did some regrounding and wrote a new purpose statement in September 2023 which further established the workgroup's goal. The goal is to promote the value of direct care workers and to address the workforce shortage. They want to increase awareness to legislators about the current state of workers and that pay increases for PCAs don't equate to pay increases for DSPs. To achieve their goal, they plan on using data driven resources to support their claims. They conducted some surveys and collected information at The Gathering. Sophie created a short PowerPoint which summarizes the information collected. Sophie showed the PowerPoint during the meeting. The PowerPoint mostly contained answers given by DSPs to questions asking them how they felt, what they needed, and what they struggle with working as DSPs and how this impacts their ability to deliver person centered services. Some of the answers given included: mismatch of providers to client, struggle finding work life balance, not enough drivers and transportation to promote inclusion, more trainings needed, and lack of supports to provide person centered services. They propose creating a resource book to help DSPs do their job.

Robin shared instead of relying on resources books that contain formal arrangements, we can help pwds build local and natural relationships and supports. Pwds can develop natural supports such as becoming acquainted and even becoming friends with their neighbors and attending local events, cookouts and groups that aren't specifically disability focused. We can enable pwds to use the internet to find resources and local activities to partake in as well.

The group plan on meeting to discuss it more and further develop what community means and how to connect people in more efficient and beneficial ways where community members get what they need and want. Being short staffed however creates less chances for person centeredness.

- Hybrid Meetings

  The council participants suggested conducting hybrid meetings on a quarterly basis during warmer months. Kerri has bought KanDoa 360 meeting cameras for the purposes of conducting hybrid meetings. The camera is placed in the middle and rotates itself to capture on camera whoever is talking. JoAnn suggests using The Arc MN Saint Paul headquarters as a location to conduct hybrid meetings.

- Housing Workgroup Updates (JoAnn and Sophie)

  JoAnn showed during the meeting one of the housing videos, video 1-parent advocates. Sophie explained more about the website which will include a table of contents, program descriptions, eligibility requirements and contact information for the many resources listed.

  Housing videos: The Housing videos are in the editing stage. They should be ready sometime this month.

  Housing website: We are in the middle of redesigning the Housing Resources website. Our goal is to offer more resources and improved navigation. Please feel free to email the staff any resources you want to add to the website.

2. **10 Minute Break @9:50am**
3. **Workgroups (60 min) @10am**

   - Employment Workgroup

     This workgroup meets directly after the council meeting.

   - Culture of Safety/Data Action Group (DAG) Workgroup

     This workgroup meets separately outside of monthly council meetings. They meet the first Thursday of each month from 9-11am.
     The next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 1st, 2024 from 9am-11am.**
     Join Zoom Meeting
     https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/81121977247?pwd=SDBmVW1RQWFlVHBHKy96a1JESElEUT09
     Meeting ID: 811 2197 7247
     Passcode: 678410

     This workgroup would like more providers to join. Please notify staff if you are a provider or know a provider who would be interested in joining.

   - Staffing (DSPs & PCAs) Shortage Workgroup (Kerri)
     This workgroup meets separately outside of monthly council meetings. They meet the third Thursday of each month from 11am-12:30pm.
     The next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 25th 2024 from 11am-12:30pm**.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/87154192462?pwd=aDE2YnBUcVR1S2dvc0NzOUpFWCt5dz09
Meeting ID: 871 5419 2462
Passcode: 266371

Other Things to Share & Reminders

- Next council meeting is on **Friday, February 9th 2024 from 9-11am.**