METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Friday, March 10, 2023
9:00 am – 11:00 am

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.

(Please Note: As the associate, Jeffrey has requested that if you do not understand him please ask that he types out his statement or reply for understanding…do not pretend).

Meeting Attendance

Council Members: Bradford, Diane, Mohamed, Melissa, Frank, Judi Marie, Chelsea, Rachel, Rod, Lindsey Jo, Cassandra and Robin

Invited Guests Attendance: Tayler Guccione, Olivia Lape, Rebecca Ebsen,

Staff Attendance: Kerri, JoAnn, Jeffrey, Kristin (captions), Donna, and Marta

Members/Potential Members Attendance: Chelsea, Frank, Mohamed, Cassie, Judi Marie and Ling

Members Not Attended: Diane, Bradford, Melissa, Rachel, Rod and Lindsey Jo

Meeting Overview

1) Meeting Agenda Overview, Workgroup Updates and Upcoming Events @9:05am

- Statewide Workforce Workgroup update (Kerri):
  Julia Page came and talked to the group about Arc legislative priorities and also heard from government reps from Warren to hear about their priorities and what bills they support. The workgroup wants to focus on legislation and form smaller workgroups to priorities and track relevant bills and transcribe them into plain language so all readers can understand them. This would hopefully encourage more people such as those with disabilities and their families to become more involved in legislative actions and engage with their legislators. The workgroup also wants to

invite government reps to their meetings and inform them of their priorities and educate them on topics which the reps might not be aware of like the differences between PCAs and DSPs and how they are funded. Judy Young, a workgroup council member in the Rochester area arranged a Community forum for locals and reps to discuss the staffing shortage. This forum was held in person on Saturday morning.

- Connecting with Angie (former MRQC coordinator)
  The MRQC will connect with Angie (angela.guenther@co.ramsey.mn.us) to see if she would be interested in joining the council.
- Saint Patrick's Day events (Kerri & Marta)
  For those interested and live in or around the Rochester area, Kerri and Marta mentioned a bagpipe band (Rochester Caledonia Pipe Band) that hops around from various local establishments (pubs mostly) on Saint Patrick's Day and play music all day long.
- Disability Day (Judi Marie)
  Judi Marie shared there is a Disability Day at the Capital event coming up on Tuesday, March 28, 2023. To find out more, scroll down to part 4 of the meeting minutes.
- Subminimum wage bill (Donna)
  There is currently a bill (HF 2513 / SF 2669) that wants to phase out subminimum wage and needs support from the public. Those who support the ending of subminimum wage for workers with disabilities need to take action and contact their government represents ASAP. An "Action Alert" email was sent to the council giving directions of what to do if they desired to take action.
  To find out more, click the link below and read the one page informational flyer.
  https://arcminnesota.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/HF-2513-SF-2669-Disability-Wage-Justice-One-Pager.pdf

2) Join Breakout Room Workgroups (60 min) @9:30am

Members	**Workgroups**
Diane	culture of safety, housing, staffing shortage
Chelsea	Housing
Rod	staffing shortage
Cassandra	housing, staffing shortage
Melissa	Employment
Frank	Housing
Mohamed	culture of safety, employment, staffing shortage
Judi Marie	culture of safety, employment, staffing shortage
Robin	culture of safety, employment

Workgroups

- **Employment Workgroup:**
- **Housing Workgroup:**
- **Culture of Safety/Data Action Group (DAG) Workgroup:**
  - This workgroup meets separately.
  - The Metro Regional Quality Council has a "data action group (DAG)" that meets the first Thursday of each month from 9-11am via Zoom. The DAG's purpose is to review systemic critical incident data from DHS' Culture of Safety reviews in an effort to generate considerations for disability services system change. In other words, this group is charged with summarizing the systemic issues that surface from the incident review data and provide recommendations to DHS about how the system could improve to better serve people with disabilities. Expectations of people who join the DAG includes reviewing data between meetings, engaging in discussions about the incident data and considerations, and using a "culture of safety" mindset.
    For more information, click on link below.
    https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/long-term-services-and-supports/culture-of-safety/
  - The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 5, 2023 from 11am-12pm.**
    Down below is the zoom link to the meeting.
    https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/81121977247?pwd=SDBmVW1RQWFlVHBHKy96a1JESElEUT09
    Meeting ID: 811 2197 7247
    Passcode: 678410
    This workgroup would like more members. Please notify an RQC staff if you are interested in joining.

- **Staffing (DSPs & PCAs) Shortage workgroup:**
  - This workgroup meets separately.
  - The next meeting is on **Thursday, March 23, 2023 from 11am-12:30pm**.
    Down below is the zoom link to the meeting.
    https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/81885206657?pwd=emMvYVhjUWtEangvbE5mTUNJdFZCUT09
    Meeting ID: 818 8520 6657
    Passcode: 330275

3) **Group Discussion (20 min) @10:35am**
   Share what each workgroup worked on with the rest of the members.

- **Employment Workgroup**

  Jeffrey isn't able to attend the April meeting. Judi Marie has offered to co-facilitate the April meeting. Moving forward, meetings will be co-facilitated and each member will take turns co-facilitating each month. The meetings will also be recorded so JoAnn knows what goes on during meetings. The recordings will be deleted within a week.

  The workgroup wants to focus on job seekers especially those not connected to employment services and find out what barriers they face when looking for jobs. Those already connected to employment services seem to have better success. Ling, who works for Workforce Development at Ramsey County joined the meeting. Ling is interested in connecting with employers and knowing what resources the RQC has already created.

  Mohamed and Jeffrey mentioned it would be beneficial to make connections with the APSE. Mohamed wondered if the Arc MN or RQCs have ever offered employment services like job searching skills and if they did, why they discontinued. Kerri said she would look further into this and talk to her director.

- **Housing Workgroup**

  Tayler spoke on behalf of the housing workgroup and shared they are going to start working on creating informational videos. They will tackle the topic of housing barriers first. The videos will be at most 2 minutes in length. Frank offered to share his personal experience regarding housing in one of the videos. The group has yet to decide on the number of videos they want to create and what topics they want to tackle. They wish to post the videos wherever they can especially on social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube. Before the next meeting, they will gather information that will serve as the content for the first video.

4) **Tayler's Video @10:55am**

   Tayler played the video she made, a teaser for the "Disability Justice" video(s).

5) **Other Things to Share & Reminders**

   - Next council meeting is on **Friday, April 14, 2023 from 9-11am.**
   - Disability Day at the Capital

     When: **Tuesday, March 28, 2023**

     Where: State Capital Rotunda

     Attend a rally and schedule opportunities to meet with your legislators about bills you want passed concerning housing and employment.

Click on the website link down below to find more information.
https://mohrmn.org/advocacy/mohr-2023-day-at-the-capitol

- "Bring it Home'" MN Rally for Rent Support
  When: **Monday, March 20, 2023 from 1:30-2:30pm**
  Where: MN Capital Rotunda
  According to the flyer, the goal is to bring awareness of legislation that would allocate $2Billion per year to fund rent support for those who qualify for federal vouchers but didn't get one.
- Actively seeking new council members.
  If anyone has someone to recommend to serve as a potential member for the council, please email Arc staff, JoAnn. Or if anyone has suggestions on how or where to seek potential members, feel free to share your ideas.